



Willits Weekly's Winter Break

This week's December 19, 2024 edition is the last Willits Weekly before our winter break. Thanks to all who read and support Willits Weekly! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

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

Thursday, December 19: Chicken & Dumplings
Friday, December 20: Ortega Roast Beef Sandwich, Chips, Pickle
Monday, December 23: French Dip Sandwich, Loaded Mashed Potatoes
Tuesday, December 24: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy
Wednesday, December 25: Closed for Christmas
Thursday, December 26: Baked Chicken, Stuffing, Veggies, Roll
Friday, December 27: Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll
Monday, December 30: Turkey Curry, Rice, Veggies, Roll
Tuesday, December 31: Beef Stroganoff, Veggies, Roll

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

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

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

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



Help Us Improve Babcock Park!

Babcock Park is considering adding adult exercise equipment, and your opinion matters! Please take a few minutes to complete our survey and share your thoughts on how we can make your park experience even better.



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.



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

Volume 12, Number 581
 3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 | 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047
 willitsweekly@gmail.com | www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com | 707-459-2633
 Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographer / willitsweekly@gmail.com | 707-972-7047
 Jackie Cobbs, features editor
 Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer
 Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter
 Annie Everts, reporter / features writer
 Addison Alvarado, school board reporter
 Danya Davis, Police Log
 Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter
 Sheri Dockins, sports reporter
 Ava Dockins, sports photographer
 April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / willitsweekly@gmail.com

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com

Huffman named Ranking Member of Natural Resources Committee

Submitted by the Office of Congressman Jared Huffman

December 17, 2024– Today, Rep. Jared Huffman (CA-02) was announced as Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee for the 119th Congress.

"It is the honor of my lifetime to win this election and be named Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Committee. My entire career has been centered around natural resources – from my time as an attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council to the past 12 years serving on this committee," said Rep. Huffman. "I am incredibly grateful to the many partners who have supported me in my journey – tribes from around the country, environmental allies, and the overwhelming majority of my colleagues I've served with here in the House. I will work day-in and day-out to honor the trust they have put in me to lead this committee. We have weathered many storms together, and I believe we are better prepared than ever to tackle what lies ahead next Congress. This is a team sport, and I am excited and ready to lead this team."

Rep. Huffman is a proven and qualified leader, earning commitments from over 170 of his colleagues in this election. Huffman has served on HNRC for the past 12 years and served as a Subcommittee Chair/Ranking Member for the past 10 years. Huffman also represents a district that gives him a unique perspective and comprehensive insight on the issues reflected in Natural Resources. His district:

- Has more indigenous tribes than any district outside of Alaska;
- Includes a vast array of public lands and waters;
- Experiences some of the worst impacts of the climate crisis;
- Is at the forefront of innovative climate solutions.

Prior to Congress, Rep. Huffman worked as a California legislator chairing environmental committees, an environmental attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council, and board president for a major municipal water district.

Congressman Jared Huffman represents California's 2nd Congressional District, which spans the North Coast of the state from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border and includes Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties. He currently serves on the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. In the 118th Congress, he serves as Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries. He is the founder of the Congressional FreeThought Caucus and the Stop Project 2025 Task Force.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Willits Community Phone Book 2025

To the Editor:

Soroptimist International of Willits is beginning production of the 2025 Willits Community Phone Book. We need the community's help with the updates. If you have changed your phone number, cancelled your landline, need to add a cell phone number, or if you know of anyone who has moved or their number needs to be deleted, please let us know.

Our email address is willitsphonebook@gmail.com. Thank you.

Vicki Ham, SI/Willits Phonebook Committee

Gov. Newsom declares 'proactive' state emergency over bird flu

Sacramento – California Governor Gavin Newsom on Wednesday, December 18 proclaimed a State of Emergency to streamline and expedite the state's response to Avian influenza A (H5N1), commonly known as "bird flu." This action comes as cases were detected in dairy cows on farms in Southern California, signaling the need to further expand monitoring and build on the coordinated statewide approach to contain and mitigate the spread of the virus. The virus has spread in 16 states among dairy cattle, following its first confirmed detection in Texas and Kansas in March 2024.

To date, no person-to-person spread of bird flu has been detected in California and nearly all infected individuals had exposure to infected cattle. California has already established the largest testing and monitoring system in the nation to respond to the outbreak.

This emergency proclamation will provide state and local agencies with additional flexibility around staffing, contracting, and other rules to support California's evolving response.

"This proclamation is a targeted action to ensure government agencies have the resources and flexibility they need to respond quickly to this outbreak," said Governor Newsom. "Building on California's testing and monitoring system – the largest in the nation – we are committed to further protecting public health, supporting our agriculture industry, and ensuring that Californians have access to accurate, up-to-date information. While the risk to the public remains low, we will continue to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of this virus."

Ongoing efforts to prevent spread and serious infection

California has mobilized a comprehensive cross-agency response to bird flu in dairy cattle and poultry farms to minimize farm worker exposures, reduce raw dairy product contamination, and mitigate the spread of the virus. The state has enlisted local, state, and federal government technical and operational expertise to support all facets of the response; worked to educate the public, health professionals, employers, and workers on prevention and control measures to reduce the risk of exposure to bird flu; provided comprehensive information for employers and workers on personal protective equipment requirements; and distributed millions of pieces of PPE to high-risk workers at dairy farms.

Through coordinated public awareness efforts between the California Department of Public Health, the California

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



Above, from left: David Ortiz, left, won the first raffle prize, a gift bag from Starbucks. Starbucks provided a myriad of drink and snack tastes for those attending the Willits Chamber Mixer. The Starbucks at Main Street and Highway 20 has a light and airy atmosphere. At left: Matt Gernert, manager of the Willits Starbucks, cut the ribbon to officially open the shop. Below: Three of the 17 local employees take a moment for a photograph. Further below: Starbucks Regional Manager Brian Setzer welcomes some of the early attendees. At bottom: Willits Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors President Lisa Kvasnicka smiles with Starbucks employee Nevah.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Starbucks Mixer

Willits Chamber hosts event to officially open the coffeehouse at Main Street and Highway 20

With a snip of the ribbon, Starbucks' Willits manager, Matt Gernert, officially opened the new facility at Main Street and Highway 20 while regional and district managers, members of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, current and former Willits City Council members, and other interested residents looked on.

Starbucks actually opened their door two months prior, but wanted to announce to the town that they were here and ready to serve local coffee enthusiasts with their myriads of java choices, snacks, lunches, and non-coffee treats for the kids.

Gernert, like much of Starbucks' management has worked for the company for several years in various positions while he learned the ins and outs of this ever-growing institution. "I've been with Starbucks for close to three years combined. I actually came back. I was with Starbucks about 20 years ago. I started out as a barista, making drinks, and then moved up to shift supervisor in Ukiah, worked at a Starbucks in Sacramento, then left the company. Twenty years later, I'm back as the manager. I've managed five different locations in Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Cloverdale, and now Willits," explained Gernert, who was there with his family, wife and two young girls.

"We have tons of different things besides the coffee," Gernert continued. "We have refreshers, so we have fruit drinks that are strawberry, mango, pineapple. We have different types of teas. We have frappuccinos for the kids. We have apple and orange juices. We also have a wide variety of pastries.

"We also do breakfast and lunch," Gernert said. "Sausage, cheddar, and egg sandwiches. We have wraps. We have four varieties of lunch sandwiches, grilled cheese, tomato mozzarella, turkey pesto, and our ham and Swiss baguette with Dijon. We have boxes, cheese and fresh fruit and eggs and cheddar, available for lunch or dinner. We have milk or chocolate milk for the kiddos. Also sparkling water. If you download the Starbucks app, there are so many different choices, tailored to the consumer. As you order, they see what you order and tailor the rewards to you. There are a lot of different options on the app."

This event was one of the many mixers that the Willits Chamber of Commerce produces to promote new businesses in order to introduce them to the city, as well as a chance to introduce themselves, and to let people know what the Chamber is up to, in terms of their promotion of businesses or their innovations in how residents and



FREE ESTIMATES, LICENSED, INSURED, AND BONDED

WISHING ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS!


M D
 TREE MANAGEMENT, LLC
 707-972-0675
 LIC # 1100267

Michael Quinliven
 Owner/Operator | 707-972-0675
 mdtreemanagement1@gmail.com

The easier way to better health.

it only takes enjoying each bite.

Discover how mindful eating is one of the 9 ways to live a healthier life.



BROUGHT TO MENDOCINO COUNTY BY ADVENTIST HEALTH



BIG FISH CONSTRUCTION

Adrian C. Fisher,
 General Contractor
 Over 25 years experience.
 707-354-1253
 CA Lic. #865246

ACE COPY & SHIPPING

TOYS & STOCKING STUFFERS

GET ALL YOUR HOLIDAY SHIPPING DONE HERE!

- THANK YOU - TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

FedEx UPS

- NEW LOCATION -
 280 E. COMMERCIAL ST.
 WILLITS
 456-9800

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

Level: Intermediate

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!

SLOW COOKING WORD SEARCH

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

BUSY	FONDUE	NONSTICK	SIMMERING
CROCK	HOURS	POT	SLOW COOKER
DESSERT	INGREDIENTS	ROAST	SOUP
DIGITAL	KITCHEN	SAVORY	STEW
ENJOY	LADLE	SEASONINGS	TEMPERATURE
	LOW		TIMER

1	2	3				4	5	6											
7							8												9
10				11									12						
13										14	15								16
17					18														20
21							22	23											24
																			26
																			28
																			30
																			31
																			33
																			34
																			35
																			36
																			37
																			38
39	40																		42
43																			45
46																			48
49																			50
																			52

CLUES ACROSS

- Central processing unit
- Taxi
- Body part
- Papal court
- Young women making their public debuts
- Metal shackles
- Joseph's wife
- Licensed professional
- Partner to cheese
- Mild fruits
- File format
- Province of Indonesia
- Beloved grilled foods
- Bar bill
- Don't know when yet
- Whale ship captain
- Touches softly
- Mock
- Red-brown Pacific sea bream
- Summer entertainment options
- Protective crust
- Cool!

CLUES DOWN

- Of cadmium
- Deliver a sermon
- Inner regions of a shadow
- Aggressive dog
- Smells
- Twofold
- Former OSS
- Computer language
- Indian groom
- Automobile
- Hairstyle
- Atomic #76
- Guy (slang)
- Ladies' undergarments
- Furniture with open shelves
- Back-arc basin
- Partner to flow
- A type of horse
- Possesses
- Split pulses
- Small amount
- Flat-bottomed riverboat
- Not good
- Atomic #31
- Assist in committing a crime
- Chauvinists
- Get away
- One of a people who speaks a Semitic language
- Civil rights college organization
- Combustible dark rocks
- Grocery container
- Central nervous system

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

December 9 to December 15

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **60 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

December 9

4:05 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1600 block of Valley Road.

7:13 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Blosser Lane.

3:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of South Main Street.

6:11 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

9:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 10

12:19 pm: SHIVALILA, Ituri Harijanj (48) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of ammunition by a prohibited person, committing offenses while released on bail, and violation of probation, and on misdemeanor charges of petty theft.

2:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

December 11

6:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:22 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:24 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

December 12

10:57 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

4:23 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of Sherwood Road and issued a warning.

4:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Madrone Street and issued a warning.

Missing juvenile update from Fort Bragg Police

Posted by Fort Bragg Police

December 16 – On December 8, 2024 Roy Mora, 15, of Fort Bragg was reported missing by a parent. He was last seen on a surveillance camera walking south on the Noyo Bridge at approximately 8:30 pm.

Roy Mora is described as being 5'6" tall with a thin build. He was last seen wearing a dark blue T-shirt with the Mendocino College logo in white writing, denim jeans, and white shoes. Roy may also be wearing a dark blue sweatshirt and round rim glasses.

On December 7, 2024, Cell phone data shows his phone was actively communicating with cell phone towers between 2 and 2:30 am. The phone's location was determined to be behind the Fire Station on Main Street, near the entrance to the Central Coastal Trail.

The Fort Bragg Police Department has been following leads, authoring search warrants, conducting searches of areas, requesting and reviewing dozens of surveillance videos, and going through dozens of tips. No information is being dismissed. FBPD has searched areas provided by psychics who believed they knew where Roy was. Investigators are also re-interviewing possible witnesses as potential leads develop. FBPD has also spoken with MTA bus drivers and reviewed surveillance video from the MTA busses. However, Roy was not seen in any of the videos.

The investigation into Roy's disappearance has extended to both New York and Idaho, where former acquaintances of Roy reside. Search warrants were executed on all known social media accounts associated with Roy, resulting in valuable leads; however, these have not yet revealed his current location. Further inquiries revealed that Roy had shared account passwords with friends, which complicated the investigation. After Roy's disappearance, these accounts remained active, but it was determined that it

5:34 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Gregory Lane and issued a citation.

8:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

December 13

10:12 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:39 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and State Street and issued a warning.

12:29 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road.

7:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Magnolia Avenue.

9:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

December 14

2:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

4:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue and issued a citation.

6:12 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

8:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Monroe Street and issued a warning.

10:17 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

11:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue and issued a warning.

11:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane and issued a citation.

December 15

12:41 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Pine Street.

11:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Valley Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.

Editor's Note: December 2 through December 8 log from Willits Police Department was not available.



Above, left: Friends of the Mendocino County Museum are presenting branded merchandise, along with books, cards, and history-themed art at the Museum's new and improved gift shop. Above, right: Museum staff, volunteers and boosters took part in the Friend of the Mendocino County Museum Gift Shop celebration. From left: Karen Bishop, Brent Walker, Betty Lahman, Mary Pappadakis, Neeka Aguirre, Mark Enriquez, Lindsay Dick, and Scott Farleman.



Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde



Above, left: The Mendocino County Museum's 2024 Christmas tree. Above, right: The "new" Museum gift shop now carries a wide range of items to attract buyers and supporters.

The rest of Museum | From page 1

Mattson went on to say that Friends of the Mendocino County Museum supports the Museum in telling and sharing the story of Mendocino County history. She largely credits community member and Friends of the Museum booster Brent Walker with the new changes at the county Museum, saying, "Brent has been a dedicated museum volunteer for nearly 15 years, and has played a pivotal role in the reorganization and rehousing of our collections.

"About four years ago," Mattson continued, "Brent took the initiative to establish the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Recognizing a crucial need, the Friends agreed to assume management of the Museum's Gift Shop and admissions area. It's an absolute honor to work alongside Brent and the Friends group," she said. "Their integrity and dedication to the Museum are truly inspiring."

Brent Walker explained that fundraising and advocacy form the basic mission of the Friends of the Museum. "The day that actually started the ball rolling was when I suggested we form a Friends group while attending one the Museum Advisory Board meetings. A new member of the board, [Phoenix Trent], who has

since moved away, said 'I can help with that, I have done that many times.' Phoenix did the parts that were holding us back, and the Friends was born."

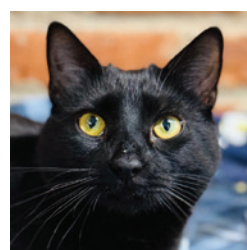
Walker said that the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum will work with the Museum step by step to diversify revenue streams and improve the Museum's financial stability.

Walker gave a short address before cutting the ribbon at the Museum's Gift Shop, encouraging community members to volunteer to help with events, work with artifacts and exhibits, and share their unique skills. "Being able to contribute to the support of such a superb community asset as our wonderful Museum has been one of the real pleasures of my life," he declared. "We can all help improve and expand the Museum in a variety of ways," Walker said. "It's everyone volunteering that keeps it all going!"

To join the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum and support their mission of education and outreach, and receive exclusive benefits including free admission, discounts, and invitations to special events, write to them at PO Box 1384 in Willits, call (707) 234-6365, or email fotmcm@yahoo.com

Frisky Wowza

Wowza and his sister, Wazoo, came to us as feral kittens but have since learned what it is like to be house-cats. These guys are so sweet and playful and are so cute when they sleep. Don't let anyone tell you black cats are boring because these kids are the most fun of them all.



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 page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Intelligent Buck



Buck is currently in a foster home getting lots of exposure to other dogs, cats and people. This young man knows "sit," is crate-trained, lives with other dogs, and has been getting along with cats. Buck may need some time to adjust to any new environment, but we don't think it will take long before he is trying to crawl into your lap!

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.

Precious Willa

Willa is a darling, family-and-dog-friendly outgoing character of a dog. She is a great companion and is a nice medium size (just under 45 pounds). She is a hiker and a swimmer, great on a leash, affectionate, happy and smart. She is very playful and mostly submissive in play style.

This special girl needs an active, loving home that can exercise her and give her proper training. Her fosters adore her and think she has husky in her as she is super smart and a little vocal in the cutest way. This girl finds all the treats you thought were tucked away and gets quite attached to her people.

Willa's ideal home has a runner looking for their fabulous running mate. She would love another young resident dog since she is always looking to play, and a nice yard to roam in would be ideal. Since she is still quite young, she would do best with adopters who work from home or have a flex schedule. Willa is house-trained.

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



WISHING YOU

MERRY

AND A HAPPY

NEW

Year

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

100 Kawi Place | Willits, CA 95490

Tel: 707-459-7978

www.SVRCasino.com

WEEKENDS TO SUCCESS

WORK AND SCHOOL ARE NOW COMPATIBLE!

SPRING 2025 CLASSES

Take a full-time class load in Willits on weekends only!

FRIDAYS

MTH-220-0222 Statistics
Friday 5:30-8:20pm and Online | Late start hybrid class with mandatory in-person meeting on the following Fridays 1/31, 2/21, 3/07, 3/21, 4/04, 4/18, 5/02 and 5/16 from 5:30-8:20pm.

SATURDAYS

CDV-280-0298 Child, Family, and Community
Saturday 9:00-11:50 am and online | Late start hybrid class with mandatory in-person meetings on the following Saturdays 2/22, 3/22, 4/19, and 5/17 from 9:00-11:50 am.

COM-210-0212 Interpersonal Communication
Saturday 12:30-3:20 pm and online | Late start hybrid class with mandatory in-person meetings on the following Saturdays 2/22, 3/22, 4/19, and 5/17 from 12:30-3:20 pm.

PSY-210-0204 Psychology of Life Span Development
Saturday 9:00-11:50 am and online | Late start hybrid class with mandatory in-person meetings on the following Saturdays 2/01, 3/08, 4/05, and 5/03 from 9:00-11:50 am.

ETH-241-0251 Pacific Coast Indian Cultures
Saturday 12:



Above, from left: Santa landed his snowman hot air balloon for all to enjoy at the Commonwealth Garden light display. Alithia Gallups and Petra Vandenbergh stand under the arch lights. The gazebo provided the perfect location for a visit with Santa Claus.

At right: An illuminated igloo shone bright.

Below: The gazebo was decorated all around the exterior with colorful lights.

At bottom: The view of the hillside from the street-level approach showed all the fun displays event goers could enjoy. At bottom, right: The mini Sparetime Supply truck was decorated and a perfect seat for a quick photo.

Photos by Rolina Fuentes



Holiday Lights in the Garden

Commonwealth Garden holds annual light display for first time since 2019

Although it was still a little chilly, the rain held off for those wanting to enjoy the light displays for the first time in five years at the Commonwealth Garden, located just across the road from Howard Hospital.

Santa arrived via helicopter on Saturday and walked over on Sunday to sit in the gazebo to visit with the awaiting crowd, receiving Christmas lists, wishes and wants, and smiling for photos.

"We were so happy to have around 450 folks come for a casual stroll around the decorated orchard last weekend. They also played in the igloo and enjoyed holiday refreshments from HMH's Roots Restaurant, and enjoyed visiting with Santa," said garden manager Melissa Bouley. "We would like to dedicate this event in loving memory of Margie Handley, who loved this event and was a big part of the Howard Foundation. She's the reason we can do any of it, and she loved it so much."

Roots, the restaurant inside the hospital, frequently receives produce, fruits and veggies from the garden, which they use to create daily staff and patient meals. For the event, they created cookies including pumpkin, sugar and chocolate varieties, and provided hot cocoa and apple cider to enjoy, too.

Among the 10 or so lighted displays, Bouley noted that the stand-out installation was the 6-foot star created by garden staffer

Ryan Hartman, which was illuminated and mounted at the top of the flagpole near the hilltop gazebo.

"It was a joint effort to get it up there," laughed Bouley. "But it really was impressive and a great sight to see from near and from far."

Persons or businesses interested in creating installations next year, keep an ear out next holiday season when the call for entries will sound.

"Everyone's excited to do the event again next year," said Bouley. "We hope to encourage more of the community to be involved with making these cool displays! See you all there!"

Bouley expressed her appreciation to Laura Holly; Kayden Holly; Tasha White; Emmy Thompson; Nola and Alan Marshall; Mike, Monica and Brian Hartman; Willits Charter School; Roots Restaurant; Adventist Health Howard Memorial staff; Jerry and Cheryl Jordan; Brian Bouley; Jay and Stella Bonnet; Jack and Chris Sissons; Mike and Donna Rice; REACH and Danny Workman; the Willits Senior Center Holiday Store; Joe Watson; Jack Hamilton; Sparetime Supply; the Howard Foundation; the Commonwealth staff; Emily Holly; Ryan Hartman; Shanna Byrne, and everyone else who contributed to the success of the event.

— Maureen Jennison



Above, from left: Ellie Smith mans the grange members' table. Suraya David-Sadira of Ecosensuals Apothecary explains how she makes essences and hydrosol with her still. Tiffany Woodard of Divine Consciousness sells a selection of handmade candles. At left: Thirty-seven vendors are set up in the main auditorium and line the halls at Little Lake Grange. Below: Rose of Four Wing Art offers mushroom paintings on madrone wood and other creative goods. Further below, left: Deb and Reza Ghanadan of Reza's Breadery brought German stollen bread and Deb sold items under \$10. Further below, right: Mary Kelly with The Body Botanical creates living wreaths and other objects that last. At bottom: People shop for quality ceramics at Gustavo Athayde's booth.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Craft Fair for a Cause

Holiday shopping at the Little Lake Grange to help raise funds for a new roof

It was a weekend of local craft fairs. Shoppers made their way around town to the Willits Center for the Arts annual two-day craft fair and to the Agape Church Craft Fair, and also to the Little Lake Grange's

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Holiday Craft Fair. The grange sale offered mostly handmade and inexpensive goods that made for excellent gifting, while at the same time, raising funds to repair the grange's old leaky roof.

As if to illustrate the need, a trash barrel was set up near the stage to catch the drips caused by several days of rain. With so many craft fairs occurring at the same time, one might think that vendors would be difficult to find, but not so with this event.

"We had to turn away a few vendors," said organizer Erica Kroesen. "We have about 37 vendors here in the auditorium and in the hallway. EZ Balloons & More did the balloon arch and the balloon Christmas tree. We're doing a raffle. All of the vendors donated one item and we're selling raffle tickets to help with the roof fund — \$1 each, six for \$5. You put your name and number on the ticket, and we will contact you. Each gift has a bag, and you place your ticket in the bag of the prize you would like to win.

"The main thing we are raising money for is to fix the roof," said Kroesen. "The building was erected in 1921. We've had a few roofs since then, but it's really leaking badly. We're going to try and get enough funds to be able to put on a metal roof for fire safety and longevity. We have an estimate for about \$400,000 for the metal roof. Even if we were going to put a regular roof on, it would cost over \$300,000 and the metal roof will last longer and be safer. We're going to be selling tiles where you can have your name or organization, or a loved one put onto a redwood tile. We'll line them

up in the hallway to raise funds. We're looking for a local artisan who will be able to either burnish the redwood or laser-etch the names."

There were several vendors familiar to those who attend craft fairs throughout the year and a few new faces. One vendor, new to Willits, is Mary Kelly, of the Body Botanical with "living art," wreaths and other arrangements.

"I do living arrangements that can all survive for a long time. They're made with floral foam which absorbs water. When I take the moss off the trees, I try to get all the wood I can with it and I wrap that around the floral foam. If you keep them in the shade and water them, they will stay green and bloom things like mushrooms and sometimes wildflowers and vines," said Kelly.

Tiffany Woodard of Divine Consciousness would like to have more craft fairs at the grange throughout the year. "I want to open up a secondary booth event at the grange to raise money for the roof and help our local vending community. Our community needs a lot more and this grange needs a lot of funding. It's one of our oldest buildings here in Willits and it needs to be repaired. If we can open up another booth event to help vendors and the grange, it's a win-win," explained Woodard.

A vendor familiar to most of Willits is Reza Ghanadan of Reza's Breadery. He was offering his annual stollen, a "traditional German Christmas pastry," said Ghanadan. "It consists of dried apricots, raisins and almonds that are soaked in rum for 24 hours. That gives the stollen a long shelf life because the rum



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



Early detection may slow or even stop the cancer from progressing. That's why it's so important to get a breast cancer screening starting at age 40.

Give yourself the advantage of early detection. Talk to your doctor today about scheduling your screening.



WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE. • mchcinc.org

CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT
(707) 456-9600
LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
45 HAZEL STREET, WILLITS



WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE. • mchcinc.org

CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT
(707) 456-9600
LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
45 HAZEL STREET, WILLITS

WILLITS COMMUNITY THEATRE

Happy Holidays

THANK YOU
from the Willits Community Theatre
for a great year of shows!

37 West Van Lane
707-216-1826
<https://wctperformingartscenter.org/>

Thursday, December 19

Last Day of FOWL Winter Pop-up Book Sale: Friends of the Willits Library's pop-up book sale at the Willits Library has its last day Thursday, December 19, from 10 am to 7 pm. 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. More info: www.mendolibrary.org/visit/willits or 707-459-5908.

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, including holiday gift options.

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 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. Suggested donation: \$5 to \$10, children are free.

'Believe!' Christmas play at WCT: "Believe!", a feel-good Christmas play with traditional music, plays at Willits Community Theatre a final weekend, Friday, December 20 at 7 pm, Saturday, December 21 at 7 pm, and Sunday, December 22 at 2 pm. 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

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

Happy Holidays Vendor Fair: Mendo Crafts hosts a vendor fair Saturday, December 21 and Sunday, December 22 at the Whistle Stop, 280 East Commercial Street. Featuring

local handmade soaps, organic handmade candles, wood worker items, a kids paint booth, and lots more fun things. 10 am to 5 pm both days.

'Believe!' Christmas play at WCT: "Believe!", a feel-good Christmas play with traditional music, plays a final show at Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, December 21 at 7 pm. 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

Nectar at Shanachie: Nectar brings you to your feet with well-known Country, Blues and Old School Rock tunes from the past and present, with Lead Vocalist, Necole Aguilar Barnes, lead guitar, Jeffrey Brooks, Bass, Aaron Luedemann, drums, Andy Robertson, and Paul Haley on keys and rhythm guitar. Bring your dancing shoes! Saturday, December 21 at 8 pm. No Cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, December 22

Happy Holidays Vendor Fair: Mendo Crafts hosts a vendor fair Saturday, December 21 and Sunday, December 22 at the Whistle Stop, 280 East Commercial Street. Featuring

What's Happening Around Town

local handmade soaps, organic handmade candles, wood worker items, a kids paint booth, and lots more fun things. 10 am to 5 pm both days.

'Believe!' Christmas play closes at WCT: "Believe!", a feel-good Christmas play with traditional music, plays a final show at Willits Community Theatre, Sunday, December 22 at 2 pm. 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

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service: Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, at the corner of Main Street and Commercial, will celebrate Christmas with a family service on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, at 4 pm. There will be readings, prayers, carols to sing, and a celebration of holy communion. Children who would like to participate should come 15 minutes early to prepare. Everyone is welcome, and the church is completely wheelchair accessible.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: St. John Lutheran Church invites you, your family, and friends to join us for this memorable evening of worship and adoration, to celebrate the hope and joy that Christmas brings. Tuesday, December 24 at 6 pm. 24 Mill Creek Drive.



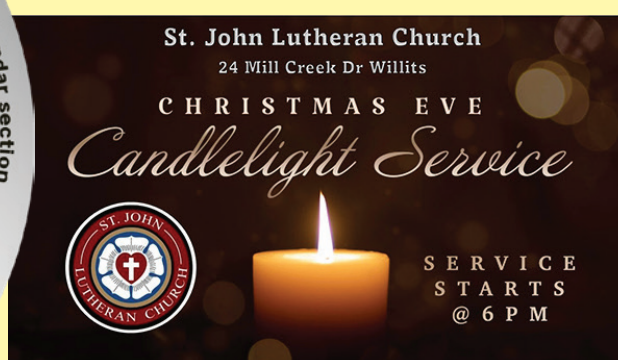
Christmas Eve Services: Willits Unified Methodist Church invites you to Christmas Eve services on Tuesday, December 24 at 12 noon and 7 pm. "Let's celebrate the journey of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus through carols, chronicles and candlelight. All are welcome. 286 School Street.

Wednesday, December 25

Merry Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa!

Friday, December 27

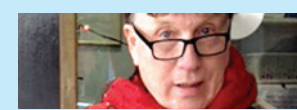
Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: The Cosmic Family Band is a local Mendocino County jam band sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. "We're the Cosmic Family Band and so are you." Friday, December 27 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Kraven the Hunter'

The Story: No one plays a ruthless bully better than Russell Crowe. He's got two sons, Sergei and Dmitri. They are on an African hunt. Russell tells them: "Aim. Pull the trigger. Be a man! That's what strength is. That's what you must have, my sons, the strength to kill." But his elder son Sergei discovers that in his own fierce and wild soul, he identifies with the fiercest of predators. We see it in his eyes. He does not want to kill to prove his power, or his courage.



Dan Essman
Columnist

So begins the bloody saga of Sergei Kravinoff, aka "Kraven the Hunter." This is old school drama – a loving but defiant son at war with his own brutal father. Sergei has a near-death battle with a massive lion, and he almost dies. But Fateful Destiny intervenes, and Sergei survives, and he emerges with powers that make him like a demigod.

So we get it: "It's oh yeah, time – Kraven is a genuine Stan Lee-created Marvel Comics super hero!" Which means, of course, that there are many many more genuinely evil and grotesque Marvel comics super villains our newly made hero must defeat. And there are more than a few spectacular and bloody to-the-death battles. Wild animal style! And R-rated!

My Thoughts: I had a great time watching this flick. Super good guys versus super-powered bad guys, plus a family drama, plus an essential Russell Crowe performance! I didn't have any popcorn, but if I had had popcorn, I was too into this flick to have eaten a single pop-let. Damn good movie! Check it out!

Parents: The family conflict in the screenplay is too deep, and too adult for most children.

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



JOIN US FOR LUNCH
10 Wood Street / Willits, CA
MONDAY - SATURDAY
10 AM - 3 PM
(707)459-1434
SCAN FOR FULL MENU

707.459.5193
JOHN FORD RANCH
RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF
No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California



Above: Bryce Spolund, the nephew of Precious One Beads owner and bead artist Lisa Brown, models one of her striking necklaces at the store.

Chamber Mixer at Precious One Beads, December 20

The Willits Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Chamber Mixer at Precious One Beads, 85 North Main Street just north of Commercial Street, on Friday, December 20 from 6 to 7:30 pm. All our businesses are welcome to attend. The shop carries beads and supplies for making beaded jewelry, and authentic Native American beadwork. The holiday mixer will offer lite fare and a raffle. Precious One Beads owner and bead artist Lisa Brown has some holiday gifts available for your shopping pleasure. Bead Shop info: (707) 354-8902 or preciousonebeads@gmail.com. Willits Chamber info: (707) 459-7910 or info@willits.org

Below, left and at right: Precious One Beads' Facebook page displays these beautiful beaded earrings. Below: right: Some new Christmas-themed earrings available at Precious One.



Above: One of Robin Rule's assemblage art books.

Robin Rule and Isaac Frankle at WCA, opens January 4

Submitted by WCA

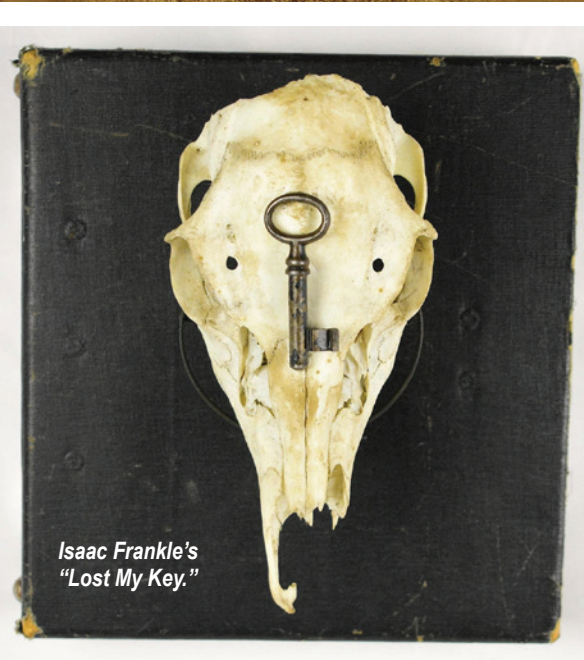
Willits Center for the Arts will present a festive opening night of artwork by Robin Rule and Isaac Frankle, aka Shovelman, on Saturday January 4 from 6 to 9 pm.

Poet and book designer Robin Rule has lived in the Willits area for over 50 years. She developed her assemblage and book art designs as a remedy for writers block for her poetry and stories. She will be presenting a retrospective and some new work at the early January exhibit.

Isaac Frankle, aka Shovelman, is an assemblage artist and musician whose artwork is rooted in the Surrealist tradition. His art has been shown in galleries and sculpture gardens in San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and Mendocino County.

Frankle has known Robin Rule since childhood and considers her a mentor and important artistic influence. He will be presenting his own eccentric brand of assemblage and found object artwork, and also performing his bluesy "folktronic" music on a handmade barn shovel turned slide guitar at the January opening. The January 4 opening begins at 6 pm with snacks and beverages.

Welcome in a new year of art at the Willits Center for the Arts, at 71 East Commercial Street. Galleries will be open Fridays through Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm, and the exhibit will extend until Sunday January 26. Free admission.



NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
Cine Noyo. Movies in Spanish!
Sunday - Dec. 22
Sonic 3 - 1:45 (shown in Spanish)

SONIC 3
(PG)
1 hr 49 mins
Fri.: 4:30 & 7:15
Sat.-Tues. & Thurs.: 11:00, 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15
Christmas: 4:30 & 7:15

MUFASA
(PG)
1 hr 58 mins
Fri.: 5:00 & 7:45
Sat.-Tues. & Thurs.: 11:30, 2:15, 5:00 & 7:45
Christmas: 5:00 & 7:45

KRAVEN THE HUNTER
(R)
2 hrs 7 mins
Fri.: 4:45 & 7:30
Sat.-Tues.: 11:15, 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners, laser projection beer and wine sales

NOSFERATU
STARTING CHRISTMAS
(R)
2 hrs 12 mins
Christmas: 4:45 & 7:30
Thurs: 11:15, 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners, laser projection beer and wine sales

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

JEFF'S GAS APPLIANCES
SALES OF NEW WASHERS AND DRYERS!
SOME USED AND RECONDITIONED GAS APPLIANCES!
LARGE SELECTION of new, used and rebuilt gas-powered refrigerators
IN-SHOP OR MOBILE REPAIRS of most appliances, including RV and camp trailers
SALES AND SERVICE OF GAS RANGES for on and off grid applications, including commercial cooking equipment
SALES AND SERVICE of on demand and tank water heaters
707-459-5223
549 Central, Willits, CA 95490

LUNCH SPECIALS ONLY \$10 EACH
EVERYDAY UNTIL 5 PM!
TWO ENCHILADAS RICE & BEANS OR TWO TACOS RICE & BEANS
ONE TACO & ONE ENCHILADA RICE & BEANS
166 SOUTH MAIN STREET WILLITS • (707) 459-5702

Season's GREETINGS
from Wylatti Resource Management
Wylatti
1471 S Main Street Ste. B, Willits CA 95490
PO BOX 575, Covelo, CA 95428 | 1471 S Main Street Ste. B, Willits CA 95490
1221 N Main Street Fort Bragg CA 95434

Happy Holidays and a safe and healthy New Year
261 FRANKLIN AVENUE • WILLITS • 707-459-2429
Gates OPEN 7AM - 7PM • 365 DAYS A YEAR • WWW.WILLITSMINISTORAGE.COM

COUGAR'S CLOSET II MINI-STORAGE
GOT A PLACE FOR YOUR THINGS!
317 Robert Drive Willits, CA 95490
12th Month FREE!
WHEN 1 YEAR PAID IN ADVANCE
707-259-0159 or 707-459-4599
Lincoln Realty
1661-A South Main St. • Willits, CA 95490

GET READY

Willits High, Sanhedrin High & Willits Charter
Senior formal photos
February/March 2025



with photography by
maureen Jennison
www.mphotographress.com | 707-972-7047

THE WHISTLE STOP

SPECIAL FOR YOU YUM!



Delicious Paninis, Savory Salads, Scrumptious Smoothies, & More

280 E. COMMERCIAL ST
WILLITS CA 95490
707-841-3033

6 DAYS LEFT

CHRISTMAS

Big Sales

12/19	20% OFF ALL SCIENCE & STEM
12/20	20% KIDS & ADULT JEWELRY
12/21	20% OFF EVERYTHING THAT FITS IN OUR STOCKING
12/22	20% OFF ALL SCOOTERS AND BIKES
12/23	Every \$50 SPENT, \$10 TOY DEPOT CREDIT
12/24	30% OFF ALL BOARD GAMES



262 E. COMMERCIAL ST. WILLITS CA 95490 707-459-8697

SPARETIME GARDEN CENTER

The Gardener's Pantry & Decor

HURRY IN


for unique last-minute gifts

We will close at 2 pm Dec. 24th and will reopen at 9 am on Jan. 2nd

HOLIDAY HOURS
Mon - Sat: 9 am - 6 pm • Sunday: 10 am - 4 pm

208 E. San Francisco Ave.
sparetimegardencenter.com
(707) 459-6791

Mr. Skunk's GIANT CHRISTMAS Tree



WILLITS GATEWAY TO THE REDWOODS

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

Trains leave from downtown Willits located just off Highway 101.

Local's Price Up to 50% Off
(Depending on Zip Code)

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

SKUNKTRAIN.COM | 707.964.6371



REDWOOD MEADOWS

Senior Apartment Community
1475 Baechtel Road 1 Willits, CA 95490

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW

Call now: 707-459-1616

HAPPY PAWLIDAYS!

-FROM-



Willits ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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



Above, from left: The basket of bulbs left for the infusion team to plant now, and think of Maureen in spring. Matthew and Maureen on the last treatment day, which was spent mid-earthquake, and in the new annex of the UVMC infusion center. Next stop: UCSF and surgery in the new year. Below: After completion of the last treatment, the infusion team smiles with Maureen, who holds her certificate of completion after ringing the celebratory bell, on the wall at far left.

Maureen's Cancer Update:
The 'Year-without-a-ponytail' saga continues

Well, did you schedule your mammogram, etc. yet?

It's been about 5 months since I've needed to shave a leg, an armpit, or pluck a chin hair with the chemo-induced, dolphin-sleek hair loss I've been experiencing, but things are finally starting to slowly return to normal, and I couldn't be happier to know my car tweezers and 10x magnifier mirror are right where I left them, ready to spring back into action.

I'm getting little eyebrow fuzzies back, too, which are enhanced to an almost reasonable likeness of normalcy with the use of a NYX-brand eyebrow pencil, Ash Brown, thank you Carissa. My head hair is still struggling to make an aesthetic comeback, but will hopefully soon start filling in and thickening out. I'm sick of hats – though helpful with the cold.

Now, almost two weeks post-last treatment, things are looking great in the direction of surgery at UCSF on January 3 where I will get a full double mastectomy, remove some affected lymph nodes, and eventually a complete and full reconstruction at the talented hands of surgeon Dr. Jasmine Wong and plastic surgeon Dr. Seung Lee.

While I try not to minimize the severity, seriousness, and scope of such a big surgery, the idea of doing ANYTHING and EVERYTHING to minimize my risk of ever having the cancer return, or giving it any place to hide, far outweighs any anxiety I have in regards to such a drastic – and highly recommended – next step.

Recovery is expected for 4 to 6 weeks and then some additional surgeries and tweaks within in the coming months, too, to complete all the necessary procedures, but I'm excited to be up and running, back to full-force normal in the early spring.

My post-treatment MRI on December 11 came back with great news of the chemo's effectiveness – "near complete resolution" of the masses – with Dr. Hengbing Wang, my UVMC oncologist, happy and sending me to surgery with well wishes after completing the six infusion sessions from August to December at the Ukiah facility.

We were able to celebrate with the UVMC infusion team at the last treatment on December 5; they lined the waiting room and cheered me on, confetti guns and all, as I rang the celebratory completion bell, three times, hung there for just such occasions. I received a certificate of completion, and commemorative mini bell as well.

I brought the team a bowl of bulbs; red tulips, yellow mini daffodils and purple hyacinths for everyone to select some from, take home and plant, telling them in spring, when the flowers bloom, they can remember me and my new cute boobies.

All of this turning out so positively also comes with a note from my soul to yours: You have to advocate for yourself, your situation, and your success. Everyone cares, it's true, but no one cares as much as you do, and it is up to you to be the politest, nicest, most persistent, and squeakiest wheel possible. YOU call THEM back. Twice. Three times. Again after lunch. YOU leave messages. YOU walk over and get the thing. YOU confirm that the paperwork/imaging/labs/ whatever arrived. YOU go get copies of everything. YOU follow up to make sure things are happening. YOU ask for cancellations. Ask again. It's SO important.

It's also important to follow directions as carefully and as closely as possible. These people are trying to help you, give you a roadmap for the best chance of success, and it's up to you to also help yourself. Sit very still in the MRI so they can have the clearest photo? Check. Show up to your appointments – and be early? Check. Drink XX ounces of water and flush

out the medicine ASAP for the sake of your other organs? Check. Don't eat sugar or take Vitamin C or anti-oxidants? Uh, OK, but yes. Check. Do what they're asking to a T – it only benefits YOU! It's temporary discomfort or annoyances or whatever for a way greater good. Give yourself the best chance for success – even if it's a drag in the meantime.

Check your bills also, don't just pay things as they come in. Call and ask. Decide what you're interested in paying. In the motivational words of Cher Horowitz in the 1990s cult classic movie "Clueless," when her litigating lawyer dad asks about her grades:

Dad: Which reminds me, where's your report card?

Cher: It's not ready yet.

Dad: What do you mean, "it's not ready yet"?

Cher: Well, some teachers are trying to low-ball me, Daddy. And I know how you say, "Never accept a first offer," so I figure these grades are just a jumping off point to start negotiations.

Take this concept to heart when looking at what you're being billed. Ask questions and negotiate. I received a bill for \$1,900 because the reader at a lab my biopsy sample went to wasn't in network. So I was being billed an outrageous out-of-network charge. I called my insurance and explained that I couldn't possibly control which tech reads the results at a lab I also don't select so why on earth should I be charged for that. THEY SAID NO PROBLEM AND REVERSED THE CHARGE. It took one – polite, but insistent, phone call.

Try your hardest to have the most self-discipline over what you can control (again back to that self-advocacy thing too), because so much of the process is so out of any ability to control and that can be so scary. At least it was for me, and focusing on what I could control gave me a real sense of having some sort of grasp on the whole thing.

While this entire process has been an absolute dumpster fire, I cannot say enough good things about the staff, docs, and community who have made an otherwise intolerable experience at least endurable. THANK YOU!

My friends, family, and of course amazing husband – I cannot thank you all enough. Saprina, Frannie and the rest of the Maggie-management team: you guys have been invaluablely helpful. My work family, my husband's work family, our online community, and everyone who's stopped us around town to all give their support, cheer me on, it's amazing. I'm so lucky... We are so lucky. THANK YOU!!

I also can't say enough good things about Jill and the Cancer Resource Center of Mendocino County who came to meetings and appointments, took notes, sent gas cards to help with travel costs, provided fake eyelashes, hooked me up with Caring Kitchen who delivered free weekly meals, and so much support, empathy, and calming vibes – and all for free. If you're needing to donate to an amazing nonprofit this, or any year, please consider them. THANK YOU!!!

For now, excited for the upcoming holidays, including my 40th birthday on the 27th, excited for the WW winter break, excited to rest, heal, spend time with family, and get back to normal as much as possible, as soon as possible.

Happy 2025 – go make a doctor's appointment!

– Maureen Jennison



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-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:00 p.m.

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
• 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
wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook willits umc

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

Below, left: The JV girls basketball team poses for a photo in the locker room: from left, top row, Coach Amanda Pierson, Mariah Levine, Arabella Mondo, Abigail Sherf, Priscila Rodriguez, Amsatou Ndoye, Coach Tom Daughton and Coach Gary Williams; bottom row, Alihna Diaz, Amelia Franco and Madison Winter. Below, right: Bella Glenn and Ava Dockins-Kline pose with their medals after the Webber Lawson Memorial Tournament in Fremont. At right: The boys basketball championship team gathers for a photo: from left, Coach Trey Henson, Landon Honeycutt, Damian Reiter, Ryan Carter, Eduardo Perez, Kaiden Oliver, Cole Lane, Corey Rocky, Jayden Schlegel, and Assistant Coach Reece Christiansen. At right, below: The varsity girls basketball championship team poses with their plaque and individual awards: from left, Coach Dawn McClelland, Jocelyn Galvan, Ava Holmen, Mia Chavez, Estrella Mendoza, Cecily Potter, Chloe Wright, Arion Martin, Kate Winter, Lyly Herman, Coach Josh Potter and Jazmarie Henson.



Photos by Ava Dockins-Kline

COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

WHS Wolverine wrestlers and basketball players begin season with incredible tournament accomplishments

Wolverines wrestling team tussles through another weekend of breakthrough tournaments

Willits Wolverines Wrestling sprawled all over the northern map for tournaments this last weekend. Sheri Dockins, Sports Reporter, willitsweekly@gmail.com. The Lady Wolverine Wrestlers traveled nearly four hours south to attend the Webber Lawson tournament at Fremont High School in Fremont. The Bay Area tournaments are another realm of gritty and always end up being great experiences for each and every grappler. Over 50 teams attended this tournament. From beginning wrestlers to longtime wrestlers, these ladies left it all on the mat!

Two first-year wrestlers, junior Delia Siderakis and junior Athena Marino-Defrantes, had their very first wins, while more experienced wrestlers came home with medals. Sophomore Bella Glenn placed third, and senior Ava Dockins-Kline placed fifth.

"We had a wonderful weekend at one of our harder tournaments," said Coach Dana

Karkar. "Some girls won their very first matches this tournament. Very proud of the progress we are making as a team."

The boys split into two groups. Three wrestlers headed south to attend the Bay Area 61 tournament in Castro Valley, while the rest loaded up and headed north to the McKinleyville tournament. All three wrestlers that headed south placed in their respective weight classes. Junior Rickey Ramirez brought home second place after a hard-fought battle, while junior Donald Glenn brought home third place, and senior Ely Bowles placed in sixth place. These boys all had impressively skilled matches throughout the day.

"The Bay Area 61 had 46 teams in attendance," said Coach Will Dunaway. "There was a lot of good competition from parts of the NCS that we don't get to see a lot in our season. The boys performed great, and got some big wins. The boys that went north had some great moments, matches and a lot of good learning experience."

"Brian Bowles, Pancrazio Bertolino and Zane Marshall went 3-2 at McKinleyville," said Coach Brian Bowles. "Everyone on the

team showed improvement throughout the tournament."

JV girls basketball place third, gaining momentum as a team at home tournament

JV girls basketball played a fierce set of games at a home tournament held in the Steve Short Gymnasium this last weekend. Six schools, including Willits, Fort Bragg, Healdsburg, Round Valley, Ferndale and Middletown attended this tournament. Each team played three games. The Wolverines worked hard up and down the court, displaying more and more unity and strength through each game. They gained two wins, beating Fort Bragg and Middletown, and lost to Healdsburg. They played an amazing weekend of basketball.

"We got third place in our tournament," said Coach Amanda Pierson. "Priscila got All-Tourney. The girls are learning how to play together, and working well as a unit."

Coach Gary Williams commented: "It was a great tournament. Our JV girls are learning every day, becoming more confident every game, and their passion for

the game is getting stronger."

Coach Tom Daughton exclaimed that he is "very proud of this group of girls! It's very exciting to see how much growth they have shown this preseason."

JV boys basketball team wins season opener in overtime

JV boys basketball played an awesome, nail-biting season-opening game on December 10 at home against Credo. This game had the crowd at the edge of their seats as it went into overtime! Jadon Stephens made the game-winning layup, final score 48-46 - Wolverines take the dub! "Jobe had a breakout game with 12 points all in the paint," said Coach Guy Vacarro. "Grady had a solid team-high -14 points. We struggled at the free throw line, but the boys made up with hard work and heart!"

Varsity boys basketball team takes home championship trophy at Potter Valley tournament

Read the rest of Sports Over on page 13

LEGAL NOTICES

WWS25 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

Marc Komer Legal Document Assistant An Affordable Non-Attorney Service (707) 459-2775 245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits BY APPOINTMENT ONLY I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.

The rest of Sports From page 12

Willits varsity basketball had an impressive showing at the 45th Annual Potter Valley Tournament, showcasing their growing chemistry and teamwork. In game one, the Wolverines defeated Laytonville 55-29, led by Kaiden Oliver's 26 points, including 5 three-pointers. The team dominated on the boards, with 26 rebounds, and shared the ball effectively with 11 assists. Team point contributors: Eddie Perez (7), Cole Lane (6), Corey Rocky (6), Damian Reiter (6), Jayden Schlegel (2), and Ryan Carter (2).

In game two, the Wolverines clinched the championship with a 57-45 win over Potter Valley. Schlegel scored 15 points, while Oliver added 12. The team's defense shined with 3 blocks, and Carter grabbed 6 rebounds. Key contributors were: Damian Reiter (8), Corey Rocky (7), Cole Lane (6), Landon Honeycutt (3), and Eddie Perez (2). Individual honors went to Jayden Schlegel (17 points total) who was named First All-Tournament, and Kaiden Oliver (38 points total) who was awarded Tournament MVP.

The Wolverines will look to build on this momentum as they move forward.

"Watching my guys finally get the importance of teamwork, defense, and ball movement was amazing," said Coach Trey Henson. "They stepped up, worked together, and trusted each other on the court. All the effort paid off with a well-deserved championship. Proud of these young men - this is just the start!"

The next home game for JV is Tuesday, January 7 against Calistoga and varsity boys is January 10. See you there!

Varsity girls basketball celebrates championship at the Gene Duffy Sr. Holiday Classic

The varsity Lady Wolverines just completed a really successful week, racking up four straight wins. They started the week with their first league-game win against Credo at home on Tuesday night, final score 46-15, with an 18-0 first-quarter action. Cecily Potter grabbed her first double of the season, with 17 points and 13 rebounds, as well as 5 steals. Other notable contributors were Kate Winter, with 6 points and 3 assists; Arion Martin, 6 points, 6 rebounds and 6 steals; Ava Holmen with 6 points.

The Wolverines worked their magic at the Gene Duffy Sr. Holiday Classic in Calistoga over the weekend. Thursday night they played Technology High School with a dominant win, final score 53-9. Arion Martin led in scoring, with 12 points and 9 rebounds, 5 steals and 3 assists; Lyly Herman, 9 points; Jazmarie Henson, 8 points and 8 rebounds; Cecily Potter, 7 points, 8 rebounds and 5 steals; Mia Chavez led the team with 10 steals and added 6 points to the scoreboard.

Friday they played St. Helena with a lot of height and strong rebounding skills. Most of their players had a great 4-foot jump shot. Willits focused on stopping the inside game and beating them on the boards. They did a great job of keeping them out of the paint and beating them to the rebounds. The three top scorers were: Arion Martin (11), Chloe Wright (9), and Cecily Potter (8). Willits won 39-25.

For the championship game, they played Clearlake. They are very fast and scrappy, which requires our most aggressive defense. Henson brought the intensity to the entire game. She led with 11 points, 7 steals, 2 assists, and 2 blocks. She was all over the court! Herman contributed 9 points and 8 steals. Winter scored 6 points. Potter may have only scored 6 points, but she had a big job to do, stopping and slowing down their biggest player. She captured 10 rebounds, 4 assists, and 2 steals. She did a great job!

"Each game the chemistry and teamwork are improving," said Coach Dawn McClelland. "The last games were won because they came together and fought hard on defense and rebounding." MVP honors were given to Potter and All-Tourney to Henson.

Congratulations to all of our winter sports athletes and coaches for an amazing beginning to the season and the tournament accomplishments across the board. You are all amazing and your community is very proud of you! See you all at our fabulous Steve Short Gymnasium for the home games. Let's GO Wolverines!

CLASSIFIEDS

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 at 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.oakrvine.net/lp

Love Willits Weekly? Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a "street subscriber"! Visit https://form.jotform.com/61915582053153 for a sign up form and more info.

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



Above: The girls wrestling team poses for a photo: from left, top row, Emelia Owsliay, Yumalay Meza, Kendra Mottern, Bella Glenn and Tabitha Glenn; bottom row, Coach Dana Karkar, Emma Hulsey, Mia Chavez, Delia Siderakis, Gloria Gutierrez, Athena Marino-Defrantes, Serenity McCartney, Stormie Nowlin, Ava Dockins-Kline and Sheri Dockins. At right: Boys wrestling Coach Chris Glenn and son, Donald, smile for a photo after Donald placed third in the Bay Area 61 tournament in Castro Valley.

LEGAL NOTICES

WWS27 NOTICE OF VACANCY The City of Willits is seeking applications from interested parties for the vacant City Councilmember seat. The appointed person will serve approximately two (2) years, with a term ending in 2026. Those interested in being considered for appointment to serve as Councilmember on the Willits City Council are invited to submit a Councilmember Vacancy Application. The application can be obtained online at www.cityofwillits.org or at Willits City Hall, Located at 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits. Qualified candidates must reside within the Willits City Limits, be at least 18 years of age, and be registered to vote in the City of Willits. The five-member City Council serves as the legislative body of the City is responsible for setting policy, adopting the annual budget, adopting laws, determining services to be provided and the funding levels, and appointing citizens to its advisory boards and commissions. The person appointed to the City Council shall have all of the rights, privileges, and duties of an elected Councilmember. The appointed Councilmember shall complete and file all conflict-of-interest disclosure forms as are required by law and shall be bound by and obey all other requirements pertaining to membership on the City Council. Completed applications must be returned to the Office of the City Clerk no later than, January 15, 2025, at 5:30 PM. Once the application period has closed, the applications will be distributed to the City Council for review. The City Council will decide at a future Council meeting on the process to use for the appointment. Delores Pedersen City Clerk Posted: December 19, 2024 Publication Date: December 19, 2024

MORE COMPREHENSIVE CARE

Adventist Health was made to serve Mendocino County, because high-quality care should never be far from home. Our experts offer compassionate expertise to make you feel comfortable and cared for right here in your community.

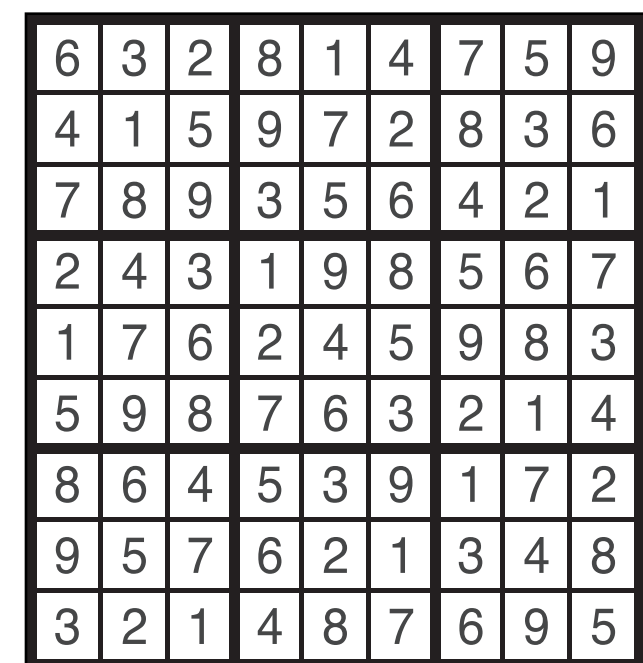
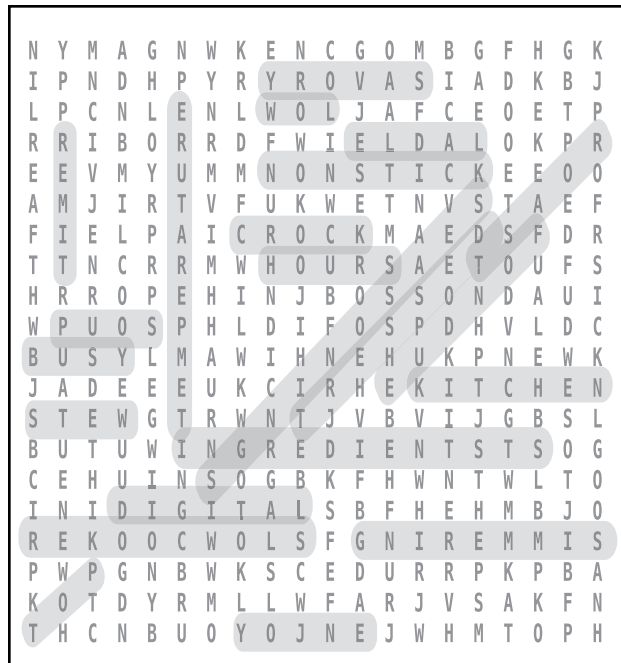
Services provided by Adventist Health Howard Memorial:

- Addiction Medicine
- Pharmacy
- General Surgery
- Physical Therapy
- Orthopedics
- Primary Care
- Pediatrics

Learn more at AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org

Adventist Health Howard Memorial

Willits Weekly is going on winter break! Just a reminder, this is our last paper of 2024. See you when we're back next year!





Above, and at right, top: Illuminated and decorated trucks pass under the Willits Arch during Saturday night's Trucker's Light Parade. At right: Shailyn, left, Jenn and Diana, right, of the Baechtel Grove PTO work their booth with popcorn, candies, hotdog and pulled pork dinners. Below: Twenty-three creative entries line the sidewalks at Bud Snyder City Park.



Above, left: Santa shows up to treat the kids to some Christmas candy. Above, right: One doesn't need the logo to discover this tree is from the Willits Lions Club. Below, left: Extended families wait together for the Trucker's Light Parade on Saturday. Below, right: Volunteers stay warm in a tent set up by the Baechtel Grove PTO.



12 days of Christmas

<p>30% OFF BAGS, PURSES & WALLETS THU 12 19</p>	<p>30% OFF PENDLETON & NOMADIX FRI 12 20</p>	<p>30% OFF DRINKWARE SAT 12 21</p>
<p>30% OFF HATS, GLOVES & BELTS SUN 12 22</p>	<p>30% OFF WELLNESS & SELFCARE MON 12 23</p>	<p>30% OFF CLOTHING TUE 12 24</p>

Terms and exclusions apply. See store for details. **212 South Main Street Willits, CA 95490** 707-459-1214

Trucks & Trees

Trucker's Light Parade and Light Up the Park events coincide on the same night, making a fun evening for locals

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

In this holiday time of year, celebrations and events seem to occur almost daily. Sometimes, they even happen at the same time, coordinated or serendipitously. Last Saturday, two events flowed into one another in a cacophony of color and sound. Neither the cold nor the light drizzle could keep the families away when there was a chance to see brilliant lights and hear the sounds of the air horns from the big trucks as they lumbered down Main Street. The Trucker's Light Parade made its way up from the Evergreen Shopping Center, ending at Bud Snyder City Park where the Light Up the Park event was happening.

101 Trailer & RV Supply coordinated the Trucker's Light Parade, which began after dark, at 6 pm. Santas, reindeers, snowman, and tons of lights were accompanied by loud horns and whistles, much to the delight of the families at the park and along the route. A real life Santa appeared on Commercial Street to give the kids treats before they adjourned to the park to see the 23 decorated trees and enjoy some hot chocolate or pulled-pork dinners at the Light Up the Park event, created by the Willits FFA to raise funds for their various educational activities.

"Businesses sponsor a tree which they bought at Sparetime Supply, who gave us a good deal," explained 4H instructor Kelly Case-Brackett. "We get the trees set up for them and they come and decorate them. Then, the vendors come down and hopefully make some money for their programs, whatever they're raising money for. The FFA is raising money to go to conferences and judging competitions.

"We have some speaking competitions coming up. We're going to a conference the third week of January. We have some kids who are going to be doing some judging competitions this year. They won't get their animals until April or May. The animals grow fast.

"We have different divisions of competitions for the trees," continued Case-Brackett, "which include Most Creative, Brightest, Best Overall. We made QR codes for each tree and each code goes to the respective company website. The sponsors pay \$150 to set up their trees. They are here till January 1."

Other organizations and clubs were involved. The Baechtel Creek Middle School Parent Teacher Organization had a double-wide booth where they sold popcorn, hot chocolate, pulled pork and hot dog dinners, and more.

"Baechtel Grove leadership built all these Hershey bar wrapped snowmen to sell for the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade field trips," said Shailyn Brewer. "A bunch of us moms met up at the brewery last night and built all of these. We set up a big production line.

"All this is for the sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade class field trips at the end of the year because they aren't funded

Read the rest of **Trucks** | Over on page 15

FARMERS INSURANCE

Randall Cantua, LUTCF
Agent
Cantua Insurance Agency
16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490
786 Redwood Drive Garberville, CA 95542
Tel 707.459.3276
Tel 707.923.2179
Fax 707.923.9550
rcantua@farmersagent.com
0C67822

C BROWNS R N E R

Groceries
Beer & Wine
Gas & Diesel
Pay at the Pump

7am - 10pm
459-4854
1799 So. Main St.
P.O. Box 425

Family owned since 1983

Do it Best WILLITS

POWER & HARDWARE

HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT

Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators
Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery

1600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420
Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596
willitspower@gmail.com Fax: 707 459-6389

Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)

location	Mon Dec 09	Tue Dec 10	Wed Dec 11	Thur Dec 12	Fri Dec 13	Sat Dec 14	Sun Dec 15	weekly total
Northbrook Way	0.01	0.00	1.38	1.81	3.15	2.31	0.01	8.67
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.00	0.00	1.27	1.70	3.34	1.40	0.00	7.71
Valley Rd	0.01	0.00	0.90	1.04	2.17	2.06	0.00	6.18
Canyon Rd	0.00	0.01	0.87	1.00	2.16	1.99	0.00	6.03
Pine Mountain	0.00	0.01	0.85	1.04	2.27	2.20	0.01	6.37
South Main @ East Oak	0.00	0.01	1.33	1.73	3.06	1.60	0.01	7.74
average	0.00	0.00	1.10	1.39	2.69	1.93	0.00	7.12

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

California Nevada River Forecast Center

Six day precipitation forecast for the Willits area	Mon Dec 16	Tue Dec 17	Wed Dec 18	Thur Dec 19	Fri Dec 20	Sat Dec 21
	0.5 - 1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1 - 0.25	1.5 - 2.0

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

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

WW Rain Box

The rest of **Newsom** | From page 2

Department of Food and Agriculture, California Office of Emergency Services, and other agencies, the state is leading a cross-agency response that includes timely public updates, multilingual outreach to dairy and poultry workers, targeted social media efforts to promote preventive practices, online and printed resources for the public, and media interviews to keep Californians informed. Additionally, the state is ensuring that agriculture workers have access to additional doses of seasonal flu vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to reduce concurrent flu risks.

Officials have also been working in close collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local health and agricultural officials, as part of a whole-of-government effort to coordinate, implement, and ensure timely surveillance and investigation of potential cases of bird flu.

Bird flu in the United States

Bird flu was first detected in the United States in the wild bird population in South Carolina in January 2022, and in the wild bird population in California in July 2022. On March 25, 2024, an outbreak of bird flu in dairy cows was first reported in Texas and Kansas, and CDFA took immediate action to monitor for bird flu infections in California herds. Since then, there have been 61 total reported confirmed cases of bird flu infection in humans across seven states, including 34 reported human cases in California.

On August 30, 2024, following its detection in 13 other states, bird flu was confirmed in a dairy cow in Central California, and the California Department of Public Health immediately activated its Medical Health Coordination Center.

The rest of **Grange** | From page 7

seeps into the rest of it. There is also a big log of marzipan inside the stollen."

Suraya David-Sadira with Ecosensuals Apothecary makes essences and hydrosol. She brought her small still with her to educate people as to her method of distilling the essences. "You put the plant matter and water in the belly," David-Sadira explained. "You simmer it and it starts bubbling up through the onion top. The steam ends up eventually making its way through the neck. It starts to cool here, but it starts to really cool when it gets down into the condenser. I put cold water and ice in the condenser and then the steam condenses in there. What you get out is oil and water. The oil is what the essential oils are made from. The oil floats on the top. I titrate it out with something like a turkey baster. The water in the bottom is what the hydrosol ends up being."

Kroesen considers the craft fair to be more than just commerce. It is an event that brings people out and together. "I see so many people that I don't see very often but I know they all live here in town," she said. "This is a community gathering as well as a craft fair. A lot of people are coming here because they want to help with the roof fund. The information is on our Facebook page: "Little Lake Grange." If someone would like to donate, they can just call the grange office or just mail it to Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Willits, CA 95490; or they can call the office and we have Square so they can use a credit card: 459-9716. Our email address is willitsgrange@gmail.com. We can take large donations from family trusts or endowments."

The rest of **Trucks** | From page 14

any more. There's a list of places they might decide to go. The students will decide. They might go to a science center, an amusement park in Santa Clara, all drivable one-day trips. They include a hot meal at the end of the day and a bag lunch.

"If there is any money left over," said Brewer, "it will go to end-of-the-year parties for the kids. They do barbecues on the field. There's always a dance at the end of the year, get a photo booth or a good DJ. There is also a party for the eighth graders after their promotion ceremony."

The junior class at Willits High School had a booth to sell hot cocoa and cookies to raise funds for their prom, which this year is going to be at the Brooktrails Lodge.

The 23 trees, which lined the sidewalks in the park, were mostly decorated with trappings of the organizations that created them. The Little Lake Fire Department had a fire hose draped on their tree, while the Willits Police Department utilized some crime tape wrapped around theirs. Mendo Mill had slices of tree trunks with laser etchings. Boutillier Construction used construction equipment ornaments, and the City of Willits hung photos of their employees and managers. The Lions Club tree was unmistakable with its myriad of lion stuffed animals.

The winning trees were not announced at the time of this writing but will be posted on the "Willits FFA" Facebook page.

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

WELL will pay the Redwood Inn directly. Thank you to all who contribute to this essential service.

Willits Food Bank

Editor's Note: Willits Community Services and Food Bank is also in need of the community's support to help feed needy people and families.

Checks may be sent to 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490 or dropped off at that address during open hours, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:30 to 4 pm. More info: willitsfoodbank.com or 707) 459-3333 or info@willitsfoodbank.com

Donate to WCS online by visiting willitsfoodbank.com and hitting the "Donate" button.

Willits Daily Bread

Editor's Note: Willits Daily Bread serves four evening meals each week to hungry people ... anyone who comes, no matter their circumstances, at the Hall at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church at 66 East commercial Street. Mail donations to PO Box 1826, Willits CA 95490. More info: cindsavage6@yahoo.com.

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

Strong. "I was reflecting on the many things that you've advocated for and done for our community in your 12 years, 12 long years, that's something to praise."

Strong replied: "Saprina, you've put in so much, not just work and effort, but soul searching. I've never met anybody who's done as good a job as you do." Council members Larry Stranske and Gerry Gonzalez added their appreciation of and thanks to Rodriguez and Strong.

Rodriguez, with her heart still very much in the city, let everyone know, "You can expect to see much more from me."

The new council wasted no time getting down to business. The council unanimously elected Larry Stranske to be mayor, continuing a family tradition: Stranske's wife, Virginia, is a former mayor of Willits. The council elected Matthew Alaniz vice-mayor. Alaniz is adding a new dimension to family involvement in local issues: Alaniz's wife, Tamara Alaniz, is the general manager of Brooktrails Township.

Kanne's resignation leaves an open seat on the council. According to city attorney Jim Lance, the vacant seat could be filled, at the council's option, either by holding a special election or by having the council members appoint a replacement to fill out the remaining two years of Kanne's term.

If the council decided to hold an election, Lance said that due to state law requirements, a special election could not be held until November 2025.

If the council chose to appoint a temporary two-year replacement, Lance said that the entire process - creating and posting an application form, holding public interviews of the applicants, and choosing and swearing in the new member - must be completed by February 8. Any city resident 18 years or older who is registered to vote can apply.

December 17 update

At a special council meeting held on Tuesday, December 17, the four council members voted unanimously to appoint a temporary council member to fill out the remaining two years of Kanne's term.

Anyone interested in applying to be on the city council can obtain an application from the city's website cityofwillits.org or in person at City Hall.

The deadline to file an application is January 15. The council will interview applicants at the January 22 city council meeting, and select and swear in the new council member at that meeting, or at a special meeting called before the February 8 deadline.

And the beat goes on. Merry Christmas to everyone.

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

a good situation for our water supply. Also, the fire department's metal building and the Spring Creek tank are back on track to be completed in good order soon."

Director Horrick asked if there was a recent rain total to report, and Alaniz said: "Yes, we received more than Ukiah. We measured 14.5 inches over 2.5 days. It came fast. We didn't have any landslides, and there were no vehicle accidents reported. We also didn't suffer any repercussions from the recent earthquake. So, all has been well."

Next up, public comments were invited, and there were five audience members, regular Brooktrails golf course users, who were there to share ideas regarding the course.

James Brown went to the podium and expressed concern regarding the bridge that goes across from the seventh green to the #8 tee box. He noted that several of the boards of the bridge were rotting out. He said: "This is something that the board needs to be concerned about because I'm very concerned about it. This is not something that can be set aside, because there is significant foot traffic on the bridge." Brown also said, "Regarding the practice range golf ball netting - it has started to fall apart and needs to be replaced and/or fixed."

Alex Carlon, who identified himself as a so-so golfer, then said: "Our golf course keeps me in pretty good shape. You walk 18 holes and you go about 3.5 miles, which is pretty good." He asked: "Does the Brooktrails board provide sand for the golf course? I've been golfing here for 11 years and the course needs sand and there needs to be some regular maintenance done." "Sometimes there's mold on the greens," Carlon continued, which is very hard to control during the winter, due to the sun not being able to get to it. Things can tend to fall apart during the winter. I'm hoping that the board recognizes how important the course is to the community. And, is there a golf course committee?"

Tyler-O'Shea answered, "Yes." And, she invited all of the audience members present to attend the golf course committee meetings.

Next, Phil Robinson addressed the board and said, "There's been conversation about volunteers that could help, and we are available and could do that."

Tyler-O'Shea asked if there were any directors wanting to respond to the public comments, and Williams said: "Usually there's an issue regarding liability on using volunteers for something like the golf course. If we organize a volunteer day where we had indemnity and hold harmless agreements/liability waivers in place, we might have a good work day to benefit the golf course."

The general manager interjected that at a recent meeting of the golf course committee the volunteer work day idea was discussed and accepted. Brown said, "Yes, I received an email about it." Alaniz said: "We have an agreement in place that can be utilized that was written for the Willits Area Cyclists to do trail work on the weekends. That written agreement can work for golf course volunteers as well. We just need to sit down together and talk about it further and agree on it."

Alaniz assured the group that the bridge work would be checked out by staff right away.

Tyler-O'Shea noted that needed replacement sand would be provided as well and she, again, invited anyone interested to attend the next golf course committee meeting in February. Golf course manager Marcus Newby attends the committee meetings along with Tyler-O'Shea, and he has the day and time of the next meeting noted on the calendar posted in his office.

Horrick thanked all of the golf course commenters for attending the meeting and sharing their concerns, making the board aware of the items that needed to be addressed.

The board then focused on "Consent Calendar: Review and Approval of Accounts Payable of November 25, 2024 and December 11, 2024."

Director Horrick questioned the last item listed in the 12/10/24 report: \$31,327.26 payable to Peterson Trucks, Inc. He asked, "Was that for a complete rebuild or replacement of a truck motor?"

Fire Chief Jon Noyer and Alaniz answered the question, saying that this was part of the refurbishment for the truck that was acquired from Hopland for a cost of \$15,000. Noyer noted that a new fire truck costs in the neighborhood of \$600,000, and Alaniz said: "We got a great deal. We've had to put some money into it, about \$60,000 to upgrade the engine. We are looking at this as a totally refurbished engine. We have a lot of trust in Chief Franklin, of Hopland's Fire Department, and we feel that we got an excellent deal. We are about \$3,000 away from having a totally refurbished truck that will serve our community well in fighting fires."

The board then voted to approve the two Accounts Payable amounts: \$31,816.27 and \$177,616.96.

The final Agenda item: "Establishing New Golf Course Green Fee Rates" was postponed until the next meeting. Golf course manager Marcus Newby was unable to attend the December 10 meeting. The board looked forward to his being at the upcoming meeting to discuss the proposed fee changes before the board votes on the item.



Above, from left: Felted hats by Tess McGuire made a seasonal splash at the WCA Fair last weekend. Rugged and beautiful Circle of Stones jewelry by Rebecca Martin and Cory Gunterman on display at the WCA Holiday Fair. Lisa Rhine made the Willits Center for the Arts Holiday Fair her first-ever craft fair for her family's wood sculpture business. At left, top: Painters Sandy Strong, right, and Nancy Collins joined forces to offer their work at the 2024 Willits Center for the Arts Holiday Craft Fair. At left, below: All vendors and craftspeople at the Willits Holiday Craft Fair donate to the event's popular raffle. At left, bottom left: Fair organizer and ceramic artist Bonnie Belt spent many months preparing for the 2024 WCA Holiday Fair weekend. At left, bottom right: Master potter Gregg Lindsley came from Middletown in Lake County to sell his professional handmade ceramics.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde

Holiday Craft Fair

Locals and visitors enjoy Willits Art Center's tradition for a 35th year

Hundreds of Willits locals and out-of-town visitors enjoyed the Willits Center for the Arts Holiday Craft Fair this past weekend, which took place at the Willits Community Center and at the Willits Center for the Arts Great Room. Both locations were elaborately decorated for the holidays, adding to the seasonal excitement, a wide range of food was served, and live musicians entertained throughout the day. Vendors included artists and craftspeople who came to sell their wares from all over Mendocino County, from Laytonville to Point Arena.

Master ceramic artist Bonnie Belt came to Willits in 1994, and after being a vendor at the fair for many years, she took over the running of the Willits Holiday Craft Fair a dozen years ago. Belt related that although the exact year of the first holiday fair is not precisely known, it was likely over 35 years ago. "After the 2013 fair I asked the then-coordinator of the fair, Larry Rivers, if he needed help the next year," Belt recalled. "He was more than happy to accept my help. That summer he brought me a bankers box of files, explained the organizational details of the fair and, voila, I became the new Willits Center for the Arts coordinator!"

She went on say that in 2015, well-known Willits painter and teacher Ann Maglente stepped up to help. "For several more years, between the two of us, we really did all the organization of the fair, from applications and entertainment to decoration and the cleanup."

The organization of a high-quality county-wide crafts fair like the Willits Center for the Arts Holiday Craft Fair is challenging, Belt continues. "At this stage a small army of volunteers is needed to prepare for and

execute the weekend-long event, from keeping track of the vendors and scheduling the music and organizing the food, creating and placing the extensive signage and decorations, and of course, executing the cleanup!"

Belt emphasized that volunteer participation has been critical to putting on a successful fair for many years. "With the help of everyone at the Art Center, the WCA has continued to organize the fair as a major fundraiser for the benefit of the Art Center and the Willits community," she said. "Our newest volunteer is Chris Chichacki. For the past few years, Chris has put together an amazing group of musicians to offer a diverse variety of fantastic entertainment, making the fair a standout event of the holiday season in Willits."

The most challenging aspect about running the fair recently is getting enough volunteer support. "Many WCA volunteers are called to participate. Our vendors all pitch in as well. They volunteer to put out posters, decorate the venues, and clean up after the fair," she explains. "There are so many details that need to be tended to in order to present a professional and successful craft fair."

Painter and WCA founding member Sandy Strong participated as a vendor for the first time at this year's WCA Craft Fair, sharing a booth with her friend and mentor watercolorist Nancy Collins. Strong said she loves seeing the diversity of vendors and the quality of works that Belt gathers for this event.

"It has been one of the Art Center's most successful fundraisers over many years," Strong relates. "It is enjoyed and attended by so many folks, not only from the Willits community but also by people who travel from all over. You just never know who you will meet and visit with, and what unique holiday gift you may find for that special someone."

The WCA Holiday Fair has traditionally included an extensive raffle, to which all participating vendors donate. The raffle, which adds to the weekend's excitement, increases community participation, culminating in choosing a multitude of winners on the final afternoon.

Belt says that she expects to continue to be a major part of coordinating the WCA Holiday Craft Fair in the years to come. "The fair has become a beloved part of the holiday season in Willits, and I love that I can reconnect with so many people each year," she smiles. "I know everyone really enjoys seeing and catching up with friends who they may have not seen since last year's fair. It is really an event that brings our community together."

707-459-5859
24900 N. HWY 101
IN WILLITS

Lic# 679517
KARA@GARMANCONSTRUCTION.COM

Congrats |
Happy Birthday Alaska

She's feeling fine,
So watch her shine,
This child of mine,
Is turning NINE!

Certain things never go out of style, like birthdays, fun times, and Alaska. Happy birthday! Love, Mom, Dad, River and all of our pets.



NC Financial Group
675 S Main Street, Willits, CA 95490
www.ncfinancialgroup.com

(855) 240-6606
(415) 480-3669

Voted Best Financial Advisor
Nicholas Casagrande, EA
CEO & Financial Advisor
nicholas.casagrande@ceterafs.com

EA #105394
CA DRE #01854336
CA Insurance Lic. # 0H68496

Wealth Management
Investments | Tax Planning | Insurance | Business Solutions | Retirement

Advisory services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC (doing insurance business in CA as CFGFS Insurance Agency LLC), member FINRA/SIPC. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity.

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.

Trust your holiday arrangements to us, celebrating 45 years of floral designs

Hostess Gifts, Center Pieces, Wreaths and much more...

Email: flowersbyannette707@gmail.com
Phone: 707-459-6588
Website: www.flowersbyannette.net

NUTRIENT-PACKED COMPOST, PLANTER MIXES & CUSTOM BLENDS
MADE IN UKIAH, CA

WHY USE COLD CREEK COMPOST?

- CLOSE THE LOOP
- SAVE MONEY
- REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
- GROW MORE

RECYCLING ORGANICS SINCE 1995

coldcreekcompost.com
(707) 485-5966
f @ColdCreekCompost