



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM

Karen Mattson
Museum Administrator

Mendocino County Museum
400 E. Commercial Street
Willits, CA 9490
Telephone: (707) 234-6365
www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum

Introduction

The Museum is pleased to share new programs, exhibits, and partnerships. We are excited to see our Museum Gift Shop re-open under new management in partnership with the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum later this month. Our new exhibit, *Telling Our Story: Timber Industry in Early Mendocino County* has opened. The Museum has many new programs including our Community Fairy Scavenger Hunt and Wednesday History Makers. Find out more about the Museum here: <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/museum>



Museum Volunteers light up the museum! See our museum in lights during the month of December.

I. Effective County Government Organization

The Museum continues to strengthen community partnerships contributing to an effective County Government Organization.

New Partnership at the Mendocino County Museum

Gift Shop Grand Re-opening Sunday, December 15, 12-4 p.m.

The County and Museum are delighted to announce a new partnership that affirms the Museum as a valuable cultural asset for all Mendocino County citizens and paves the way for a robust future.

The partnership allows the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum (FOTMCM) to assume operation of the Museum gift shop and the admissions operations. "This is a tremendous step forward for the museum and the county as a whole— for anyone who lives and works here, and who has pride in our incredible county and its rich history" -Karen Mattson, Museum Administrator.

With this first step in the transition, County staff will continue to oversee the museum's collections, exhibitions, and field trips. The non-profit FOTMCM will oversee the gift shop and admissions lobby.

"The FOTMCM looks forward to building a very strong connection with the community, so that we all come together to support this terrific institution as a social hub and a point of pride— we envision supporting an invigorating slate of events – lectures, programs, and related activities going forward." - Brent Walker FOTMCM Chair

The museum has been a beloved part of the Mendocino County cultural landscape since its opening in 1972. The collection contains over 60,000 objects chronicling and celebrating the peoples, communities, culture, and history of our county. Collections include photographs, fine art, baskets, tools, archives, textiles, and a variety of rolling stock. Experts from a range of disciplines use the collections for personal and professional research. Museum exhibits are updated regularly, and student field trips have enabled youngsters throughout the county to gain new insights into the region's past.

"We are thrilled with this creative and collaborative partnership helping to make the Museum a sustainable entity," said Third District Supervisor John Haschak. "This is an opportunity for the FOTMCM to continue to grow their support and enable our wonderful county museum to continue to serve and thrive."

Among upcoming events is a grand re-opening of the Museum Gift Shop slated for Sunday December 15th, presented by the FOTMCM. The FOTMCM is pleased to host Guest Karen Rifkin, author of the *History of Ukiah's Palace Hotel* from 1:00-3:00. The FOTMCM plan to have updated merchandise and look forward to greeting the public in the front lobby. The Museum will host a variety of activities to complement the event. If you don't have time to participate but you want to be a part of this big "group hug," stop by and see the new gift store!

"As we transition into this new partnership, we'll be looking for folks to become ambassadors – to get excited, become engaged in what we're doing, and help us envision what the future might hold. What does that mean on a practical level? If you're interested in helping us run the gift shop or staff admissions, we'd love to have you. There are many other ways to get involved from leading tours or helping with special projects as well. Let us know if you can spare a few hours a month by contacting the Friends at: fofmcm@yahoo.com" -Neeka Aguirre FOTMCM Board Member

II. A Safe and Healthy County

The Museum Advisory Board recently approved the Mendocino County Museum, *More Than Land Acknowledgement*. This was a collaboration between staff, The Museum Advisory Board, and members of the community. This land acknowledgment is a starting point for our ongoing journey towards truth, reconciliation, respect, and healing.

More Than a Land Acknowledgement

Since 1972, the Mendocino County Museum has been committed to serving the public through the stewardship of, and access to, our collections. We are dedicated to preserving and interpreting our collections and inspiring awareness of the peoples, communities, and history of our county, and that starts with acknowledging that the first stewards of the land in Mendocino County were the Indigenous Peoples.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Mendocino County Museum is located on the ancestral lands of the Indigenous Peoples of the Little Lake Valley. Mendocino County was built upon the unceded territory of unique and distinct tribes, both federally recognized and unrecognized, including but not all encompassing, the Northern Pomo, Central Pomo, Southern Pomo, Coastal Pomo, Noyo, Manchester-Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians, Coast Yuki, Yuki, Huchnom, Sinkyone, Wailaki, the Wailakis of the Eel River, Yokayo, and Cahto People. We further acknowledge those who were forced here and are now part of the Round Valley Indian Tribes including the Pit River, Nomlaki, and Concow People.

The Native Peoples of Mendocino County are past, present and future stewards of this land. We recognize that the establishment of the Museum and the broader history of colonization have had harmful impacts on Native Americans and their cultures. We are committed to learning from these injustices and working towards a more equitable future.

We honor Native American heritage and strive to tell the accurate history of these tribal communities, including the displacement, migration, settlement, and the attempted genocide that decimated much of our Indigenous populations. This land acknowledgment is a starting point for our ongoing journey towards truth, reconciliation, respect, and healing. We are committed to deepening our understanding of the rich Indigenous History and Culture. Through this acknowledgement we recognize their sovereignty, and we will support and advocate it through the following means:

We will:

Actively seek out opportunities to learn from tribal scholars, elders, community members, and lifeways experts. We will incorporate their perspectives into our exhibits, programs, and educational materials.

Support the Native Peoples of Mendocino County: We will partner with Indigenous communities, organizations, and individuals to co-create meaningful programs and exhibitions that reflect their voices and stories.

Educate the public: We will use our resources to educate visitors about the history of the Indigenous Peoples of Mendocino County. We will challenge harmful stereotypes and promote understanding and respect for their culture.

Encourage all visitors to consider the history of this land and the people who have called it home.

III. A Thriving Economy

The Roots of Motive Power and Mendocino County Museum collaborated and hosted the *Holiday Express* on Saturday December 7, 2024. This event draws numerous people to the area, visitors enjoy a train ride made possible by the Roots of Motive Power and an opportunity to explore Museum exhibits and participate in special activities.

The Museum holds weekly family programs during *History Makers*, activities are free with Mendocino County Library Cards.



MENDOCINO COUNTY
MUSEUM

at the
Mendocino County Museum



DECEMBER PROGRAMS Every Wednesday! 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Enchanted Fairy House Scavenger Hunt
during open hours
November 6 - December 15

First Saturday December 7th - Holiday Express in partnership with Roots of Motive Power, Take-and-Make Snowflake craft kit

December 4, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Fairy Wand Making

December 11, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Pine-cone Forest Creatures

Special Sunday Event December 15, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Crescent Moon Craft-Sponsored by the FOTMCM

December 18, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Fairy Finale

Program attendance is free with the cost of admission. Enjoy free admission on Wednesdays when you show your Mendocino County Library Card.



MENDOCINO COUNTY
Museum

"Telling Our Story."

400 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490 | (707) 234-6365
museum@mendocinocounty.gov
www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum
 Wednesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12-4 p.m.

IV. A Prepared and Resilient County

N/A

Other/Additional Information**EXHIBITION ANNOUNCEMENT*****Telling Our Story: Timber Industry in Early Mendocino County***

Opening November 20, 2024, *Telling Our Story: The Timber Industry in Early Mendocino County* explores the challenges inherent to the early timber industry and the innovations and advancements that supported its rapid growth.

The exhibit introduces the *Frolic* Shipwreck as a catalyst of the timber industry connecting aspirational lumberman with the untouched redwood forests. Introductory text for the exhibit authored by Archaeologist Dr. Thomas Layton, provides insight to the cultural interactions taking place during this time period.

Artifacts from the Museum's collections of Mark Walker, Jim and Ruth McNamee, and Emery Escola, convey the array of timber products extracted and exported, and illustrate evolving techniques for falling, hauling, milling and transporting lumber from 1850 -1925.

Telling Our Story will remain on exhibit through Spring 2025. Museum open hours are Wednesday - Saturday 11-5 and Sunday 12-4. The Museum will be closed November 27-29 for the holiday but will be open normal hours November 30.

For more information please visit www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum or contact the Mendocino County Museum at museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.