

# Willits Weekly

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 556

Thursday, June 27, 2024

## Fireworks are illegal in Mendocino County

Jennifer Poole  
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The Fourth of July holiday is coming up next Thursday, and as usual residents in Mendocino County are warned that all fireworks are illegal in Mendocino County, and their use is punishable by law.

Even the so-called "Safe and Sane" varieties are illegal in the county. Anyone possessing, transporting, or using fireworks in Mendocino County is in violation of the law.

"As we approach the 4th of July holiday," Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services says: "Please remember that we are now in fire season, and the illegal use of fireworks poses a serious threat to the safety and well-being of everyone in our county."

"Please do your part to help protect Mendocino County from another devastating wildfire by celebrating the 4th of July safely and responsibly."

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reminds locals to have a safe holiday and help prevent wildfires and injuries caused by fireworks: Two out of five

Read the rest of **Fireworks**  
Over on Page 4

## New Atlas Bronzes donated to hospital

Submitted by Howard Foundation

Two new heroic bronzes that showcase the 1938 "Match Race of the Century" between the underdog racehorse of the West, Seabiscuit, and the champion of the East, War Admiral, are being donated to the Frank R. Howard Foundation by the families of Mike Murano, Jason Emerson, Matt Shoda, and Nathan Petersen of Beechtree Diagnostics LLP, a medical laboratory located in Draper, Utah that provides testing services to California and other states.

The bronzes to be erected on Thursday, June 27 were crafted by Atlas Bronze Casting owner and sculptor, Stanley J. Watts, who creates representational sculptures capturing a moment in bronze through the Old World traditional style of Classical realism.

It was Seabiscuit's owner, Charles S. Howard, who helped found the hospital in 1928 in honor of his son, Frankie, who was killed in an automobile accident.

Margie Handley, chair of the Howard Foundation board said, "We're truly

Read the rest of **Statues**  
Over on Page 4



Above, from left: Sweetheart candidate Catie Spackman gives her speech during the judging contest. Booty the pony and Kristina Tyrrell lead Laura McBride, in the cart, through the Savings Bank of Mendocino County drive-up ATM. The Crelly family, Kira, Carl, Landon and Olivia, smile together at Hometown Celebration. Sweetheart candidate Elena Arkelian models her western clothing, walking by event emcee Tina Holguin. Below: Riders enjoy the open-air journey downtown on the Little Lake Fire Department's antique engine.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



# Willits Frontier Days

Fun begins for 2024 season with Hometown Celebration, Horseshow, and two-part Sweetheart Judging contest

See more about these events inside today's edition on pages 6, 7, 10 and 11.

The full schedule of events is also located on page 16.

See these and many more photos, with additional galleries added during the celebration through July 6, at <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/wfd2024>



Above, from left: Madison Lawrence rides Skipping Frosty Sox during the horseshow. Aerial dancers amaze the crowds during the Hometown event. Elena Arkelian showcases her horsemanship during the second half of the Sweetheart contest. Below, left: Adventist Health's Jodi Dalton, Holly Sears, and Shelby White smile in red, white, and almost blue. Below, right: Savings Bank of Mendocino County employees pose with the McBride family during their traditional, horse-involved July deposit. At bottom, left: Family and supporters watch the speeches given by the Sweetheart contestants. Below, right: Catie Spackman rides along the rail during the horsemanship judging.



## CPUC refuses AT&T's bid to drop landlines

Annie Evarts  
Reporter  
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During its June 20 voting meeting, the California Public Utilities Commission denied, in a 4-0 vote, AT&T's request to end its designation as the "Carrier of Last Resort" for much of the state. The CPUC's decision to vote against AT&T's request means that, for now, customers in California, and particularly rural, Northern California, will still have access to traditional landline phone service.

In March of 2023, AT&T filed for permission to abandon its obligation as COLR, which would have left its thousands of landline customers with no guarantee of phone service. AT&T was designated as COLR in California in 1996. States began imposing COLR policies to protect consumers from service discrimination and service abandonment, and to ensure affordable prices. Because of its COLR designation, AT&T is legally obligated, in California,

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

## Willits Caltrans worker receives medal of valor

Mathew Caine  
Features Writer  
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On a blistery cold and snowy day last February, Michael David Butner became a hero for doing his job above and beyond, without deference to his own safety and comfort. The Caltrans sawyer and certified climber, along with his co-worker, Gonzalo Garcia, opted to do what they could to ensure that the people in a section of Highway 101 were in a position of safety, and in doing so, they saved lives.

"It was during our last big snowstorm," explained Butner. "My partner and I were coming over Highway 1 from Fort Bragg. We were called and told the snow was coming down on Highway 101, and we should go help out. By the time we got to 101, trees were crashing everywhere. People were stranded. Semis were jackknifed off the side of the road. I believe we were up on Rattlesnake Ridge, north of Laytonville.

"Trees were falling,"

Read the rest of **Valor**  
Over on Page 12

**Willits Weekly publishes Wednesday for 4th of July week**

Since the July 4th holiday falls on a Thursday this year, Willits Weekly will publish its Independence Day edition on Wednesday, July 3, 2024.

Newspapers will hit the boxes and distribution points Wednesday morning, but subscribers should expect their 4th of July papers on their regular schedule.

Deadline for submission every week is always end of day Monday, and that won't change - but earlier submissions are especially welcome on a holiday week, and late submissions are less likely to make the paper that week.

Thank you all for your contributions to Willits Weekly!

**Senior Center menu for the week**

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

**Thursday, June 27:** Chicken Salad Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

**Friday, June 28:** Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll

**Monday, July 1:** Cowboy Burrito

**Tuesday, July 2:** Turkey Club Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

**Wednesday, July 3:** Pepperoni Pizza, Green Salad

**Thursday, July 4:** Center closed for 4th of July

**Friday, July 5:** Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Green Salad, Garlic Bread

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

**Pancake Breakfast:** Every second Sunday, July 14 next month.

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



Above: Caltrans Director Tony Tavares and Chief Deputy Director Mike Keever with the department's 2024 Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Awardees. From left to right, Director Tavares, Darrell VanNatta, Bruce Perry, Kenneth Myers, Sultan Abassy, DavidRay Sumaya, Geoff Clute and Deputy Director Keever. Awardees not pictured: Danny Dube, Michael Butner [from Willits] and Gonzalo Garcia.

**Nine Caltrans workers receive Governor's Medal of Valor**

Sacramento — On June 25, the State of California honored nine Caltrans employees by presenting them with the Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor, the highest honor California bestows on its public servants. The awards are given annually to state employees for acts of heroism to save lives or protect state property.

“We are extremely proud of these nine Caltrans workers who courageously saved others while putting their own lives at risk,” Caltrans Director Tony Tavares said. “Today, our entire Caltrans family joins Governor Newsom in honoring them and thanking them for their selfless acts.”

**Receiving the Gold Medal of Valor is:**

Geoff Clute, District 4 Bridge Maintenance Supervisor, for saving a man trapped inside a burning vehicle in Solano County on July 7, 2023.

**Receiving the Silver Medal of Valor are:**

Sultan Abassy, District 12 Transportation Engineering Technician, for heroism during a dangerous rescue to save an unconscious motorcyclist after his bike skidded sideways in Orange County on July 20, 2023.

Danny Dube, District 2 Electrician, for saving a woman from her damaged vehicle that had rolled over into the center highway divide on a foggy day in

Siskiyou County on February 7, 2023.

Kenny Myers, Bruce Perry, and Darrell Van Natta, District 3 Equipment Operators, for rescuing a driver and five passengers who were trapped in their burning vehicle in the Sierra Nevada on December 28, 2022.

Michael Butner [of Willits] and Gonzalo Garcia, District 1 Tree Maintenance Workers, for rescuing a couple after their RV became trapped in heavy snow and low-hanging trees in Mendocino County on February 23, 2023. The trees crashed through the RV and split it in half.

DavidRay Sumaya, District 7 Electrician, for rescuing two travelers that became trapped in their vehicle by flood waters on Interstate 5 during winter storms in Los Angeles County on February 23, 2023.

The State Employee Medal of Valor award was first presented by Governor Edmund G. Brown Sr. in 1959. Gold medals are awarded to state employees who perform extraordinary acts of heroism at great risk to their own life to save another human being. Silver medals are presented to those whose act of heroism extended above and beyond the normal call of duty at personal risk to their safety to save human life or state property.

In the 65 years of these awards, more than 800 state employees, including 125 from Caltrans, have earned medals of valor for their courage and selflessness in the face of danger.

**Wildfire season is here – Is your fence ready?**

**Submitted by MCFSC**

Wooden fences and gates, once considered innocuous, can act as kindling in a wildfire: if they connect to your house, they can act as a fuse, carrying the fire directly to your home.

But fear not! We're here to revolutionize your defense strategy. We'd like to introduce the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council Dangerous Gate Makeover Contest! We're on a mission to identify the most hazardous fence-to-home connections out there. Think yours might qualify? Snap a pic and send it our way.

If your fence wins the contest, get ready for a transformation. We'll collaborate with you on a design for the last 5 feet of fencing that's both fire-safe and stylish. And the best part? The bill's on us. All we ask is that you provide before-and-after snapshots to showcase your home's epic upgrade.

How to apply? Submit your photo of the last 5 feet of your home-to-fence connection. Include your name, contact info, and address. Entries get rated for their fire-danger and finalists will be entered into a lottery to win! Submissions can be made by emailing MCFSC at king@firesafemendocino.org, texting 707-518-3088, or posting them on our Facebook page with #DangerousGateMakeover. Submissions accepted on a rolling basis until September 1, 2024.

More fire-safe tips:

- Clearing weeds, grasses, and other flammable materials around any wooden fence will reduce the chance that it will catch fire.
- If you happen to be home when there is a wildfire in the area, and if you have time before evacuating, open any wooden gates that connect to your home, to break that connection.

For more home-hardening tips, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council has a great video series that walks through steps you can take, at https://firesafemendocino.org, in the Safeguard Your Home drop-down menu.

Contractors – do you build and install metal or other fire-resistant gates for safer homes? We want to hear from you! Please contact us at admin@firesafemendocino.com or 707-462-3662.

**The Rules: LETTERS**

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

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

**California leaders announce 2024 state budget agreement**

Sacramento, June 22 – Governor Gavin Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire, and Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas today announced that they have reached an agreement on the 2024 state budget, which will support the state's fiscal stability while preserving key programs that Californians depend on.

The agreement maintains the multi-year fiscal structure proposed by the Governor in the May Revision to balance the budget in both 2024-25 and 2025-26, based on current revenue and spending projections. It maintains the responsible budget approach that has benefited California in recent years, and also protects key safety net, housing, homelessness, and classroom funding while preserving significant budget reserves to address future challenges.

Adding further fiscal protection, part of the agreement proposes additional legislation in August requiring the state to set aside a portion of anticipated surplus funds to be allocated in a subsequent budget act, so that the state does not commit certain amounts of future anticipated revenues until those revenues have been realized. A 2026 constitutional amendment to grow the state's Rainy Day Fund also will be pursued.

Governor Gavin Newsom: “This agreement sets the state on a path for long-term fiscal stability – addressing the current shortfall and strengthening budget resilience down the road. We're making sure to preserve programs that serve millions of Californians, including key funding for education, health care, expanded behavioral health services, and combating homelessness. I'm grateful for the partnership of our legislative leaders in meeting this challenge with balanced solutions that continue to make progress on California's priorities.”

Read the rest of Budget | Over on page 15

**Willits Weekly**

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

**Volume 12, Number 556**

3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

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**Willits Weekly**

EST. 2013

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Photos by Mathew Caine

**Ham Radios**

**Willits Amateur Radio Society gets together for annual 'field day' to play with equipment and talk shop**

It's a hobby. It's an extremely vital method of imparting information during an emergency when the cell towers are down, or the electricity is cut off. Ham radio operators have been providing an important lifeline for many years.

Ham transmitting stations can be set up anywhere and, depending on the wavelength, atmospheric conditions, access to repeater stations, and other factors, their signal, either voice or Morse Code (for some of the advanced users), can be picked up over vast distances.

Since Guglielmo Marconi created a system and equipment to transmit and receive radio waves in the 1890s, amateur radio enthusiasts have plied their hobby and created networks of like-minded individuals, even forming local clubs like the Willits Amateur Radio Society who met last Saturday for their annual "field day" gathering to which the public was invited.

"The rumor is that 'ham' is a name that was given back when it was all Morse code or continuous wave. If you were sloppy with it, they would call you 'ham fisted.' It was a derogatory term. Everybody is known as a ham now," explained longtime WARS member Dan Edwards.

"The [Federal Communications Commission] allocates the band frequencies that are available in the United States and throughout the entire world as well. They've given these portions to us, the amateur radio operators. We have charts that show the frequencies in which we can operate. We have some high-frequency stuff which is really low. It's called 'HF.' Then we have some very high frequency, VHF and ultra-high frequency, UHF. They allocated us these bands. We are called on in emergencies. I can set this set-up anywhere. We were up on Walker Ridge two weeks ago. If something happens and the grid goes down, we can assist in communications.

"Most of the schools and most of the health care facilities have ham radios," explained Edwards. "They mostly have the VHF equipment. Those are our portable radios which we keep in the cars so we can communicate,



Above, from left: Rick Azarnoff shows some of his equipment to Dave Hawley. Tim Hanna built this air-compressed gun to be able to shoot a line over a tree branch to reach. Steve Turner prepares to erect his antenna with a cross piece for particular types of radio waves. At left: Rick Azarnoff is a 10-year licensed ham hobbyist. Below, left: Dave Hawley has a love for antique equipment that he can repurpose and has a vast collection of tubes. Below, right: Dave Hawley has a large collection of QST magazines which are the basic magazine for ham operators.

like when they cut the fiber optic line a few years ago, we deployed some ham volunteers. They went to the hospitals and other spots so they could communicate with the emergency operations center in Ukiah, and we can forward information because the internet and phones are down. We can pass on information like the need for more type-O blood, etc."

The members seem to pride themselves in the distance to which their signals can be heard and those they can receive. "Last year, here with this radio, I was able to contact France," said Edwards. "One of our members, with a mag-mount antenna, made it all the way to near Australia.

"We have repeaters up on the tall mountains to extend the range. We send a transmission to that repeater and the repeater broadcasts it out," Edwards told. "You can talk with someone on the other side of the hill. In Mendocino County, we have four linked repeaters. There's a fifth linked in Upper Lake. Those are all maintained privately. They are owned by a gentleman name Greg Glavich, WA6R2X. He's the main radio guy for the county. Our club has a repeater up on Laughlin Ridge as well, our only stand-alone repeater. With the five repeaters all linked together, the whole county can communicate.

"We hold nets every week. There's a local net and each community has their local net. Rick and I are out of the Ukiah area, so we have the Ukiah net there. We meet on Thursday nights at 7 pm. It's kind of a check-in net to see what's going on. Does anybody need any help with anything? We'll go to each other's houses and help build radio equipment. And then at 7:30 we have a county-wide net. One person works as a 'net control operator' and he will give an accounting of how many people checked in, etc."

Members attended the field day with a variety of equipment. Dave Hawley loves the old vacuum-tube models of transceivers and keeps an array of several hundred tubes. He

Read the rest of Radio | Over on page 13

Read the rest of Radio | Over on page 13

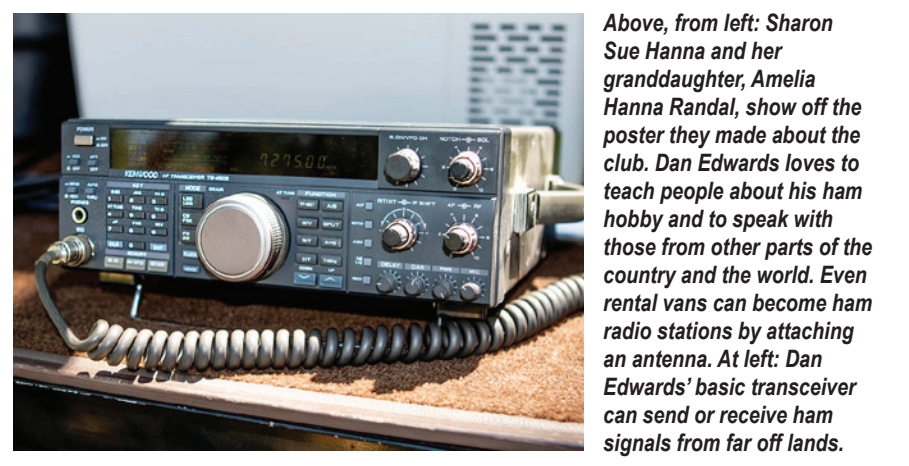


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Read the rest of Radio | Over on page 13



Above, from left: Sharon Sue Hanna and her granddaughter, Amelia Hanna Randal, show off the poster they made about the club. Dan Edwards loves to teach people about his ham hobby and to speak with those from other parts of the country and the world. Even rental vans can become ham radio stations by attaching an antenna. At left: Dan Edwards' basic transceiver can send or receive ham signals from far off lands.

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Above, from left: Willits Frontier Days' Hometown Celebration had a host of fun things to do, including the rock climbing wall, which was a delight for the daring. Streets were crowded with vendors, booths, and shoppers of all ages. The Franceschini family came out for three generations of fun including adults, from left: Rosanna, Amanda, Steve, Joe and Diana, and kids, in front from left: Swayze, Sam and Olivia.



At right, from top: Closing the street allowed the fun to spill off the sidewalks and into the road. Willits' own Palmer Anthony played live for the gathered crowds. Holly Madrigal, Karen Gridley and Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, smile together for a quick photo.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



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# Happy Hometown

Willits Frontier Days' first event of the season fills downtown Willits with business and bustle

Downtown Willits was aflutter with activity Friday evening during the Hometown Celebration, the first event of the 2024 Willits Frontier Days season.

Shops in the downtown blocks opened their doors and stayed open late, and south-town, remote, and businesses physically located elsewhere brought goodies, opened booths, and held activities to participate in the celebrations on Main Street, which was closed to traffic for the occasion.

Several bands, including Willits' own Palmer Anthony, played along the length of the event. A rock wall, a bounce house, a dunk tank, a super slide, a mechanical bull, and more were available to burn energy and test bravery. The aerial silk performers gave sky high performances, and the fire dancers charmed and amazed with their props aflame.

Popular favorites, including face painting, balloon animals and henna designs, were

offered again this year to the delight of the crowd.

Food and drink from brick-and-mortar sellers as well as mobile vendors was available to quench thirst and feed appetites, and sweet treats, shaved ice, and other delectables were the perfect food finale at the event.

Booths contained all sorts of wares, most offering discounts, prizes, giveaways, and more to the gathered crowds of attendees.

"We were ecstatic to see the number of people who gathered on Main Street during the Hometown Celebration, kicking off the 98th Annual Willits Frontier Days events," said event chair Ashtan Bloomquist. "We planned this event with our local businesses and community members in mind. We received great feedback from several business owners, and the smiles on the kids' faces as they climbed the rock wall or attempted a ride on the bull made all the work that goes into planning an event like this one worth it."

Below, from left: Dawnna Hetherington of Luscious Beauty Boutique and Day Spa shows off her special painted rock by Laurie Bee. Maggie enjoyed her unicorn face painting by Ashley. Hilary Kocher offered beautiful henna.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above: Laura McBride handles her banking with the virtual teller. Below: McBride, Kristina Tyrrell and Booty the pony drive through the Savings Bank of Mendocino County's Willits ATM.



## ATM ride-thru

Laura McBride took her annual ride through the Savings Bank of Mendocino County's drive-thru ATM last Friday, this time escorted by daughter Kristina Tyrrell and Tyrrell's pony, Booty, who is skilled in pulling a cart. McBride has done this ride, sometimes on her horse Twinkle, sometimes in the cart, for decades, and SBMC staff, whether in person, or virtually, always enjoy the tradition.

— Maureen Jennison

## Poise and Appearance

Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart contestants give speeches, model western wear, and have interview

The first of two portions of judging for the Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart contest took place Saturday, during which Catie Spackman and Elena Arkelian gave their prepared speeches, modeled western outfits, and answered interview questions from a panel of judges. The scores from this event, and the horsemanship contest held the following day, as well as each contestant's total number of ticket sales, all factor in together to help determine the winner of the Sweetheart title. Contestants even get to keep a portion of their ticket sales. The 2024 winner will be announced at the invite-only dinner on Sunday, June 30.

— Maureen Jennison



Photos by Maureen Jennison

At right: Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart contestants for 2024, Catie Spackman, left, and Elena Arkelian, right smile with 2023 winner Hazel Cooke, center, at the Poise and Appearance portion of the judging contest this last weekend.

At right, below: Poise and Appearance judges included from left, Mattie Owen, Nick Durrupt, and Noemi Bertolino.

At left: During the Hometown Celebration last Thursday, Sweetheart contestants Elena Arkelian, far left, and Catie Spackman, left, were out in full force, selling tickets and meeting the community in hopes of gaining support to win the title of Sweetheart for 2024.




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Do you want a career with a company that strives to put employees first? We're hiring! Visit: www.familytree-service.com to download an application today or stop by offices located in Laytonville and Willits to pick up an application in person.

**Mission Statement**

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From far left: Eva Pinon canters around the arena on Ethel during one of her under-saddle classes. Kaydance Lopez rides My Type of Jazz along the rail. Judge Kelly Munk, left, smiles with ring steward Kelly Fleming and Kiri Silva, who all helped judge the Sweetheart Horsemanship contest. Below: Sweetheart contestants Elena Arkellian, in blue, below, and Catie Spackman in green, further below, answer questions from the judges.

## Rider Showcase

English and Western riders complete for high point, local trophies, and ribbons

Always one of the first few events of Willits Frontier Days, the annual Horsemanship showcases riders from English and Western disciplines demonstrating their skills on horseback at the Jack Tharp Arena.

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

This year, the show was judged by Kelly Munk and her ring steward Kelly Fleming, and was again under the leadership of the Pinon Family and chairperson Mattie (Pinon) Owen. Veteran with the mic, Kathy Graves emceed the event.

High Point awards are given to riders with the highest scores

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



Above, left: 2023 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Hazel Cooke, center, stands with Willits Frontier Days Horsemanship 12 & Under Reserve High Point winner and Goss Family Perpetual Trophy winner Madison Lawrence and her horse, Hanks Image, left, and 12 & Under High Point winner, Barbara Hamilton Perpetual Trophy Showmanship trophy winner, John Fish Memorial / Hawthorn Farm perpetual trophy winner, and Randy Clark Memorial / Mill Iron Ranch Perpetual Trophy winner Kaydance Lopez and her horse, My Type of Jazz, right. Photo by Christina Lawrence. Below, from left: Sweetheart contestant Catie Spackman, with some assistance from good friend and supporter Danielle Barry, rides into the arena on a different horse, after a difficult ride with her first horse. Barry and Rebel canter along in front of the judges. Allie Fling and Oliver walk along the rail. Arkellian demonstrates her queen run, galloping around the arena.



Photo by Alicia Logan

The rest of **Results** From page 10

from the total of classes in their respective age brackets, and perpetual trophies are awarded to riders who showcase specific skills in various individual classes.

High Point for the 12 & Under age group was awarded to Kaydance Lopez, and Reserve High Point (the second highest scores) to Madison Lawrence. High Point for the 18 and over age group went to Allie Fling, and Reserve High Point went to Danielle Barry. Ranch High Point went to Nicol Kunka.

The R Horse Ranch Perpetual Trophy, Model Horse, 3 & Over went to Samantha Arms with Forever a Conquistador. The Goss family perpetual trophy for Western Pleasure went to Madison Lawrence with Hanks Image. The Randy Clark Memorial / Mill Iron Ranch perpetual trophy for Western Equitation; the Barbara Hamilton Perpetual Trophy for Showmanship, and the John Fish Memorial / Hawthorn Farm perpetual trophy for English Equitation all went to Kaydance Lopez with My Type of Jazz.

Class results, provided by Mattie Owens, are as follows:

In Model Horse 2 & Under, first place went to Madison Lawrence and Skipping Frosty Sox. In Model Horse 3 & Over, sponsored by R Horse Ranch, first place went to Samantha Arms and Forever a Conquistador; second place went to Macy Lawrence and Hanks Image; third place went to Grady Fonsen and Olive; fourth place went to Allie Fling and Oliver; and fifth place went to Eva Pinon and Ethel.

In Showmanship English/Western, 12 & Under, sponsored by: Round Tree Glass, first place went to Lopez; second place to Bailey Baker and Nevada Red; third to Cora Brummer on Gideon; fourth to Macy Lawrence on Hanks Image; and fifth to Kelsey Escobedo and CeCe. In the same class for 18 & Over, sponsored by Savings Bank of Mendocino County, first place went to Danielle Barry and Rebel; second to Fling and Oliver; third to Nicol Kunka and Gideon; and fourth to Arms.

In Showmanship Local 17 & Under, first place went to Lopez; second place went to Brummer; third place went to Baker; fourth place to Madison Lawrence; and fifth place to Escobedo.

In Walk/ Trot, English Open, sponsored by Mariposa Market, first place went to Fling; second to Madison Lawrence and Skipping Frosty Sox; and third to Pinon. In English Pleasure, 12 & Under, sponsored by: Mendo Mill of Ukiah, first place went to Lopez; second to Fonsen; third to Lawrence and Hanks Image; and fourth to Pinon. In English Pleasure, 18 & Over, sponsored by Waters Construction, Inc., first place went to Fling, and second to Barry.

In English Equitation, 12 & Under, sponsored by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County, first place went to Lopez; second to Lawrence and Hanks Image; third to Fonsen; and fourth to Pinon. In English Equitation, 18 & Over, sponsored by Jo Anne White, first place went to Fling, and second place went to Barry on Rebel. In English Equitation, Local 17 & Under, sponsored by the Kunka Family, first place went to Lopez; second to Fonsen; and third to Pinon.

In the Trail Class, Open, sponsored by Waters Construction, Inc., first place went to Fling; second to Barry; third to Lopez; fourth to Lawrence and Hanks Image; and fifth to Brummer.

In all the Lead Line classes, sponsored by Flowers By Annette, the youngster riders and class participants included Dani Owen on Cookie and Sarah Fonsen on Bo.

In the Ranch Trail class, sponsored by Mendo Mill of Ukiah, first place went to Fling; second to Kunka; third to Barry on Whiskey; and fourth to Arms.

In Walk/ Jog Western, Open, sponsored by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County, first place went to Arms; second to Madison Lawrence on Skipping Frosty Sox; third to Barry on Whiskey; fourth to Oliver; and fifth to Escobedo. In the same class, 12 and Under, sponsored by Mariposa Market, first place went to Lopez; second to Lawrence and Hanks Image; third to Brummer; fourth to Fonsen; and fifth to Pinon. In 18 & Over, sponsored by Mendo Mill of Ukiah, first place went to Fling; second place went to Barry on Rebel; and third to Arms. In Local 17 & Under, sponsored by the Goss Family, first place went to Lawrence and Hanks Image; second to Lopez; third to Brummer; fourth to Fonsen; and fifth to Baker.

In Western Equitation, 12 & Under, sponsored by Jeff's Gas Appliances, first place went to Lawrence and Hanks Image; second to Lopez; third to Escobedo; fourth to Brummer; and fifth to Pinon. In 18 & Over, sponsored by Sharon and Steve Short, first place went to Arms; second to Fling; and third to Barry on Rebel. In Local 17 & Under, sponsored by Sue Clark in memory of Randy Clark, first place went to Lopez; second to Escobedo; third to Lawrence on Hanks Image; fourth to Brummer; and fifth to Fonsen.

In Ranch Reining, sponsored by Mendo Mill, first place went to Kunka; second to Fling; third to Barry on Whiskey; and fourth to Arms. In Ranch Riding, sponsored by Mendo Mill, first place went to Kunka; second to Barry on Whiskey; third to Fling; fourth to Fonsen; and fifth to Arms.

## Cute & Cozy Coop

### Willits 4H and Willits Frontier Days hold fundraiser for club

The Willits 4-H will be benefiting from a fundraiser in partnership with Willits Frontier Days, and will be helping sell tickets for a red-and-white chicken coop.

"Windsor Mill handcrafted the coop, and donated it to Willits Frontier Days, and then WFD offered to raffle it off and have all the proceeds go to the Willits 4-H! So amazing!" said co-community leader Natalie Spackman. "Most of the club members have been selling tickets out in the community, but people can also contact me at 707-841-7214 if they want tickets."

Tickets are \$5 each, and the winner will be drawn on July 4. Winners need not be present to win.

—Maureen Jennison



Photo by Laurin Hosford

Willits 4-H members Tinley Logan, far left, and Daniel Hosford, above, smile with the animals they enjoy showing at the local fairs. Below: Chicken coop raffle tickets are available to purchase now for \$5 each as a fundraiser for the Willits 4-H Club.

**WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS**

*Raffle*



Specialty Chicken Coop

Handcrafted and Donated by  
Windsor Mill.

Drawing on July 4th!  
CCPRA Rodeo  
Need not be present to win!

**\$5**  
Per Ticket!!

All proceeds from this raffle will be donated to the Willits 4H Club!  
Ask a Willits 4H member for tickets!

Willits Frontier Days 2024

**CHICKEN COOP RAFFLE TICKET**

Raffle Tickets \$5.00 Each  
Drawing to be held on 4th of July  
Non-Refundable  
Need not be present to win  
All prizes to be picked up within a week

No. 266

Happy  
4th of July,  
y'all!

Photography by Maureen (Mauree) Jennison

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Above: Caltrans sawyer and certified climber Michael David Butner of Willits received the Governor's Medal of Valor for helping motorists to safety during a February 2023 snowstorm.

**Willits Rotary Coloring Book Photo Contest**

Submit a photo that represents Willits to the Willits Rotary Club. Winning photos will be transformed into a coloring book page in the Willits Coloring Book. Pages also available to promote businesses and community organizations.

Email photos to: [WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com](mailto:WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com) on or before July 21, 2024

- Willits Rotary Club

**WILLITS ROTARY COLORING BOOK PHOTO CONTEST**

Submit a photo that represents Willits. Winning photos will be transformed into a coloring book page in the Willits Coloring Book. Pages also available to promote businesses and community organizations.



Email Photos To:  
[WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com](mailto:WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com)  
ON OR BEFORE JULY 21, 2024

The rest of **Valor** From page 1

said Butner. "We were able to cut our way to the last spot, where around the corner there was a huge semi that had jackknifed, and they were trying to get him out of the way, so there was no travel north - and obviously, no one was coming through south.

"It was still just dumping snow and the trees got completely loaded," Butner recalled. "It was a wet snow and it really held onto the trees, and it was heavy. The trees got the full load, and they were just snapping, giant trees. It wasn't just trees starting to crack. It sounded like shotguns. That's how we all described it."

An elderly couple in a motorhome thought they could sit out the storm in their vehicle, but later, in a stroke of good fortune, were talked by Butner into uncoupling their car and driving it to the designated place of safety.

"I had just gotten the motorhome couple into their car and to safety, came back and their motorhome was completely crushed. I had told them that the tree was full of snow and that it was going to come down and hit them. They finally grabbed their belongings and valuables and got in their car. When we went back, the motorhome was crushed," Butner reminisced.

Butner and Garcia received the Governor's Medal of Valor at the state capitol in Sacramento on June 25. "I'm kind of humbled by this," said Butner.

WW494

**CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

PROJECT NO. 2023-08

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for: The work shown on the project plans entitled: CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT PROJECT PLANS For: **Steel Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project - Project No. 2023-08** Project Description **Base Bid Description:** The work for this project includes the replacement of approximately 2281 linear feet of existing water main with New 6" C-900 PVC and New 6" Ductile Iron Pipe, installation of new water services and meters, installation of fire hydrants, installation to new 6" gate valves, and trench paving. **Bid Alternate Description:** The Alternate Bid includes the replacement of approximately 1,250 linear feet of existing sewer main with new 8" SDR-35 PVC pipe, including 48" sewer manholes, 4" laterals, tie-ins to existing sewer manholes, private laterals, and trench paving. IN City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California & The work described in specifications books entitled: CITY OF WILLITS - BID BOOK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS CITY OF WILLITS - PROPOSAL PACKET CITY OF WILLITS - AWARD PACKET For: Steel Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project - Project No. 2023-08 IN City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California **will be received by a designated representative, of the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, until the hour of 2:00 p.m. on July 18, 2024, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers, of the City of Willits, located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.** **THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS IS: \$1,227,955.00** The contractor shall possess a Class A license at the time this contract is awarded. **Key Dates:** • Mandatory Pre-bid Meeting: July 25, 2024 • Final Questions from Bidders: July 8, 2024 by 5 p.m. • Final Addendum Issued July 10, 2024 • Bid Opening: July 18, 2024 at 2:00pm • Project Start Date: August 12, 2024 • Project length: 140 working days (Completion: 12/30/2024) Interested bidders should contact the following to obtain electronic copies of plans and other bid documents: Brandy Sanderson [bsanderson@cityofwillits.org](mailto:bsanderson@cityofwillits.org) (707) 459-7143 CITY OF WILLITS: s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk DATED: 6/13/2024 Publication Dates: June 13, 20, 27, 2024

**LEGAL NOTICES**

WW495 **Fictitious Business Name Statement** 2024-F0276 The following person or persons are doing business as Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot, 262 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490; 707-459-8697. Registered owner: Imagination Station Preschool & Childcare Center, Inc., 11 North Marin Street, Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on June 5, 2024. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on June 5, 2024. /s/ Saprina Rodriguez, CEO Publication dates: June 20, 27, July 3, July 11, 2024

WW493 **Fictitious Business Name Statement** 2024-F0239 The following person or persons are doing business as Ministry of Divine Consciousness, 32 East San Francisco Avenue, Suite C, Willits CA 95490; 707-367-7316. Registered owner: Tiffany Lynn Woodard, 315 South Main Street, Unit 533, Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 3, 2024. /s/ Tiffany Woodard Publication dates: June 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024

WW496 **Fictitious Business Name Statement** 2024-F0268 The following person or persons are doing business as Precious One Beads, 85 North Main Street, Willits CA 95490; Registered owner: Lisa Gay Brown, 33470 Sherwood Road, Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 30, 2024. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 30, 2024. /s/ Lisa Gay Brown Publication dates: June 27, July 3, July 11, July 18, 2024

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

The rest of **Rosalina** From page 5

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2000, 32-foot fifth wheel with 3 pop-outs. Has new queen sized bed. Clean, no smoking, no leaks. Asking \$14,000 OBO. Call Connie at (707) 354-1716.

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

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**The Fruit Group**  
The Fruit Group's 2024 trucks are arriving. Apricots, 24 pounds for \$39; and Peaches and Nectarines, \$38 a lug. Tomatoes in mid-July. For other fruits, or to order, contact Cressie at 707-459-2713 or [dobbins99@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:dobbins99@SBCGlobal.net). Pick up, usually every other Friday, at Napa Auto Parts.

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**Willits Food Bank on Railroad Avenue**  
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, pantry staples, hygienic products, and more to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, at their current location at 344 Railroad Avenue. Food distribution is available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

**Help Wanted**  
Harrah Senior Center is looking for an experienced maintenance worker. Part-time position, 24 hours per week. Call 459-6826 for more information.

**Mendocino County invites applications for:**

**Community Services Officer**  
\$48,984 - \$59,529

**Corrections Deputy**  
\$55,369 - \$67,308

**Deputy Sheriff-Coroner**  
\$76,648 - \$93,142

**Deputy Sheriff-Coroner in Training**  
\$25.08 - \$30.48 Hourly

**Environmental Health Specialist I/II**  
\$56,555 - \$75,816

**Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help**  
\$24.38 - \$29.63 Hourly

**Legal Secretary II**  
\$44,740 - \$54,392

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
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F N G A H E D I T C U A  
A B A L L O O M W O K E U L K  
A I B R E H H U S Y I W Z K U E W N Z

the bookcases have been built with local lumber and a lot of hard work. There are 92 full bookcases in here. Not only do we have the books you can see out here for sale, but we have over 100 boxes of treasures we haven't brought out for sale yet. And we have all the wonderful things on the walls. We have paintings. We have blueprints of old trains. We probably have the best train section in all of Northern California. We work closely with Bear Kamoroff at the museum. He gets books from me and I get books from him.

"I love old 'Robin Hood' books. I have almost the whole 'Wizard of Oz' series. I believe there are about 24 in the set. We have an old children's series from back at the turn of the century. We have 'Nancy Drew' and that sort of thing. We have a huge collection of African-American books, American Indians. Our California history section is bar none. Our history section is incredible, both U.S. and world."

Rosalina's is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 12:30 to 4 pm at 217 South Main Street. Many of their books can be found online on eBay, ABE books, and Biblio Books.

"I started reading when I was 4," Lina recounted. "I grew up in Berkeley. Our next-door neighbor was the head of the University of California libraries. I was taught to read by the two old librarian ladies. I've never put the books down since. I love books. I smell them. I eat them. I live with them."

Below: Antique clocks, desks, plates, lamps, etc. can be found interspersed amongst the over 60,000 books.

Photo by Mathew Caine

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C O S T A D I D O  
E X U R B T E D  
Y E W S S E

The rest of **Radio** From page 3

additionally has a collection of magazines related to the hobby. "I love to look at the tubes lighting up at the back of radios. You have to be patient and wait for them to heat up. It's magic at work. I've only been at this about a year. I just came across some old gear and I like to fix up old things," explained Hawley.

Tim Hanna has built an air-compressed cannon that will shoot a line up over the branches of a tree in order to string up his long antenna, which gives him a heightened ability to have his signal heard over longer distances. Hanna has been at this hobby since 1973 and now has fascinated his granddaughter, Amelia, who loves to help him string up his equipment.

"It's a fantastic hobby. A lot of people get into it for the emergency preparedness part of it because we are prone to fires in this area. People want to know what's going on because nothing works when the power goes out. However, I tell people if they get into ham radio only for the emergency communication part, they are missing out because if you don't come out and play, like today, they are not going to know their equipment," said Edwards.

To learn more, you can go on the <https://mcarcs.org/> website. The club's website is their call sign, Whiskey 6 Mike Mike Mike (W6MMM), <https://w6mmm.club/>. Or check out the National Association of Amateur Radio at <https://www.arrl.org/>.

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





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**Building and Exhibit entry forms due; some by July 5 and some July 12 for Redwood Empire Fair**

While many minds are on Willits Frontier Days and other summer activities at this time of year, it's also time to put some thought into what to enter into the Redwood Empire Fair.

The fair will run from August 1 through 4 this year, but entry forms are due very soon.

Adults and independent, FFA, and 4-H youth are welcome to enter!

"All entries MUST be postmarked on or before July 5, 2024; except for Agriculture, Horticulture and Floriculture forms, which may be turned in as late as July 12, 2024," says the premium book's instructional pages.

Premium books were mailed out last week, but are also available online at [www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com](http://www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com)

For more info: 707-462-FAIR

—Maureen Jennison

**REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIR**  
 ★ 2024 ★  
  
**Red. White & Ewe**  
**August 1 - 4, 2024**  
 Fair Entry Instructions  
[www.redwoodempirefair.com](http://www.redwoodempirefair.com)

**Furry Friends hoping for a Home**

**Laid-back Lucy**

Little Miss Lucy is looking for a family to spend her golden years with. Lucy is a charming senior dog with an awesome little gray Mohawk that gives her a distinctive and adorable look. She loves lounging in her cozy dog bed and enjoys gentle scratches. Lucy is doing well in her foster home. Her foster reported she likes to



"trot" around the house, loves butt scratches, and of course, has the coolest Mohawk! Lucy has lived in a home with other dogs before, too. Lucy did come to us with

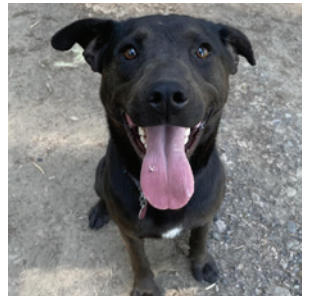
her friend, Sam, who found his home this past weekend. Now it is her turn! Come meet this adorable gal, you won't regret it!

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.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com), on our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).

**Eager Blossom**

Blossom is an amazing girl who needs someone she can dedicate herself to. Blossom is learning to be with you, and please you. She is high-energy and needs someone who wants to work with a great dog. Blossom will be a wonderful companion, though she does need some manners. She just needs that chance!



Blossom would do best in a home with no small children because she tends to have some food aggression and also can be guarding of her toys. Blossom loves people, and playing fetch is one of her favorites. She would love to join you on a run, hike or walk. Blossom wants to learn and please her person; she just needs someone to give her a chance. Is that you?

To learn more about Blossom, or to view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://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.


**Social Wolfcat**

Wolfcat is a sweet and friendly guy! He is always happy to see people and loves pets and treats. This big guy would make a great family addition!



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](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com). Call 707-467-6453 for more information.

**Did you not get a 2024 Willits Frontier Days program? Don't fret!**  
 1,500 programs were distributed in the June 20, 2024 edition of Willits Weekly, and another 1,000 exist around town. Copies are available at many local businesses, at the Willits Chamber of Commerce, and will be handed out at all the upcoming WFD events. The program is also online at [www.WillitsFrontierDays.com](http://www.WillitsFrontierDays.com) or [www.WillitsWeekly.com](http://www.WillitsWeekly.com)



**WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS**

More info and entry forms: [www.WillitsFrontierDays.com](http://www.WillitsFrontierDays.com)

**2024 Schedule of Events**  
 Infants aged 2 and under are admitted for free to WFD events. Prices, dates and events subject to change.

**Friday, June 21:**  
**HOMETOWN CELEBRATION**  
 Main Street - Downtown Willits | 5 to 9 pm

**Saturday, June 22:**  
**SWEETHEART JUDGING**  
 Appearance & Poise  
 10 am | Rodeo Grounds

**Sunday, June 23:**  
**HORSESHOW**  
 Jack Tharp Arena | 8 am  
**SWEETHEART JUDGING**  
 Horsemanship:  
 During Horse Show | Jack Tharp Arena

**Friday, June 28:**  
**CARNIVAL OPENS**  
**TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS**  
 Jack Tharp Arena | 6 pm  
 Adult: \$20, Child (12 & under): \$10  
**STREET DANCE**  
 featuring Flat Busted  
 Following truck pulls | Free

**Sunday, June 30:**  
**SWEETHEART CROWNED**

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