

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013



Online & Print  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 460 Thursday, July 14, 2022

## Juvenile arrested after golf cart theft, pursuit

By Sgt. S. Gray, for the Willits Police Department

Shortly before midnight on Monday, July 4, Willits Police Department Officer Basurto observed two juveniles operating golf carts on Holly Street without headlights or any roadway safety features.

The officer attempted a traffic stop on the two juveniles, but both fled in the golf carts. One was last observed westbound on Holly Street and the second attempted to evade the officer on Manzanita Avenue.

The juvenile was unsuccessful in evading the officer vehicle, causing the juvenile to jump out of the golf cart and run east towards the Burger King parking lot (1355 South Main Street). The officer engaged in a foot pursuit through the parking lot, ultimately detaining and arresting the juvenile.

The juvenile, 15 years old, displayed objective signs of intoxication and provided a breath sample as required by law, which showed a blood alcohol level of greater than .08%.

Assisting WPD officers secured the golf cart the juvenile was driving and were subsequently directed to the second stolen golf

Read the rest of **Arrest**  
Over on page 4

## Arrest after 5.5 hour standoff in Laytonville

By Sgt. Richard Van Baren for MCSO

On Saturday, July 2 at approximately 10:37 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a report of a male subject causing a disturbance in the 44400 block of Foster Avenue in Laytonville.

The subject was reportedly banging on fences and yelling he was going to kill the occupants of the residences in the area.

During their response, deputies received an additional call for service in the same area of a male subject using a knife to slash tires. The first two patrol vehicles on scene were occupied by a Sheriff's Office sergeant and a Sheriff's Office K9 handler.

They observed a male subject standing next to a truck parked on the street. The male matched the description provided by dispatch as the person they were looking for and the truck had four slashed tires.

The K9 deputy tried to make contact with the male, but he began walking briskly away and would not follow verbal statements to stop.

Read the rest of **Standoff**  
Over on page 4



Above, from left: Balloon animals, backpacks and school supplies, and physical assessments all for free at Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Below: Face painting was another big hit at the back-to-school event and included everything from colorful butterflies to superheroes. At bottom: A family affair: The Mondo and Alvarez families enjoyed the free fun at Sunday's fair.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

## Getting ready to get back to it

### Howard holds Back-to-School Fair and gives free sports physicals

By Cici Winiger for Adventist Health Howard Memorial

The Adventist Health Howard Memorial team had a great day serving the community last Sunday during their annual Free Sports Physical and Back to School Fair. Thanks to the staff and providers who all volunteered their time – they performed 210 sports physicals and gave away over 200 backpacks and hundreds of school supplies!

It's a much-needed service and much-loved tradition at Howard that everyone looks forward to in the community. Howard started this community service almost 10 years ago, after recognizing the great need, and they are proud of the team for continuing to step up. There were many grateful families, some of them who said their children would not be able to play sports without this great outreach.

As a coach and parent, Saprina Rodriguez says she was grateful for the service. That day, she brought six of her players, including her 15-year-old, and was helping spread the word to the rest of the team.

"We have been coming here for five years. Many of our families don't have a primary care doctor, don't have insurance, or can't afford to get their sports physicals. It's a huge help. We have a game in a month, and it's not only challenging to get an appointment, some of them don't even have a provider, so many of my players won't be able to play at all, if not for this event."

As Willits mayor, Rodriguez says it's a huge community benefit. "It's absolutely helpful to our families, and a great

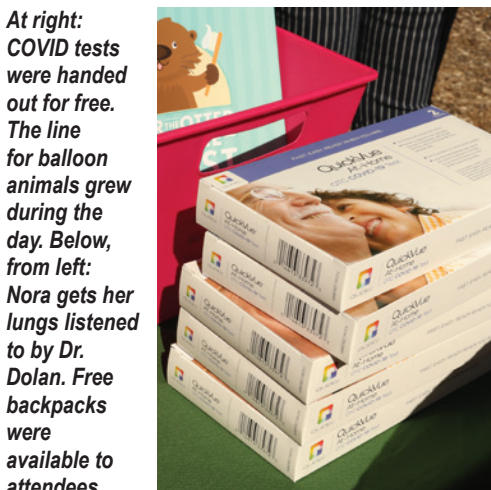
way to bring the community together. It's giving them the opportunity to participate in sports and keep our children healthy, so we're grateful."

Lucia Jara-Lopez brought her three student-athletes who are playing football this year. "I love the atmosphere, and it really helps get the kids into the swing of things of getting ready for school. For parents, trying to get three kids in to get an appointment, it's a challenge, especially for working parents. So to have this event, it's a blessing for us.

"We've been coming here for the last five years or so," Jara-Lopez continued. "It's great to see everybody come out to support children in our community. I've heard from many families who have multiple kids, that if it wasn't for this event, they wouldn't be able to afford new backpacks for their kids. It's hard enough when you have one child going back to school, but having to spend on backpacks, clothes etc., on three kids, it can add up. I love that the hospital does this for our community."

Aside from sports physicals, children also enjoyed other fun activities such as face-painting and balloon animals and received dental kits from the Little Lake Health Center, while SafeRx Mendocino provided information about alcohol and drug prevention.

Huge thanks to the Howard team – from nurses, MAs, providers and many others – who volunteered their time to help serve our community!



At right: COVID tests were handed out for free. The line for balloon animals grew during the day. Below, from left: Nora gets her lungs listened to by Dr. Dolan. Free backpacks were available to attendees.



## BOS moves forward with 1/4 cent fire sales tax

Forrest Glyer  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

On Tuesday the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a first vote on a 1/4 cent sales tax ordinance intended to boost funding for fire services in the county. All five supervisors indicated that they would approve the final vote on July 26, which will send the question to county voters in November.

If approved by county residents, the sales tax could produce around \$4 million annually, with 90% of the money split among the 22 county fire districts, and 10% going towards "fire prevention, resiliency and readiness."

Following a suggestion by Third District Supervisor John Haschak, the board added some specifics for what the 10% portion of money would be spent on, saying it "shall be used solely to plan, finance and operate ongoing countywide programs, including but not limited to community chipping services, defensible space assistance, and home hardening assistance."

In previous meetings the board has talked of the

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

## Public Health reports 1 COVID death, cases up

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mendocino County added another death attributed to COVID to the statistics last week.

As of July 11, Mendocino County has had 128 confirmed deaths from COVID, according to state COVID case statistics posted on the Mendocino County Public Health website. Age, vaccination status, and residence location of this most recent COVID death was not provided.

As of July 12, there were 4 COVID cases in county hospitals, with 1 in a local intensive care unit. Numbers of positive COVID residents reported by Public Health don't include all the positive cases found by home COVID tests, but as of July 11, cases countywide were up 103 cases from the day before.

Mendocino County is currently at a seven-day average of 25 cases per day per 100,000 population. March and April numbers

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

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Willits Food Bank summer update

To the Editor:

The Willits Food Bank continues to give out food and various personal necessities at 229 East San Francisco Street in Willits. We provide a nutritional variety that is sourced from USDA commodities, food purchased from Redwood Empire Food Bank, some locally donated food, and also organic produce from gardeners and gardening groups. All contributions go to feed hungry and food-insecure people in Willits and outlying areas.

We also deliver food weekly to elders who live in town, most in senior housing communities. We pay for weekly showers for local unhoused people. The showers are provided at the Redwoods RV Park.

Our winter motel season ended in April; during the off-season, we pay for one or two motel nights per month for those who are homeless and are 60 years old or older and have a medically verified disability. Thanks to those business owners who so graciously extend a helping hand to those who are experiencing extreme hardship.

Special thanks for abundant kindness and generosity from local gardeners for their beautiful organic donations; to Kim Caffrey from Redwood Empire Food Bank in Santa Rosa for her on-site guidance and support in linking us with the

food box giveaway program at the ball park and to all local area food banks; to Safeway and Mariposa for frequent generous food donations for our recipients; to Barbara Lincoln for collecting and donating tons of food during tax season; and, to the Willits Post Office for their unflagging collection and giving of food to the food bank.

Also, sincere gratitude to our staff, volunteers and board of directors who all work tirelessly to contribute to keeping our doors open to those less fortunate. Every effort brings us closer to meeting the needs of increasing numbers of hungry and needy individuals and families. The Willits community, along with many helpers, make it possible for the food bank to give out healthy food selections in substantial quantities, and to give ancillary support services to those in need.

Monetary donations are always needed and appreciated. Please send checks to 229 East San Francisco Street in Willits 95490.

**We also need: fresh organic produce, clean sleeping bags, clean blankets, shoes, clean socks and clothes for adults, youth and children, and washed recycled plastic bags.**

Thank you!

Ruthanne Volz, executive director,  
Willits Community Services and Food Bank

## 6th annual Rural County Photo Contest

Submitted by RCRC, Sacramento

Rural County Representatives of California is holding its Sixth Annual Rural County Photo Contest from July 1 through July 31, 2022. The contest invites individuals to submit their photographs capturing life in rural California and showcasing the beautiful scenery, activities, communities, history, and charm of RCRC's 39 member counties – including Mendocino County. Photo entries should be sent to photocontest@rcrcnet.org. All entries must be received by 11:59 pm on July 31, 2022, be the original work of the submitter, and must include:

- Location where the photo was taken, including the county in which it was taken; and
- Photographer's full name and email address.

The grand prize winner will receive a \$100 gift card, and the winning photograph will be unveiled at the September RCRC Board of Directors meeting. Full contest details are available on the RCRC website at [www.rcrcnet.org/photo-contest](http://www.rcrcnet.org/photo-contest).

*The Rural County Representatives of California is a 39-member county strong service organization that champions policies on behalf of California's rural counties. RCRC is dedicated to representing the collective unique interests of its membership, providing legislative and regulatory representation at the state and federal levels, and providing responsible services for its members to enhance and protect the quality of life in rural California counties. To learn more about RCRC, visit [rcrcnet.org](http://rcrcnet.org) and follow @RuralCounties on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.*



## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto: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.



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[willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) / [www.willitsweekly.com](http://www.willitsweekly.com)

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) / 707-459-2633

Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographer / [maureen@willitsweekly.com](mailto:maureen@willitsweekly.com) / 707-972-7047

Mathew Caine, photographer / calendar editor / features writer / [mathew@willitsweekly.com](mailto:mathew@willitsweekly.com)

Forrest Glycer, reporter / [forrest@willitsweekly.com](mailto:forrest@willitsweekly.com)

Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / [joanne@willitsweekly.com](mailto:joanne@willitsweekly.com)

Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter / [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

Ree Slocum, features writer / [ree@willitsweekly.com](mailto:ree@willitsweekly.com)

Danya Davis, features writer / police log / [danya@willitsweekly.com](mailto:danya@willitsweekly.com)

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## THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT July 2022 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

With the election over, I want to thank the people of the Third District for reelecting me as your supervisor on the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. It is truly an honor to be a public servant in such a beautiful part of the world and to such great people.

As I said in the campaign, we need to work on the economy, safer communities, and a more transparent and better functioning county government. Together we can make progress on all fronts.

Before the board this week, there is discussion on a sales tax. The decision has probably already been made. Supervisor Gjerde and I proposed limiting the tax to a quarter cent which would not be an overall increase. This would be up to the voters to decide in November. Ninety percent of the revenues would go to local fire departments. The other 10 percent would go for fire prevention, resiliency, and readiness. The tax would finance programs such as community chipping services, defensible-space assistance, and home-hardening assistance.

As our three-year drought continues on, a group has been working on the regulation of private wells extracting groundwater to sell. I have been working on this with Supervisor McCourty for about a year.

Together we are proposing to protect our valuable water resources. When someone drills a well and pumps water to fill up a water truck that then hauls and sells the water to oftentimes illegal cannabis grows way out in the hills, this can leave neighbors without water for health and safety.

There need to be regulations in place in order to mitigate the immediate and long-term consequences. We have proposed an ordinance that will require oversight on these operations and compliance to ensure sustainability.

Thank you again for your confidence in me, and please reach out to me at [haschakj@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:haschakj@mendocinocounty.org) or 707-972-4214.

## Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$7.

**Thursday, July 14:** Chicken Fajitas, Rice, Beans, Green Salad

**Friday, July 15:** Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Veggie, Roll

**Monday, July 18:** Fish Tacos, Rice, Beans

**Tuesday, July 19:** Chicken Philly, Potato Wedges, Green Salad

**Wednesday, July 20:** Carnitas Burritos, wet w/Green Sauce

**Thursday, July 21:** Baked Chicken, Au Gratin Potato, Green Salad

**Friday, July 22:** Swedish Meatballs, Noodles, Veggie, Roll

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

At right: Delicious pulled pork rests in a Dutch oven before being served at Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ.



Far right: Smokin Garret and Big Dan Lewis smile on opening day of Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ.

Photos courtesy of Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ

Below: A happy customer enjoys the loaded pulled-pork nachos.



Photo by Margi Gomez Guhde



Above, left: Loaded pulled-pork nachos are one of many delectable choices on the menu.

Above, right: The "railroad smoker" was handmade with a Willits theme by Dan Lewis.

At right: Pulled pork sliders are served on grilled Hawaiian rolls with coleslaw, pickles, chips and barbecue sauce.

Photos courtesy of Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ

Below, left: Dani, Dan, and Shelley Lewis pose for a photo at their new outdoor barbecue kitchen on Main Street.

Below, right: A menu lists the offerings at Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde

# Grill Love

Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ food trailer behind Napa Auto Parts is a family enterprise serving up lots of flavor

By Margi Gomez Guhde

If you've discovered the food trailer that is Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ behind Napa Auto Parts, you are one of the lucky ones. Delectable smells waft from the tidy attached tent as Dan, Garret, Dani and Shelley Lewis are hard at work, creating signature barbecue dishes and making a name for themselves on the Willits food scene.

Smokin G's and Big D's is a family affair and a labor of love. Dan and his son, Garret, are the owners of the new mobile barbecue eatery, with Garret's mom, Shelley, and his sister, Dani, pitching in and adding family magic to the menu.

The Lewis children, parents and grandchildren have lived in Willits for generations. Family recipes from both sides have been passed down through the generations, to become part of the ever-changing menu.

Grandmother Myrna, who passed away last year, cooked for decades at Howard Hospital, and her well-loved mustard bread is now served as a specialty at Smokin G's and Big D's.

"My dad is super creative," Garret said. "He cooks everything from Mexican to Chinese food, but his first love is smoked meats. He made tri tip for Willits High School for decades."

In addition, Dan is a master-welder who has made custom smokers for many years, using everything from 55-gallon drums to antique washing machines to create unique smokers for both individuals and businesses all around Willits.

"One of the most interesting smokers that he's made is the railroad smoker. It has a railroad spike as a handle!" said Garret, talking about the barbecue joint's signature smoker.

Dan and Garret have been crafting their menu since they started the family enterprise, offering specials like tri-tip sandwiches, potato and macaroni salads, and pulled-pork tacos, putting unique twists on dishes and gauging customers' responses. Predicting what people will like and how much to buy is an ongoing challenge.

"We need to keep testing the waters," said Garret, "learning what people want, and keeping it interesting."

The business, which opened on May 28 of this year, first set up their food trailer for the annual Willits Car Show.

"In 20 minutes we had a line going out to the street," Garret told. He says that the community response has been very positive. "We set up at the Hometown Celebration at the Rexall parking lot and we sold out in two hours. We're really happy that people enjoy what we do!"

Garret said that although they plan to stay at their current location behind Napa Auto Parts, a property owned by extended family for years, they hope to acquire a larger mobile kitchen with full stainless appliances and countertops to better serve their customers.

"We want to continue smoking and

Read the rest of **Barbecue** Over on page 9



# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

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# ARTS

# Wow!

## YART SALE

Huge selection of Art and Craft Supplies and Art Work at incredibly low prices.  
Great for home, crafting, and school.

Friday, July 15, 10 - 5  
Saturday July 16, 10-5  
Sunday July 17, 11 - 2

This is a benefit for the Arts Center.

71 East Commercial Street, Willits 95490 Next to the Noyo Theater.

Yart Sale on the back patio behind the Art Center.  
Artwork on Sale upstairs in the Great Room.

## 1st Outdoor Chili Cook-Off

# CHILI COOKOFF

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**KEELY and DU** by Jane Martin

## Call for Auditions

**Willits Community Theatre**

Directed by Mathew Caine

**Saturday, July 16, 2 to 4 pm - Thursday, July 21, 7 to 9 pm**

### Call for Auditions

"Keely & Du" by Jane Martin, directed by Mathew Caine, plays October 7-23.

Auditions are Saturday, July 16, from 2 to 4 pm, and Thursday, July 21, from 7 to 9 pm, at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane.

Call is for a female, 20 to 35; a female, 50 to 70; a male, 45 to 65, and a male, 25 to 35. Call Mike A'Dair at 707-200-2462 or Mathew Caine at 310-691-2559

When a young woman, Keely, is abducted from an abortion clinic by a radical religious group, she is incarcerated and handcuffed to a bed in order to force her to carry the baby to term, she must find a way to retain her right to self-determination against difficult odds, as her captors try to indoctrinate her into their mindset.

During her ordeal, she finds a way to create a friendship and understanding with her keeper, Du, a devout woman with an empathetic heart.

### Introducing 'History Makers' at the Mendocino County Museum

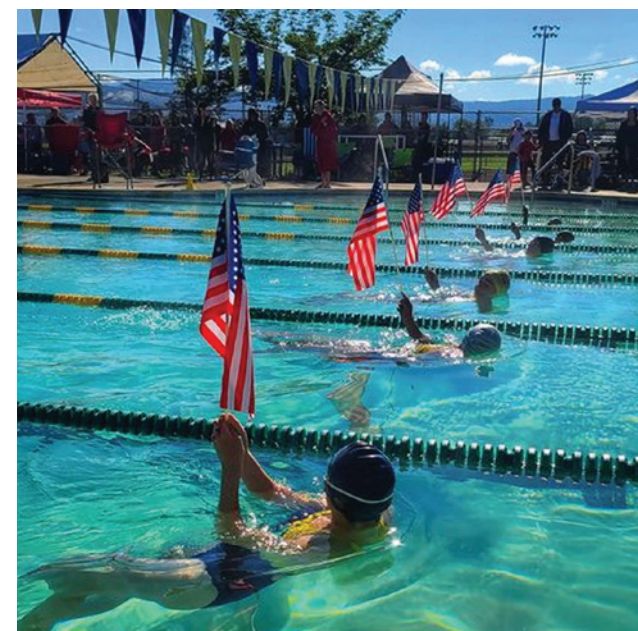
Submitted by Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

Families and museum-goers of all ages are invited to join Mendocino County Museum staff during our new series program: History Makers! The program will be held from 1 to 3 pm the first Saturday of every month and repeat weekly on Wednesdays. Each month we will explore historical themes through stories and hands-on activities.

All ages are welcome to participate. Supplies may be limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

We are kicking off the program this July with "History Makers: Bear Tracks!" We will explore our current exhibit "Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly" and have a make and take animal track activity. Upcoming program dates are Wednesday, July 20 and Wednesday, July 27 from 1 to 3 pm.

For more information, please visit [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum) or contact the Mendocino County Museum at [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org) or 707-459-2736.



### Otters bring in 24 first-place finishes at June swim meet

Submitted by Willits Otters Swim Club

The Willits Otters Swim Club hosted the June Willits Otters Swim Meet. There were five teams participating in the meet, with a total of 87 swimmers. On Sunday, the fathers that were helping in the event were all treated to a tri-tip lunch in honor of Father's Day.

The Otters were represented by Winter Geremia, Gracie McIvor, Charlie Pinon, Graham Olson, Abel Rose, Charlotte Arkelian, Sophie Chavez, Clair McIvor, Kathia Mendoza, Serenitee Nowlin, Aubree Wagener, Kingston Casey, Michael Gillespie, Lucas Phillips, Alastair Rose, Stella Arkelian, Mia Chavez, Grace Orozco, Alexa Williams, Jemma Apodaca, Ava Arkelian, Leah Blakely, Estrella Mendoza, Stormie Nowlin, Evangeline Semisch, and Farrow Lockwood-Chenelle.

The Otters garnered 45 top-three finishes with 24 first-place finishes. Those with one or more first-place finishes were Graham Olson, Leah Blakely, Gracie McIvor, Winter Geremia, Serenitee Nowlin, Sophie Chavez, Kathia Mendoza, Mia Chavez, Alexa Williams, Evangeline Semisch, Stormie Nowlin, and Farrow Lockwood-Chenelle winning four first places.

In addition, Willits also won first place in the 100-yard boys freestyle relay with the team of Graham Olson, Lucas Phillips, Alastair Rose, and Michael Gillespie.

The girls won the 200-yard freestyles relay with the team of Leah Blakely, Stormie Nowlin, Mia Chavez, Farrow Lockwood-Chenelle and the 100-yard freestyle relay with the team of Clair McIvor, Serenitee Nowlin, Kathia Mendoza, and Sophie Chavez.

The Otters will finish their summer competitions with a mid-July meet in Ukiah.

Way to go Otters!

**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](http://www.agapebiblechurch.com)

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-9456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Burton Jernigan  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

**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.



### Mother and daughter duo of Linda Posner and Pearl Marill to perform at the Willits Community Theatre on July 23 and 24

Submitted by Steve Hellman for Willits Community Theatre

The mother and daughter duo of Linda Posner and Pearl Marill will perform at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, July 23 and Sunday, July 24. Using dance, improvisation, poetry, music and conversation, this dynamic duo will dive into the unknown alongside the audience as they navigate the task of performing without a plan.

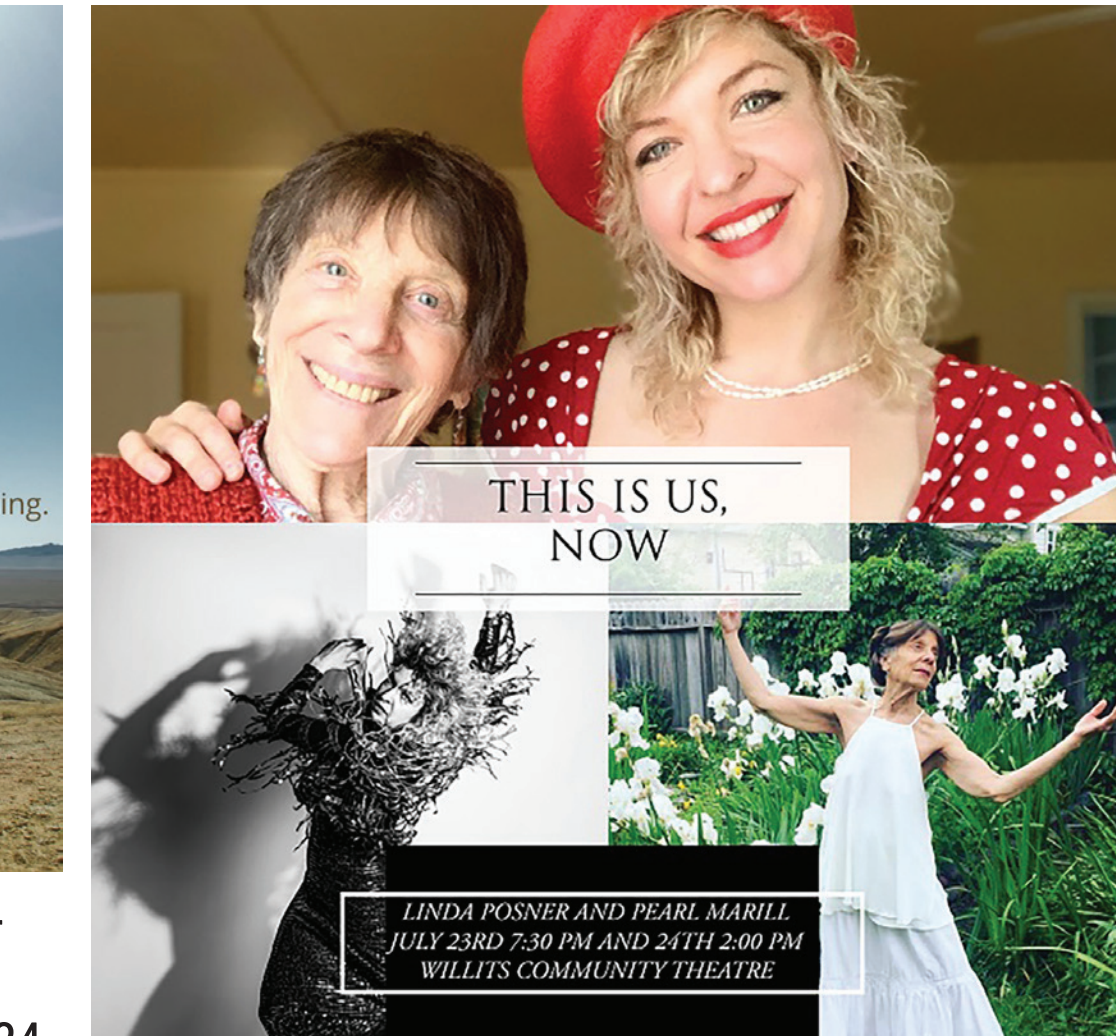
"This is Us, Now" unfolds in real time as Posner and Marill check in with themselves and the audience for how the show will go.

With more than 100 years of combined experience, Posner and Marill bring their love of improvisation and collaboration to the WCT stage with an invitation to the

audience to become an integral part of the inevitable excitement of this unpredictable performance.

Marill is an award-winning actress, dancer, comedian and choreographer based out of San Francisco and Los Angeles. Isadora Duncan Dance Award winner for "Outstanding Achievement in Ensemble Performance 2012," and winner of the "Shortlived 2016" short-play festival, Marill's work has been shown at venues and festivals throughout the Bay Area and Los Angeles.

Posner has been involved in theater and dance for 55 years, starting out as a chorus dancer in civic light opera productions in Los Angeles. Posner went on to become a leading dancer on the Broadway stage



in New York where she danced, acted and sang in "Hello Dolly," "A Joyful Noise," "Applause," and "Pippin."

Posner won a Tony nomination for best supporting actress for "A Joyful Noise," and won a Tony nomination for best actress in Bob Fosse's original "Pippin." Off-Broadway she starred in the rock musical, "Your Own Thing," and had leading roles in the films, "Valentino" directed by Ken Russell, and "All That Jazz" by Bob Fosse.

Tickets for the performances on Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm are \$15 and available at the WCT website: [www.wctperformingartscenter.org](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org). The performers ask that all those attending the show wear masks, regardless of their vaccination status.

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JULY 16 2022

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**Grace Community Church**

Celebrating Life In Christ  
25 Hazel Street, Willits  
Modified Worship Service  
10 a.m.

Other ministries suspended for now.  
For appointments call:  
(707) 459-3106

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**

61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Anron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
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If you want to be included in this column please call:

**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
[april@willitsweekly.com](mailto:april@willitsweekly.com)

The rest of Gaming | From page 5

draw seven cards. The game has a resource system that determines the way you can play your cards. The most common resources are your "lands." You play lands to play other cards. You go back and forth. Some cards will destroy other cards or creatures. Some cards will take cards directly from your opponents. Some cards will let you draw extra cards. It depends on how your deck is built and what your goal for the game is."

Magic is a deep and engrossing game to those in the know, many of whom have dedicated a good portion of their lives to mastering the strategies and amassing the best sets of cards. There are two main ways to become involved in the game, as a player or as a trader, most players are both.

"Some of the cards are worth a few hundred dollars," explained Pearce. "There's a whole secondary market for individual cards. There're different abilities, different print runs. Some cards are only made once or twice. The Dual Land has only ever been made twice. It was only made in the first and third Magic sets.

"There's something called the 'Reserve List,'" continued Pearce. "It's a list of cards that the company promises to never remake, to lock in the value of that card. The value of all the cards on the Reserve List have gone up around 20 percent per year for the last six years, better than the S&P 500.

"After an article came out on the value of Magic cards," he added, "a bunch of investors started buying up cards and shot the value way up. Five years ago that Dual Land card was about \$200 and now it's like \$425 to \$450."

The most valuable card, so far, was "Black Lotus." Signed by the artist, it sold

at auction for \$511,100.

At the end of the day's tournament play, the team of Alex and Bob won, earning them four points each and valuable game cards and a Gateway Games playing mat. Bob, who was in the lead in the overall tournament, solidified his position and now has 15 points.

"The event was a blast," recalled Pearce. "There were a couple of really close matches where a single right or wrong move decided the game. Everyone seemed to have a great time, ended up with a few prizes, and seemed satisfied."

In addition to the Willits tournament on November 5, Gateway Games hosts individual Magic competitions every Friday night at 6 pm.

To learn more about Magic: The Gathering, visit: <https://magic.wizards.com>. To find out about upcoming tournaments, visit Gateway Games online at <https://gateway-games.com>, in person at 1706 South Main Street, or call 707-680-0266.

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