



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

WCT seeks storage space for youth costumes

To the Editor:

The Willits Community Theatre's Gateway to the Stage youth program is growing and with it, our costume collection! As we continue to expand opportunities for local kids to participate in theater , we're looking for a safe, dry, pest-free space in Willits or Brooktrails to store our children's costume wardrobe.

We envision a modest space, perhaps an unused room, garage, basement, or attic, where costumes can live quietly for most of the year, with a flurry of activity around our summer programming in June and July.

If you have space to spare and would enjoy supporting youth arts in your community, this is a wonderful way to get involved. Willits Community Theatre is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and we'd be happy to work with you on a tax-deductible arrangement. Interested or want to learn more? Contact Mike A'Dair at (707) 456-4395.

Jeff Shipp, Willits Community Theatre

Art Center seeks new board members

To the Editor:

The Willits Center for the Arts has been a magnet for creatives for over 25 years (some say even longer), celebrating together the many forms of art that keep us working as a vital link to our community.

From the early stages of the Willits Arts Commission – to renovating the Women's Improvement Center, creating a non-profit, painting the building, improving the outside landscaping, and being host to monthly new art exhibits, educational monthly art talks, children's field trips- and so much more – your Art Center is a vital part of our community.

We are mostly organized by a group of dedicated board members, and our manager, who meet monthly to make decisions about how to keep the doors open and bring more creative experiences for our community.

We are looking for additional board members to help us further our mission and to add your energy and visions of support to keep the Willits Center for the Arts thriving for many years to come. No art background necessary- Come join us for an opportunity to be part of this thriving community asset! For more information, email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org.

Barbara Willens, Willits

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

Willits Weekly
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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'Letters and Rainbows' at the Museum, August 28
Submitted by Mendocino County Museum

Join us on August 28 at 12:30 pm for A-Bit-and-A-Bite, our lunch-hour program at the Mendocino County Museum. This casual, lunchtime event is by donation and all are welcome!

The August 28 program features "Letters and Rainbows." Naomi Wagner and All and Donna Kerr, members of Memory Keepers a monthly workshop dedicated to supporting the preservation of personal archive collections, will share their unique projects with the community.

Naomi Wagner presents: "Rainbows." Judi Bari, an amazing defender of old growth redwoods had already passed away, but her spirit seemingly returned

at a strategic moment in this scene of confrontation by environmental warriors at an Earth First! rally for Headwaters Forest in Stafford, Humboldt County in 1998.

Al and Donna Kerr present: "Letters." Al's parents, Al and Eileen Kerr, were newlyweds when Al's Naval Reserve Unit was called to active duty for the Korean war. Al was sent to the Naval Base on the island of Kwajalein. During the nearly year-long separation, the couple wrote daily. They ended up keeping those letters; and passing them down to their children. This program is a report on the story those letters tell, and a reading of excerpts from those letters.

The Mendocino County Museum is located at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits.

Thank you

To the Editor:

It was a beautiful day at Rec Grove for WillitsFest 2025. A day filled with music, food, fun, laughter and, most of all, our community.

The Charter School Association of Willits would like to express our sincere gratitude to Tom Girdeauskas of Tommy G Productions, emcees Billy Hetherington and Bryan Arnold, and soundman Hal Wagenet, along with all the talented local musicians who volunteered their time and energy to make this event such a success.

Thank you to our teachers, parents and students who volunteered their time in the WCS and WECS booths and the craftspersons who graciously donated their wares for our raffle prizes. Thank you also go out to Village Market, Brian Dunakin, and Colby Jergenson.

And, a very special thank you to all of you who so generously donated to both of the Willits Charter schools. Willits is truly a wonderful community!

Sally Rulison,
Charter School Association of Willits

Food for all

To the Editor:

It's the basics that matter most, and food for all is certainly one of those basics.

I am happy to share that thanks to a seamless collaboration between the Food Bank and the Little Lake Grange, the Grange is now accepting food donations. The bin is located in the Grange hallway.

Serving the community has always been at the heart of the California Grange's mission, and the Willits Grange is an excellent example of how we can carry this motto with increasing relevance into the future.

Please use the Grange collection container, along with the other drop-off locations, to donate nonperishable items to be distributed by the Food Bank.

The upcoming Grange Breakfast on August 24 from 8 to 11 am is a perfect opportunity to bring those items and enjoy a nutritious, organic breakfast in community at the same time.

Come join us, and let's fill up the Food Bank collection bin to overflowing! Many thanks! Sharing is caring....

Claudia Wenning,
Quantum Level Health, Willits

What's a helitack crew?

Posted by **CAL FIRE MEU**

A helitack crew is a team of highly trained firefighters and their pilot who are transported by helicopter to provide rapid initial attack and assist with rescues—particularly in areas that are remote, rugged, or inaccessible by vehicle.

Their aerial deployment gets them to the incident within minutes and begin suppression efforts right away. On the ground, they use hand tools, chainsaws, and other equipment to stop a fire's spread, while the helicopter supports their efforts from above with water drops.

In rescues and medical emergencies, a helitack crew can assist with emergencies in hard-to-reach locations. Firefighters are lowered down from the helicopter to

provide emergency medical aid, stabilize the patient, and coordinate a safe extraction – often hoisting the individual back into the helicopter for transport to higher care.

CAL FIRE operates 10 permanent and one cooperative Helitack Bases throughout the state, positioning these crews where they're needed most. From air to ground, helitack crews play a critical role in our mission to protect the life, property, and natural resources of California.

CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit is so fortunate to have Howard Forest Helitack in our unit! The helitack base is available for group tours – schedule yours today!

Follow "CAL FIRE MEU" on Facebook for information on local fires, incidents, events, training and other items of interest. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=757990487159443> to see a lively video posted August 17 of the helitack crew and its helicopter working.

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501

Thursday, August 21: Roasted Pork Loin Sandwich w/Cole Slaw

Friday, August 22: Chili Colorado, Rice, Bean

Monday, August 25: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf

Tuesday, August 26: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Veggies, Roll

Wednesday, August 27: Fish Tacos, Rice, Beans

Thursday, August 28: Blue Zones Inspired: Baked Cod, Brown Rice, Veggies

Friday, August 29: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Veggies, Rol

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

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

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

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

'Iron Jawed Angels' at the Noyo celebrates Women's Equality Day

Submitted by **Michelle Hutchins**

Mendocino County will honor Women's Equality Day this August with two powerful events that commemorate the courage and determination of the women's suffrage movement and celebrate the 105th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the United States.

On Tuesday, August 26 at 6 pm, the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition will host a free community screening of "Iron Jawed Angels" at the Noyo Theater, 57 East Commercial Street, in Willits.

This acclaimed 2004 historical drama follows suffrage leaders Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor) as they champion peaceful protest and nonviolent strategies to secure the 19th Amendment. The film also features Read the rest of Noyo Over on page 11



Above, from left: Rudy and Lianne are good friends, enjoying a night out at The Munchery. The small bites, like this order of wings and calamari, keep coming out to those inside and on the patio. There is something to occupy everyone – this young lad enjoys a game of cornhole with his dad. At left: The music is loud and energetic on the patio as several musicians step up to play guitar, bass and drums. Below: Kati O'Rear toasts the night with her old fashioned – her friend has a mango pomegranate margarita.



Summer Series

The Munchery reopens for weekend fun – open mic nights, trivia, line dancing, and small bites

Mark Twain's famous statement, "The reports of my death were greatly exaggerated," also applies to the eatery at Brown's Corner called The Munchery. A short while ago, many of Willits residents were dismayed to hear of the closing of this watering hole and place to meet and eat. While still not fully open, owners Shauna Brown Martin, Eric Martin and Marissa Grover, have brought the restaurant back to life, albeit on a limited weekly basis, opening Thursday through Saturday, basically 5 to 8 pm for their Summer Series of small bites and special themed evenings.

Shauna expressed her reticence in letting much of her excellent staff go, but has, through this new plan, managed to keep several on the payroll. "When I had to close, it was a really hard decision," explained Martin. "We're not totally closed. We lost some of our really great employees, but we pulled a few through. They're piecing their lives together so they can be here. It was the weekdays. Weekends were great but weekdays were not. Just not enough customers for our overhead. We had a lot of staff. We had a lot of expensive food that we were making. My staff needed to work full time, so we needed to figure out what was best for everybody.

"Our goal, right now, is to do this Summer Series and if it's successful, we'll do a Fall Series. Then, we'll just go from there. We're not fully committed but we're going to try different ways to stay open. Right now, the Summer Series is small bites. It's a lot of tapas style foods and it's our full bar. We've brought some really fun fusion foods here. It's not big hearty plates like we used to do. In the fall we'll make it a little more hearty for the cooler weather."

Last week, the Trivia Night, which will be occurring every other week, was quite successful and quite fun for those who attended. On Friday, beginning at 5 pm, The Munchery hosted its first Open Mic Night, which on this first occasion, became more of a rock jam, with Aaron Luedemann, of the group Tastes Like Chicken, and Andy Robertson, who appears in several groups and plays standup bass with Clay Hawkins, providing most of the equipment and laying down their own sounds, both alone and with various musicians who came up to jam with them. "We're running the open mic, not karaoke," said Luedemann. "Anyone can do anything up here within good reason. We'll play for a while and see what happens. I figured between Andy and I, even if no one shows up, we can jam and have some fun. Just let people do what they want to do. It's more about people getting together to try and have some fun with music."

A standout performer was Cameron Darnn MacDonald, of The White Lies, Read the rest of Munchery Over on page 11



Above, left: Aaron Luedemann is ready to back up anyone who wants to play. Above, right: One of the first brave souls to pick up an instrument plays a couple of songs with Aaron Luedemann and Andy Robertson. Below, left: One of the small bites, this poke bowl looks extremely appetizing in its presentation. Below, right: Andy Robertson alternates between playing the drums and going full bore on the bass.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Mariposa Market
Organic & Natural Foods
Anniversary Celebration

We're having a customer appreciation day to celebrate our 46th Anniversary!
Join us for an afternoon of fun, food, and music!

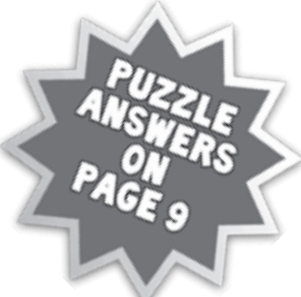
46th Anniversary!
Saturday, August 23rd 10-4
• FOOD SAMPLING • SALES • MUSIC
• VENDORS • RAFFLES & MORE

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Advanced



HOW TO
SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ROAD TRIP WORD SEARCH

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

ATTRactions	DRIVING	MAP	STEERING
AUTOMOTIVE	ENGINE	MILEAGE	STOP
BRIDGE	FAMILY	PACKING	TOLLS
CAR	FUEL	PRECIPITATION	TOURIST
CROSS COUNTRY	GAS	RECREATION	TRAFFIC
CRUISE	HIGHWAY	REST STOP	TRAVEL
DESTINATION	HOURS	SCENIC	TRIP
DIRECTION	LANE	SEAT	TUNEUP
DISTANCE	LIMIT	SPEED	VACATION

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36				37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49					50			51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- Mongolian politician
- Coconut palms
- Rounded knob
- Japanese city
- Covers in soft material
- Walk around
- Ancient region in Syria
- French painter
- Grandmother
- Cow part
- Rocky peak
- Secret plan
- Sings to one's lover
- More (Spanish)
- Father
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Hat
- In agreement
- A person's brother or sister
- Evil spirit
- Monetary units
- Partner to cheese
- About Sun
- A place to dance
- Performer ___ Lo Green
- Beach accessory
- Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- Partly digested food
- Pooch

- Honorific title added to family name
- Salts
- Lichens genus
- Lowest point of a ridge
- Type of sword
- Albanian language
- Gold measurement
- Italian seaport
- Longtime late night host
- Extremely angry
- U. of Miami mascot
- Mid-month day
- Omitted from printed matter
- Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

- Two-toed sloth
- Cooking ingredient
- Iranian city
- Publicly outs
- Steep-sided hollow
- Spoke
- General law or rule
- Extravagantly theatrical
- Very fast airplane
- Arm bones
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- ___ fide: legitimate
- Gemstone
- Counselors
- Top exec

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Fluffy Marshmallow

Marshmallow is a friendly, fluffy adult husky. This gentle giant is a stray dog who is friendly to people and very mellow when indoors. Marshmallow has lived with another dog in the past and walks well on a leash. He is very well behaved and already knows the command for "sit." He is a big boy who will need lots of grooming to keep his fluffy coat clean, so if you're looking for a sweet and playful companion who likes to cuddle, Marshmallow is the one for you!



The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.



Calm Amber

This summer there was an animal rescue that fell on hard times, leaving 90 dogs suddenly needing a place to go. Milo Foundation took several, and Amber is one of the crew – one of the nicest of the bunch!

Amber is a beautiful girl with a calm demeanor and easy disposition. She has done well with other dogs, and all the staff. She comes up wanting to interact and be petted. She is said to be great with kids.

She is food aggressive toward other dogs, so will always need to be fed away from other animals, and best not for anyone to disturb her when eating. Other than that, Amber is a lovely girl, looking for a home to call her own. She is a doll.

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

Soulful Poppy Nancie

Poppy Nancie is FeLV positive, which means she's looking for an indoor home where she can be the only cat or with other FeLV+ companions. She doesn't let it slow her down — she still has so much love to give and joy to share. If you're looking for a sweet, soulful friend who will warm your heart (and your lap), Poppy Nancie might just be your perfect match.



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, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

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Our P.O. BOX 1698 is always happy for envelopes! Mail us any amount direct!

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See us out and about? At the Farmers Market? We are happy to take any cash donations!



Bereavement Support Group

This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward.

Beginning: Wednesday, Sept.17

FREE OF CHARGE

Time: 1:30-3:30pm

Call Now to Register

To register call:

Space is Limited

Suzanne Picetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676



Suzana Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson
Group Facilitators

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



A letter from ...

The Dean of Students of Willits Charter School
Sarah France

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! As the Dean of Students at Willits Charter School, I am thrilled to welcome back our returning students and equally excited to greet the many new faces joining our community this year.

We are proud to offer a vibrant and supportive learning environment where students can thrive academically, creatively, and socially. WCS offers dual enrollment opportunities, allowing high school students to earn college credits before graduation – a head start on their academic and career goals.

This year, we are especially excited to introduce our new sensory garden, designed to promote wellness and provide a calming space for all. Our farm-to-table program continues to flourish, pairing with local farmers and featuring produce grown by our own Garden Class. The Culinary Class then harvests and prepares these ingredients into fresh, healthy meals served daily to our students.

Our faculty is made up of some of the most talented



Above: Ms. Windy in the WCS garden. Below, from left: The WCS garden in full bloom; luscious school-grown strawberries.



A letter from ...

The Executive Director of La
Vida Charter School
Ann Kelly

Dear community,

La Vida Charter School is excited to celebrate its 24th anniversary year with a group of dynamic nature-loving, creative staff members who resonate with the school's mission of offering an alternative educational model to Mendocino County and beyond.

We are pleased to celebrate excellent growth, surpassing our goals, in Mathematics and Reading on the MAP Test with 72% growth in Math and 86% in Reading. (Goals are 70% growth in Math and 60% in Reading.) The introduction of math and reading intervention programs and brain integration exercises seems to have been successful and will continue into the new year.

Continuing the theme of Back to Basics 2, this year we are inspired by a paraphrased quote: "Erst kommt das Fressen, dann das Lernen" or: "First comes eating then learning" (paraphrased from Bertolt Brecht).

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Rudolf Steiner's death this year, Steiner's first Waldorf school team in Stuttgart, Germany arranged for students to have a meal at school. Children were malnourished after the devastating results of World War I. At La Vida, we will draw upon the amazing resources on Ridgewood Ranch by utilizing the whole grains from Mendocino Grains to make loaves of bread to have toast in the morning. Classes will take turns and learn to make bread each week for all the students' morning toast. High school students will have the opportunity to take a German language class as well.

We are pleased to host year two of visiting artist specialty intensives under the creation of the without equal, Leyna Lightman. This year we will add Yuki of Hiromi Paper, Japanese Paper Making, which is inspiring book making projects, including little family recipe books which will be the centerpieces for the Thankfulness feast festivities in November. The incredibly wonderful teachers and masters of their arts, Niki Livingston Tsukamoto, Wild Plants, and Saiou M'Boup, African Djembe Drumming, will return for encore holistic learning experiences.

Archery is another highlight of the year in fall and spring. Thanks to the extremely generous gift of archery equipment, a full program, from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Activity League last year, the school can offer archery as a regular program. The school has been able to partner with impressive archery teachers in the county such as Derek Almena, Sarah Beth Riess, and others.

The school welcomes new teachers Brooke Glavich, primary grades, Jeanne Metcalf Budrow, Jr High, Karen Ferber, High School/ Special Ed, Erika Romandia, Special Ed Coordinator, Kristin Frith CTE and Academic Counselor, along with new Business Manager, Michelle Ebert. Adam

Returning are Michael Charnes, grades four and five and Jimmy Yue, Educational Coordinator, along with Office Staff, Chris Russel Payroll, Lisa Burgess Business Secretary, Dory Haselswerdt Student Services and High School Anchor Instructor, Andrew Miller Information Technician, Eugene Schwartz and Shauna Heiselt Steiner Inspired Mentors, Charlene Light Reading Specialist, Michelle Marin Interpreter, and Dan Miller Maintenance. It is a wonderful group of people, and we look forward to serving the community for another year with a Rudolf Steiner inspired, hybrid, Independent and Home Study program.

educators and artists in the region:

• Billy Hetherington, Dell'Arte alumnus, leads our Drama program.

• Pearl Marill, an accomplished choreographer with an MFA, inspires our Dance students.

• Caroline Hambright, professional muralist and Arts Center instructor, brings expertise in Drawing, Painting, Digital Arts, and Ceramics.

Students also benefit from our full-sized gym and robust athletics program, which includes basketball, volleyball, softball, soccer, swim, and track. We are WASC-accredited and offer accelerated academics, as well as specialized academic instruction to meet a wide range of student needs.

This year promises to be full of learning, growth, and opportunities for every student. We can't wait to see the incredible things our community will accomplish together.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Celebrating growth,
teamwork, and summer
harvests at the WCS garden

Posted by Willits Charter: A Public School for the Arts & Sciences

As summer reaches full bloom, we're excited to share some sunshine-soaked news from the Willits Charter School's garden! Thanks to the incredible effort of our gardening class, led by the ever-dedicated Ms. Windy, and the ongoing support of our amazing Food Service Director, Ms. Katie, our garden has truly thrived this season.

From planting seeds in the spring to weeding, watering, and harvesting under the summer sun, this crew has worked hard to keep our school garden not only alive – but abundant! Tomatoes, herbs, squash, flowers, and more are flourishing, and we're loving the vibrant colors and energy it brings to our campus.

A special shoutout to our students, who showed up with curiosity, care, and muddy hands.

And also to the amazing community organizations and local supporters who have donated seeds, soil, tools, and other supplies – we truly couldn't have done it without your generosity! Including: Sparetime Garden Center, West Coast Aggregates, Dripworks, and Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

We're proud of how this program connects learning, sustainability, and community. Keep an eye out at the "Willits Charter: A Public School for the Arts & Sciences" on Facebook page for more photos and updates as the season continues.

Way to grow, WCS!



Photo by Maureen Jennison



Above: Education Director Erin Vaccaro, left, stands with Dean of Students Sarah France. At left: Flowers are flourishing at the WCS garden.

Submitted photos

SANTA ROSA'S #1, BEST, AND MOST FRIENDLY DRIVING SCHOOL IS NOW SERVING WILLITS AND SURROUNDING AREAS!

ROADRUNNER DRIVING SCHOOL

✓ Teen/Adult Behind The Wheel
✓ North Bay Regional Center (NBRC)
✓ Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

Hi, I'm Shannon! I've proudly called Willits home for over 20 years and am excited to announce that I'm now a certified Driving Instructor with Roadrunner Driving School based out of Santa Rosa, now offering lessons right here in Willits and nearby communities.

With over a decade of experience working with children and adults through Willits Unified School District, and as a licensed school bus driver, I've developed a deep commitment to road safety and education. Becoming a driving instructor was a natural next step, and I'm passionate about helping teens and adults become confident, capable, and safe drivers.

Ready to hit the road?
Sign up today at WWW.ROADRUNNERDRIVINGSCHOOL.COM
I look forward to serving Mendocino County!

WWW.ROADRUNNERDRIVINGSCHOOL.COM

WILLITS CHARTER SCHOOL

2025-2026 YEAR

WELCOME BACK, SASQUATCHES!

IMPORTANT DATES

20 AUG

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
GRADES 6-8th **NEW STUDENTS ONLY**
➤ 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

21 AUG

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
GRADES 9-12th **NEW STUDENTS ONLY**
➤ 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

25 AUG

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! ★
Classes start at 8:30 AM
➤ 8:30 AM

ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Spots open in 7th grade
- Openings in all high school grades (9-12th)
- Independent Study/Hybrid program

WWW.WILLITSCHARTER.ORG
WCS@WILLITSCHARTER.NET

(707) 459-5506
1431 S. MAIN ST. WILLITS

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 8:30 a.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6-7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7-8:00 p.m.

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
•A University for Soul
•Spiritual Living Courses
•Spiritual Discussions
•ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Worship Service
10 a.m.
For appointments call:
(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at
707-459-2252
https://stanthonywillits.org/
sainthanthonwillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

St. John Lutheran Church
Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
Facebook.com/stjohnswillits
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship
Saturdays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
a place to find comfort
where all are welcome
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willits umc
If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

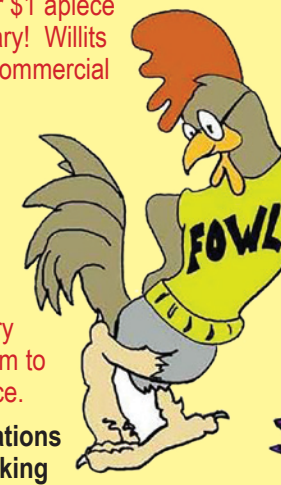
Thursday, August 21
Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at City Park with vendors along State Street for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food, and tasty treats from local businesses, plus crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.
F.O.W.L. Book Sale: Friends of the Willits Library pop-up book sale continues during open hours, today from 10am to 7pm. Get books for \$1 apiece while supporting your library! Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Friday, August 22
F.O.W.L. Book Sale: Pop-up book sale continues during Willits Branch Library open hours, today from 10am to 6pm. Get books for \$1 apiece.

Herbal Wellness Consultations and Medicine-Making Workshop: The Mendocino Community Wellness Collective presents Herbal Abundance, five Fridays of workshops where we will discuss herbs and plants and make herbal medicine from 4:30 to 6pm. The Herbal Wellness Wagon will also be there to offer consultations and herbal remedies from 3 to 6 pm. This is free to attend, though donations are accepted. More info: mendocwc@gmail.com or 707- 234-0113. Green Uprising Farm, 2301 East Hill Road, Willits.

WFD Jrs. Dinner and a Movie: Willits Frontier Days Jrs. presents a drive-thru taco dinner prepared by Taqueria Ramirez followed by the movie '8 Seconds.' Dinner pick-up starts at 6 pm and the movie at 8 pm. Bring a chair or blanket as there is limited picnic table seating. \$15 buys 3 tacos, rice, beans, chips and salsa. To ensure you get dinner, please purchase in advance by calling Hailey at (707) 272-1088 or Marcy at (707) 272-5395. This event will be held August 22 at the Rodeo Grounds on East Commercial Street.

Those Guys at Shanachie: Michael Canavos and Chris Rovetti blend rock, country, blues, and folk influences into a sound that is distinctly their own. Show begins at 8 pm on Friday, August 22 at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, Willits.



Saturday, August 23
Sovereignty Meet-Up Group with Runa at Inner Earth Tea: Join us from 12:30 to 2:00 pm for connection, visioning, meditations, and song to inspire peace in uncertain times. Saturday, August 23 at Inner Earth Tea, 48 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits. Runa accepts donations. More info: rememberingwithruna.com.

Nectar at Shanachie: With a mix of country, blues and old-school rock, Nectar brings a high energy performance to groove and dance to on Saturday, August 23 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, Willits

F.O.W.L. Book Sale at the Library: Last day of the sale so be sure to stop in during open hours today, from 10 am to 5 pm to get books for \$1 apiece at the Willits Branch Library.

Mariposa Market 46th Anniversary: Come join the fun with samples, raffles, prizes, sales, vendors, music and more as we celebrate 46 years of business with our community. August 23 during our regular business hours from 9 am to 7 pm, Mariposa Market, 500 South Main Street, Willits.

Sunday, August 24
Grange Pancake Breakfast: All you can eat of our "scratch" pancakes (sourdough, wholegrain, buttermilk, or gluten-free) plus organic, local farm-fresh scrambled eggs, (in order to maintain efficient service we have chosen to no longer offer eggs to order), Beeler's Quality bacon, real butter, juice and organic coffee or tea for only \$12! (\$11 for Seniors, \$5 for kids under 10). Enjoy extra bacon, sides of organic fruit, Amish organic maple syrup, or fresh fruit syrup for a small additional fee. Fourth Sunday of the month, 8 to 11 am, Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street, Willits.

Sunday History and Waffle Club at the Museum: Join us for a fun, informal update from the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum and hear the latest about efforts to support the Museum through increased volunteerism, fundraising, and Gift Shop development. August 24, from 2 to 3 pm at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits.



Women's Suffrage movement during the 1910s, Iron Jawed Angels will be shown on Mendocino County Women's Equality Day, August 26 at 6 pm at the Noyo Theater, 57 East Commercial Street, Willits.

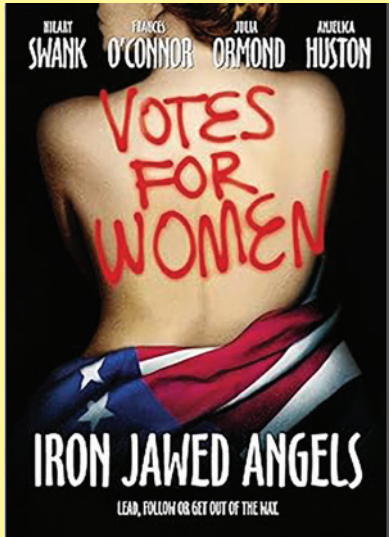
Wednesday, August 27
History Makers Printmaking at the Museum: Make your own Stamp Kit and cards this Wednesday from 2 to 4:30 pm for free with the price of admission to the museum. Present your Mendocino County Library card to receive free admission! (Wednesdays only). Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits.



Thursday, August 28
Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30pm at the Willits Farmers Market at City Park, with vendors along State Street on the north end of the park. For the freshest produce available, local meat, tasty treats, crafts, the new edition of the Willits Weekly and much more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

Virtual Author Talk at the Library: Learn how to master the daily grind and become shatterproof in a tumultuous world with key insights by Dr. Tasha Eurich. This timely discussion is sure to unlock powerful new ideas about how to show up as our best selves. Register and submit your questions to the author at mendolibrary.org (Click on 'Events' then 'Willits Events' on the website). August 28, from 11 am to noon at the Willits Branch Library.

Tuesday, August 26
Iron Jawed Angels at the Noyo Theater: A free showing, provided by the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, of the 2004, critically acclaimed, historical drama directed by Katja von Gärner. Centered on the American



Consultations and Medicine-Making Workshop: The Mendocino Community Wellness Collective presents 'Herbal Abundance', a free workshop from 4:30 to 6 pm with the Herbal Wellness Wagon available from 3 to 6 pm at Green Uprising Farm. See August 22 listing for more details.



the NoCal festival vibe. August 30 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, Willits.

Claws for a Cause Fundraiser at Ridgewood Ranch: The Willits Rotary Club and the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center (STRC) present their annual fundraiser on Saturday, August 30 on the Howard House lawn. Come enjoy an evening of fine dining including Maine lobster, prime rib and dessert prepared by Black Dog

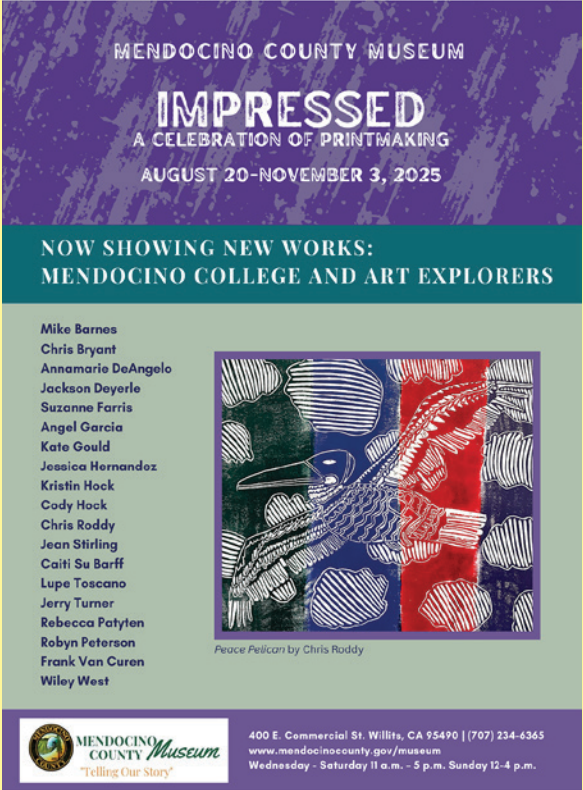
Rainbow Rodeo Queer Line Dancing
August 24

Boots, Pride and rhythm collide! Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just learning your first grapevine, everyone's welcome on the dance floor. This is a safe space for all our LGBTQIA+ friends and allies to try line dancing in an alcohol free, all-ages environment. Western Wear, sequins, and fancy boots are encouraged! \$10 donation includes non-alcoholic drinks and dance lessons (7 to 7:45 pm). August 24 from 7 to 9 pm. Creative Arts Ukiah, 202 S State Street, Ukiah.

Vendors wanted for The Munchery's Mabon Market

The Munchery is now accepting vendor applications for its upcoming Mabon Market on September 27, from 1 to 5 pm. The curated market will celebrate the Fall Equinox with a selection of crafts, services, and specialty goods. Vendors will be chosen based on creativity, quality, and seasonal appeal. Space is limited; interested vendors can apply by emailing themunchery707@gmail.com with the subject "Mabon Market Application".

Farm and Catering and live music provided by The Back Porch Trio. Individual tickets (\$100) and table sponsorships are available. Ridgewood Ranch, 16200 North Hwy 101. More info: 707-354-0714 or email seabiscuitridingcenter@gmail.com.



Friday, August 29

Back Porch Trio at Shanachie: Enjoy a fun mix of folk, blues, classic rock, jam band, americana, and bluegrass with original songs and clever concept covers. Friday, August 29 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, Willits.

Herbal Wellness Consultations and Medicine-Making Workshop: The Mendocino Community Wellness Collective presents 'Herbal Abundance', a free workshop from 4:30 to 6 pm with the Herbal Wellness Wagon available from 3 to 6 pm at Green Uprising Farm. See August 22 listing for more details.

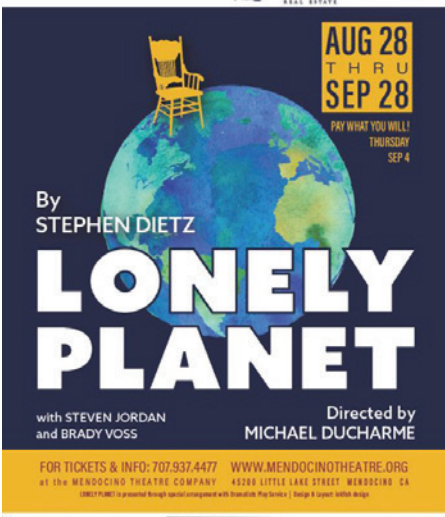
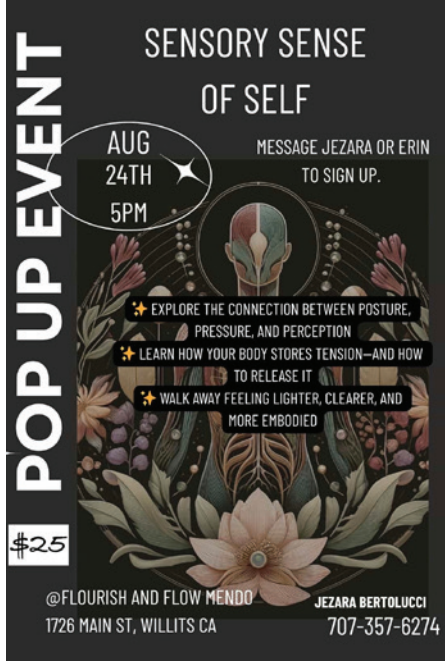
Saturday, August 30

Latchkey at Shanachie: Mixing elements from countrified soul, 70s AM radio, punk and four-part vocal harmony, Latchkey presents an invigorating twist on



'Lonely Planet' opens at Mendocino Community Theatre

'Lonely Planet,' a poignant and funny play, directed by Michael Ducharme, opens August 28 and runs through September 28 with an opening night celebration on August 30 and a "pay what you will" on September 4. The show will be performed Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm with matinee shows on Sundays at 2 pm. Mendocino Theatre Company, 45200 Little Lake Street, Mendocino. For info and tickets: mendocinotheatre.org.



COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES
'Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight'



Dan Essman
Columnist

The Story: The situation is the story. This flick is a memoir of farm life in Rhodesia. It's 1980. Racist attitudes and racial injustice have caused a guerrilla war that challenges the ruling class. Our leading lady is Bobo, a wild ragamuffin eight-year-old white girl. Despite the boozing in her family, the political/racial conflicts and the bloody reality of murderous violence, Bobo seems to be having a pretty good time. She powers around the large family farm on a motorbike. She shoots her BB gun at tin cans. She hugs her pussycat. She smokes stolen cigarettes. Mostly, she likes to hang out with Sarah, a young black woman who works for the family and dotes on Bobo. Sarah is kind, and she is a storyteller.

My Thoughts: The title of the flick is Rhodesian white folks slang which means: drinking too much alcohol and doing things which will later, at a more sober time, prove to be embarrassing, or truly, much worse. In the case of this movie, it refers to a kind of despair. I like and admire this movie. In its emotion-filled tensions, it caught a social-historical moment, a time when social and political changes can smash and warp the lives of individuals. Embeth Davidtz wrote and directed the emotionally complex screenplay (based on a book by Alexandria Fuller). Miss Davidtz acted in the movie as well. I'm going back to the NOYO to watch it again.

Parents: Pathetic and random adult behavior is depicted; this movie is absolutely not for children. I say that despite the fact that the leading lady is eight years old.

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

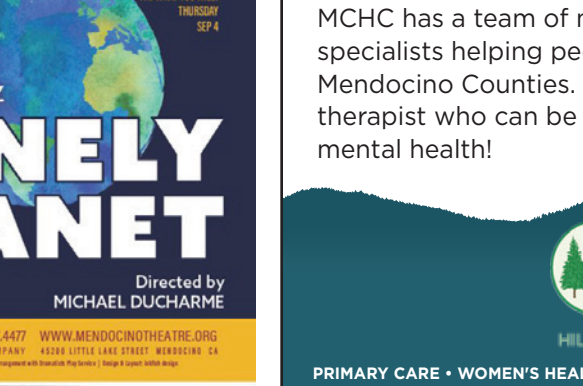
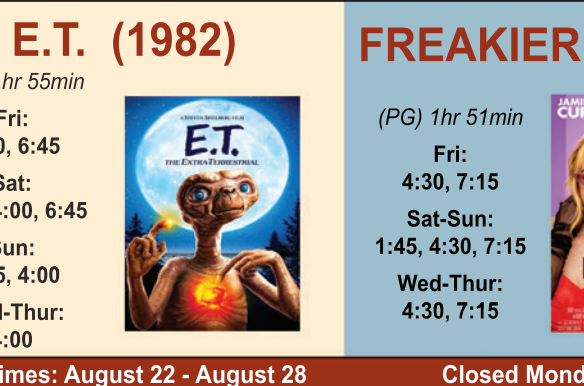
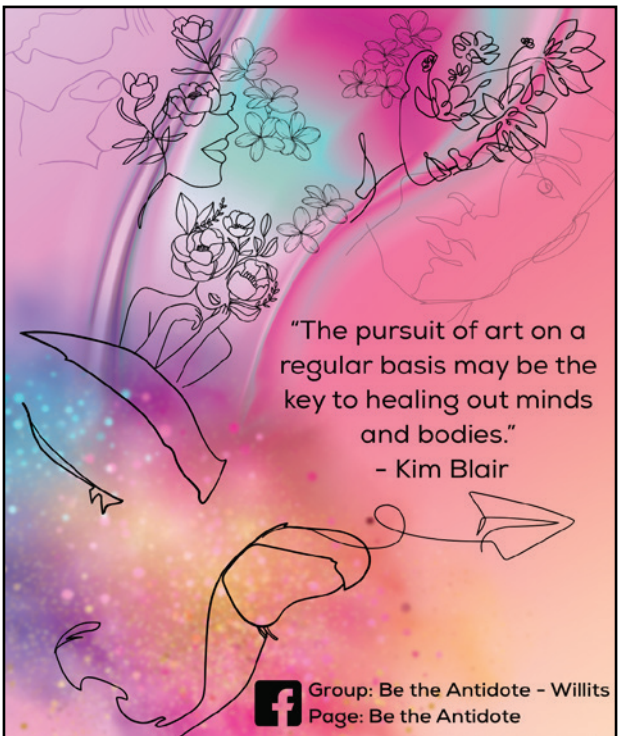
YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for a FREE community business meeting designed to connect, share ideas and grow together.

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

6:00 PM

Willits County Museum
400 East Commercial Street, Willits





A letter from ...

The Director of Willits Elementary Charter School Charlene Bredder

Willits Elementary Charter School opened its doors yesterday, August 20, for our 14th year! We are excited to continue to strengthen our community of learners, welcome families, and celebrate milestones together.

We had a Kindergarten Welcoming Ceremony to mark the start of students' educational careers. New kindergarten students and families met on August 19 to watch students walk across a bridge (built by parent volunteer Shaun Payne) and place a flower in a vase, symbolizing starting their year as a class together.

We have exciting changes in our teaching staff for this year: Rebecca Daun-Widner, who has a background in early childhood education, will be teaching kindergarten and continuing our focus on early literacy as well as hands-on exploration and learning. Joe Madden will be taking on fifth grade with in-depth projects and more independent learning; Ashkan Nahreini moves into third grade with an understanding of both first and fifth grade and how to support students' literacy growth. Teaching second grade will be Mary Joens-Poulton, who joins us from Laytonville School District, where she taught first and second grade using integrated project learning.

We have a robust literacy program led full-time by Ashley Sherf. Students who are below grade level in reading will participate in individual and small group instruction targeted specifically to their learning needs. This is an exciting development, as we have seen great student growth in reading over the last few years, supported by Christine Felton and Ashley Sherf. We plan to continue targeted interventions so that students make the necessary reading progress towards independence. Jeremy Miller will continue to work closely with students and classroom teachers to provide support to students with

Welcome BACK TO WECS

A FREE PUBLIC K-5 SCHOOL

WILLITS ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL

ART

MUSIC

SPANISH

GARDENING

FOSTERING STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

405 EAST COMMERCIAL ST., WILLITS, CA 95490
QUESTIONS: 707-459-1400 | CHARLENE@WILLITSK5CHARTER.ORG



At far left, top: Kindergarten teacher Rebeca Daun-Widner demonstrates banana slug behavior next to the new mural she painted in the classroom. Students will be responsible for lots of terrariums and nature projects this year. At far left, below: Lisa Shepherd puts finishing touches on a classroom mural featuring California environments, including the sea, redwoods, and mountains. Lisa is the fourth-grade aide as well as being an artist with her own interior design and home staging business called Driftwood Home. At left: Aleza Meza joins kindergarten by walking across the Education Bridge to celebrate kindergartners entering their learning careers. The bridge will be used each year to welcome kindergartners and to wish fifth-graders well on their continued educational journey as they graduate.

educational needs, designing lessons that are accessible and enjoyed by students.

Our focus this year is on community, support, and student agency. We aim to have students develop their own goals and monitor their progress, and to have different ways of showing what they have learned. Celebrating different ways of knowing and ways of being is integral to student confidence and initiative.

We will continue our leadership development projects and program with grades four and five (known as SLED –Students Leading Education), led by fourth grade teacher Cristina Balthrop, and add student jobs around campus to our leadership opportunities for students. All students in grades three, four and five will continue to be trained in being “Peer Mediators” who can help each other solve problems together. First grade, led by Shannon Gibbs, will continue to hatch chicks, recording their growth and development inside the eggs. We will continue our garden program, led by Robin Pilatti, including caring for three chickens, planting spring and fall plants, and learning about plants and seeds.

Maestra Rachel Alvizo will continue providing Spanish and Art classes to each grade, as well as lead a “Native Speakers Club” for students who speak Spanish at home.

WECS has fun and engaging before- and after-school programs that focus on science, art, nature, and hands-on projects across grade levels. Our After School Program Coordinator, Jessica Clark, has been invited to present at various trainings in the county about building enticing and enriching programs.

As in the past seven years, WECS will offer nutritious meals to all students free of charge, regardless of income level. We offer a healthy brunch and hot lunch each day. We are committed to wellness for our students, and our meals focus on whole grains, proteins, fresh fruits, and vegetables, all prepared locally at Willits Charter School. We are part of the farm-to-table program for schools, ensuring that as much as possible, our food is sourced locally. We continue to be a sugar-free and nut-free campus.

WECS is a free, public, K-5 charter school for Willits and other local school district students. We have onsite as well as Independent Study classes. Students in Independent Study complete coursework designed around grade-level standards as well as students' individual interests. Suzanne Farris is leading a small group of students in exploring their learning and independent study goals.

We are looking forward to a wonderful new school year full of learning, laughter, and great adventures. Thank you for supporting our journey.

Many hands at La Vida Charter School create an Eritrean Feast

Submitted by La Vida Charter School

La Vida Charter School had the honor of hosting Chef Menal Kidane, owner of Jebena Joy Café, who provided a multi sensory, cultural, and community cooking experience at La Vida Charter School in May. Brought to the school by the incomparable Leyna Lightman, the elementary and high school students, and the Ridgewood Ranch community, all experienced an Eritrean Feast that the many hands created.

Chef Menal's generosity knows no bounds, and her warm heartedness permeated through the abundant fare to everyone present. Chef Menal says, about the Himbasha, an Eritrean celebration bread the students helped make for the feast, “This is more than bread, it is culture, art and connection.”



Above: High school students work on the Himbasha, an Eritrean celebration bread. Below: Happy second- and fourth-grade learners – lots of smiles seen.



At left, top: Many hands knead what became a delicious bread at the Eritrean feast. At left: First- and third-graders measure ingredients for the Himbasha celebration bread. Above: Chef Menal Kidane, owner of Jebena Joy Café, shares Ethiopian and Eritrean coffee at the evening community event.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

WW550
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2025-F0332
The following person or persons are doing business as Marry Me Mendo, 20110 Hanson Road, Fort Bragg, CA; 707-357-8019.
Registered owner: Monica Edman Kirby, 20110 Hanson Road, Fort Bragg, CA 95437
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on July 17, 2025.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 23, 2025.
/s/ Monica Edman Kirby
Publication Dates: July 31, August 7, 14, and 21, 2025

WW551
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2025-F0324
The following person or persons are doing business as The Stylist, Barnes Bookkeeping, 245 A South Humboldt Street, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Forest Wayne Hunt, 285 North Lenore Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 3, 2000.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 18, 2025.
/s/ Forest Wayne Hunt
Publication Dates: August 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2025

WW552
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2025-F0337
The following person or persons are doing business as The Stylist, Barnes Bookkeeping, 245 A South Humboldt Street, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Stylist of Willits, Inc., 245 A South Humboldt 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 July 28, 2025.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 28, 2025.
/s/ Nicole Aguilar Barnes
Publication Dates: August 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2025

Locally raised in Willits, organically fed and pasture raised Beef, Pork and Lamb

Personal and Commercial orders available

Contact Melissa at
(707) 513-5705 | eastsideranchwillits@gmail.com

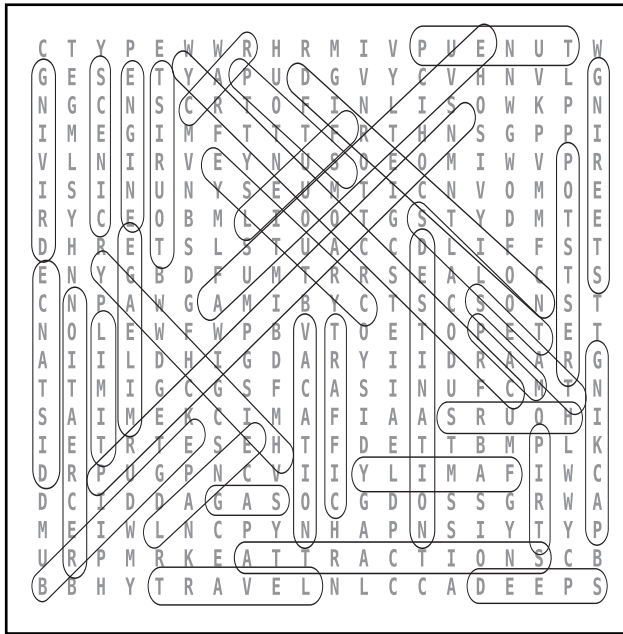
Account Specialist II (Part-Time)
\$21.21 - \$25.78 hourly
Museum seeks detail-oriented candidate to assist with accounts payable, deposits, and financial record keeping.
Apply today at
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
EOE

Rotary Club of Willits

People of Action

Serving our Community Since 1948

www.willitsrotary.org
WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com



WW547

CITY OF WILLITS NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE SUMMARY

First Reading Scheduled August 27, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Willits will consider the first reading of the following ordinances at its regular meeting on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, located at 111 E Commercial St, Willits, California:

- An Ordinance of the City of Willits Amending Title 17 of the Willits Municipal Code Including the Modification of Chapter 17.06 Entitled Use Group Classifications and the Establishment of Two New Mixed Use Zoning Districts: Main Street Mixed Use (DU) and General Mixed Use (GU).**
- An Ordinance of the City of Willits Amending the Official Zoning Map to Apply New and Revised Zoning Districts Consistent with the 2024 General Plan Land Use Element and Land Use Map.**

The proposed ordinances would implement the City of Willits 2024 General Plan Land Use Element Update, adopted on October 24, 2024, by establishing two new zoning classifications and revising the Zoning Map to achieve consistency with the General Plan Land Use Map. The new zoning districts are intended to encourage mixed use development, support economic vitality, and promote walkable neighborhoods.

Key components of the ordinances include:

- Land use and development standards for the new DU and GU zoning districts;
- Design and building orientation requirements;
- Additional regulations on formula-based businesses;
- Create new nanobrewery use group

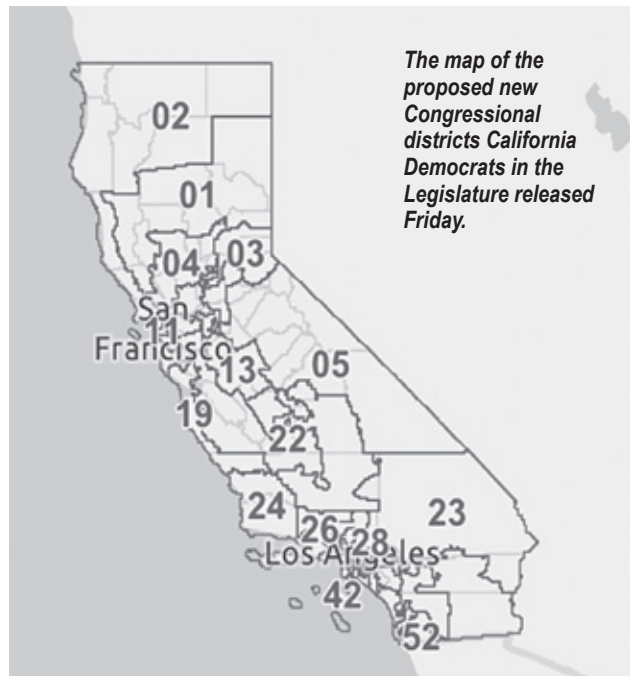
Special off-street parking provisions for the DU zoning district consistent with Land Use Element Policy LU-4.4, which include exemptions from standard parking requirements for small-scale developments and deed-restricted affordable housing. Environmental Review: The proposed ordinances were fully analyzed under the certified Program Environmental Impact Report prepared for the 2024 Land Use Element Update. No additional environmental review is required.

A second reading and adoption of the ordinances is scheduled for September 10, 2025.

Copies of the proposed ordinances and all related materials are available for public review at City Hall during regular business hours.

For additional information, contact the Community Development Department at 707-459-4601 or dduley@cityofwillits.org.

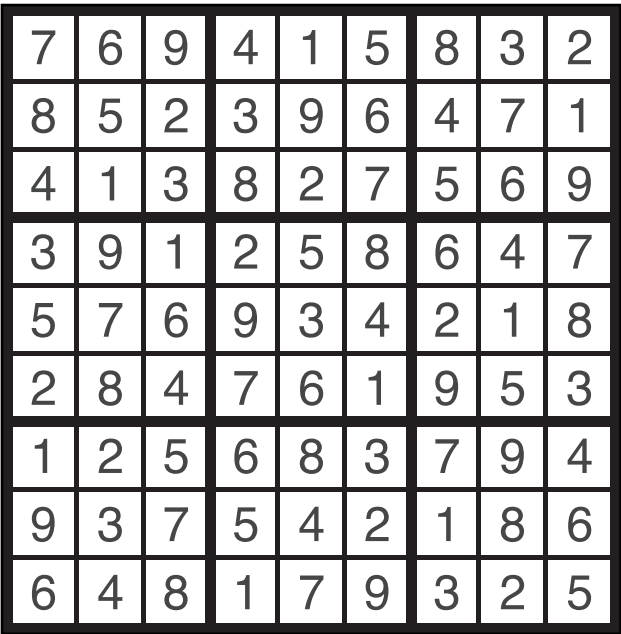
Publication Date: August 21, 2025



HELP WANTED: Casino Controller at Sherwood Valley Casino

Benefits, Salary: \$98K - \$110K

The Casino Controller directs the cashing, vault, drop and count areas in a manner that safeguards the assets of the Sherwood Valley Casino, while establishing and maintaining acceptable accounting procedures and internal controls and assures all external and internal regulations are met. Has direct supervision of Cage/Vault, Drop, and Count Supervisors. Exercises management responsibility for all activities of the Accounting/Finance Department. Activities include direct hands-on oversight of audit, accounting, general ledger, reporting, payroll, purchasing, cashing, and count room operations. Responsible for the company's overall operating and capital budgets, internal control policies, insurance and risk management programs, and relationships with financial institutions, casino's compliance with provisions of the State Compact, NIGC, Tribal ordinances, Gaming Commission regulations, cash transactions reporting, and IRS withholding and reporting requirements. Contact the General Manager at mftzgerrai@svrcasino.com or 707-459-7350.



CLASSIFIEDS

Indoor Yard Sale
Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, August 23** – 8 am to 4 pm

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers – starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oaknvine.net/tip>

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.

Tattoo Shop

Tattoo Shop in Downtown Willits! Clean, cute, and private shop with 10 years experience. Love to tattoo botanicals, cute critters, and sceneries! Appointments and bookings: kikitattoos.com

Raise Your Spiritual IQ

Soul Travel Explorations, 2. We are Soul, an eternal, creative atom of God. Discover the wonder of you! A spiritual discussion, Tuesday, September 9, 11 am to 12 noon; Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St. A FREE community service sponsored by Eckankar in California. Information? Call Joy (707) 367-3777. (This program is neither sponsored by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.)

The rest of
Maps

From page 1

The new maps were released by Democrats in the California Legislature on Friday. A press release from Senate President Pro tem Mike McGuire (who represents Mendocino County in the California Senate) says the special election is aimed at “empowering voters to protect our state’s economy and democracy, and fighting back against reckless attacks by Trump and Republicans.”

The legislation includes a state constitutional amendment to set a special election on November 4 on the redistricting proposal. It also makes public, for voters to review, the proposed new Congressional maps for California.

The new maps, if approved by the Legislature and then the voters, would be good until the next regularly scheduled redrawing by California’s Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. after the 2030 Census. The legislation “makes sure the commission maintains its full scope of work and authority after the 2030 Census and beyond.” The Independent Redistricting Commission redraws California’s Congressional, state legislative, and Board of Equalization lines every 10 years.

The legislation also contains a trigger “to ensure that maps will take effect only if other states effectuate partisan gerrymanders,” the press release says. “Several Republican-controlled states, most notably Texas, are considering gerrymanders aimed to benefit their party. Unlike California, none are submitting those plans for voter approval.”

“This is about more than drawing lines on a map” says President Pro tem McGuire. “It’s about drawing a line in the sand to stop Texas and Trump from rigging the election. This is about protecting the people of the Golden State, our democracy, and making sure voters have a say. Access to health care matters. Reproductive rights and Planned Parenthood matters. Making life more affordable matters. So does keeping tariffs from killing California jobs. These are the stakes, this is what we will be voting on this week in the Legislature, and what the people of California will vote on in November.”

Public comment on the new maps can be submitted here: <https://aelc.assembly.ca.gov/redistricting-public-comment> The legislation is moving fast, with a floor vote anticipated on August 21 in the Assembly and the Senate.



Above, from left: Megan Hall's Hostess with the Mostest cake is a chocolate cake with a marshmallow cream center. Kyler Hall-Jimenez created this layered strawberry cake, with a crunchy finish of vanilla wafers and freeze-dried strawberries. Brianna Hall's Coastal Blackberry Cake with cream cheese icing. Jackie Cobbs of Craft House Baking shows off her Coconut Passion Fruit Cake with passion fruit curd and cream cheese Swiss meringue buttercream. Below: All of the cake bakers and their families take a moment to pose for a group photo.



Above, from left: Even though she couldn't come in person, Julia Lynn-Marie sent this yummy Cannoli Cake. For some, the Great Cake Soiree was a family affair: from left, Nick, Angela, baby Otto, Oscar, and Hazel (front). Kristina Ayres brought her Blackberry Lime Cake with homemade blackberry jam. Below, left: Daughter Kyler and mom Megan Hall begin to fill up their boxes with a little bit of each of the cakes. Below, right: Willits Elementary Charter School Director Charlene Bredder begins to fill her cake sampler box to put in a cool place until she can get to taste them.



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Great Cake Soiree

Local bakers share their creations and kitchen secrets with other sweet-minded individuals

“Qu’ils mangent de la brioche.” Famously said by Marie Antoinette. “Let them eat cake,” is the English translation, and very appropriate to last Saturday’s Great Cake Soiree at the multi-purpose room of the Willits Elementary Charter School. Thirteen amateur and professional cake makers converged in the room to offer their interpretations of these sweet desserts. Many of the entries utilized the blackberries that are in great supply this time of year in the area, while others went more in the direction of chocolaty goodness.

The event was modeled loosely on a particular cake movement started in San Francisco several years ago as a vehicle for gathering with friends and other cake aficionados. The trademarked plan has spread around the country and around the world until it has reached Austin, Chicago, Dubai / UAE, Florida, Hawaii (Big Island), London, Manila, Melbourne, Mexico City, Paris, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto and Vancouver. In some locations, as many as several hundred cakes are involved. Although the local Great Cake Soiree is not affiliated with the larger movement, the principles remain the same – a gathering of local friends who share an interest in baking.

“Everybody brings a cake that is at least three inches tall and six inches across. When they come in, they get a box, and they get a certain amount of time, about seven minutes or so, to go around and collect a variety of different slices of cake for their box. Then, we go and enjoy cake, hang out, and then we come back in and refill our boxes because there will be plenty of cake,” explained Megan Hall, who organized the event. Hall brought her daughter, Kyler, her sister, Brianna from Little River, and niece, Maxine, who all contributed a cake as well.

“I have the Hostess with the Mostest Cake,” said Megan, pointing to a gooey dessert modeled to look like Hostess Cupcake Snack Cakes with the well-known white squiggle on top. “Originally, I was going to do an angel food cake, but it did not come out as planned, so this was the backup plan with devil’s food, rather than angel food.”

Necessity is the mother of invention, and invention was the rule of the day. Megan’s daughter, Kyler Hall-Jimenez, a recent WHS graduate, finished her cake in the room. “I’m not done with it yet but it’s going to have vanilla wafers and freeze-dried strawberries on the outside, squished into the frosting. It’s a layered strawberry vanilla cake with a strawberry cream cheese filling and vanilla buttercream.” She expressed the fear that it would fall over when cut into, which proved to not be the case.

Brianna Hall brought a blackberry cake with blackberries fresh from her garden. Her daughter, Maxine, crafted a strawberry cake with chocolate icing. Barbara O’Reardon brought “chocolate cherry fudge cake. It’s really

Read the rest of **Cakes** | Over on page 11

TOWN-WIDE ONGOING EVENTS

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Every Saturday at 1 pm sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations, and families at Bud Sinider City Park on East Commercial. Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch!

Flourish and Flow Yoga in the Park: Classes will be held every Sunday in Rec Grove Park on South Lenore Street from 10 to 11 am with rotating instructors each week. All levels are welcome, and each session ends with crystal bowl sound healing. Bring a mat and some water. Children are welcome if supervised and with an adult. Classes are donation based and donations received in the month of August will benefit the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County.

Willits Food Bank Donations: Our Willits Food Bank is in dire need of non-perishable food and toiletries! Donation bins (Sponsored by Willits Indivisible) have been placed at the following locations: Brickhouse Coffee, Mendo Mill, Willits Branch Library and the Senior Center (and now the Little Lake Grange). Please drop off whatever you can, whenever you are able as donations will be picked up weekly.

Willits Indivisible Democracy Vigil: Come join Willits Indivisible every Friday from 5 to 6 pm at Babcock Park on South Main Street. For more information visit “Willits Indivisible” on Facebook.

Farmstand at the Commonwealth Garden: Come by the Commonwealth Garden’s weekly Farmstand on Fridays from 10 am to 1 pm for farm-fresh produce and treats. Get there early, some things sell out fast! The garden is located on the right-hand side of Haehl Creek Drive, past the new Howard Memorial Hospital building complex. For more information call the Howard Foundation at 707-459-2777.

Lunch to Live Music at Brickhouse Coffee: every Wednesday from noon to 2:00 pm featuring various artists. Corner of South Main and East Commercial Streets, Willits. For more information on upcoming musicians visit Brickhouse Coffee on Facebook.

Open Mic Night every Friday from 5 to 8 pm at Inner Earth Tea House: Bring your songs, poems, stand-up comedy, instruments, etc. to this family-friendly event. Admission is \$12 and includes unlimited tea. 48 East San Francisco Street.

Summer Evenings at The Munchery: Join us most Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 5 to 8 pm through the month of August for nightly patio parties featuring cornhole, darts and ping pong along with our new Small Bites menu. There will be some nights we are closed for private events, so keep an eye on our calendar and posts! The Munchery, 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

Pickleball: Meets Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 5 pm and Saturdays at 9 am at the Willits High School tennis courts. All levels welcome, free to play.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every week on Mondays, 6 pm, at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866.

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7 pm. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

Literacy Volunteers of Willits: We teach adults to read! Free personal tutoring at the library. Call or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@gmail.com or 707-456-7729.

Mobile Showers Available in Willits: The mobile shower trailer will be in Willits on Mondays and Tuesdays each week from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, in the parking lot in back of St. Francis Church at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Toiletries, towels and washcloths are provided. One of the rooms has a ramp to the door, but there is no room inside for a wheelchair, so those with disabilities may need to bring a helper. Sack dinners are served from 4:30 to 5:30 by Willits Daily Bread.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Tommy G will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main street. “You’re invited to bring any instrument, meet new musicians, discover new genres, and explore your creativity!”

Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm – welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, “so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!”

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered into the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday.

Teen Game Night: Meet up, hang out, and crush your friends playing cards and board games every Thursday from 5 to 6:30 pm in the Willits Library Conference Room. Light refreshments will be provided. Open to teens ages 13 to 17. Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 pm. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a “cup of joe.”

LEGO Club: Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. “It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building.”

Tech Help: Saturdays from 11 am to 12 pm: Tech Help Saturdays, 11 am to 12 pm. Is your computer on the fritz? Can’t figure out how to open your email? Want to install a new app on your system? Bring your questions here.

Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm; Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm.

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

public discourse, he has never encountered a subject with so many complexities and conflicts as food trucks, and how they should be regulated. And Allman was quick to caution that any final outcome is not going to please everyone.

At issue is the current city ordinance that prohibits mobile vendors, primarily food trucks, from setting up on Main Street or Commercial Street, or within a block of those two streets, and also from operating more than 28 days a year.

Food truck operators and fans of food trucks want to have more locations and more days to operate. Local restaurant owners claim that the food trucks have an unfair advantage, with much lower costs – no need to maintain a building or to provide seating and restrooms, and the costs of heating and cooling, and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance – and also operate whenever the food trucks want to, primarily in the good weather, not year-round like restaurants.

Tony Madrigal, owner of El Mexicano restaurant on Main Street, said, as he has at previous meetings, that all he wants is “a level playing field.” Allman, however, warned Madrigal that that is not necessarily going to happen – there is no guarantee.

One of the biggest issues is location, where the food trucks can set up. Can they be downtown in direct competition with local food businesses? Or possible away from downtown and from nearby food services, such as at Recreation Grove? One local resident pointed out that every food truck brings its own generator, with noise and fumes. A location near people’s homes or close to a children’s playground, such as Bud Snider Park, was strongly opposed by neighbors.

At the end nothing was decided, other than to hold another ad hoc public meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, at 5 pm at City Hall. Allman asked city staff to look at and bring back sample mobile ordinances from six other cities.

Councilman Alaniz concluded by saying that we need to “separate the wheat from the chaff.” However, with such divergent views expressed at the meeting, it is unclear which is the wheat and which is the chaff.

The rest of **Munchery** | From page 3

who blasted out rapid guitar solos and sang with the driving force of a Mack Truck. Others throughout the night took advantage of these talented musicians to sit (or stand) in with, and let the music happen while an appreciative audience listened, danced, played games (ping pong and cornhole), and ate small bites from the sumptuous menu.

Shauna explained what The Munchery has lined up. “It’s technically our two-year anniversary. We have a late night with a new DJ we’re trying out. His name is Smokey Joe, with his smokin’ beats. We’ll be dancing tonight. Tomorrow, we’re just open for our Small Bites menu, at 5 pm. Next week, we have our regular Small Bites menu for Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

“The following week, we’ll have trivia again on Thursday and then we’re having a Country Night,” said Shauna. “Mo Mulheren [First District Supervisor] is coming to teach line dancing for an hour-and-a-half. She’s doing a line dancing series in Ukiah and she’s going to try it here. Those who want to come just pay the DJ fee of \$5 and then people can come and learn line dancing on the patio, then they can all do the line dancing to the country music inside. I’ve never done line dancing, but I love watching it. Something about it is mesmerizing. We’ll be doing the Boot Scoot Boogie and all that. That’s going to be on the 29th.”

The small bites are fairly extensive and have something for everyone’s taste. From Shrimp Guentios (shrimp stuffed peppers with cotija cheese), to chicken wings (Buffalo or BBQ), to coconut shrimp, shrimp wontons, beef sliders, and such staples as onion rings and fries, and much more. And, of course, a full bar.

For further information on their special nights and to peruse their small bite menu, visit their Facebook page or www.themuncherywillits.com/. The Munchery can be found at Brown’s Corner, 1797 South Main Street. Contact them at themunchery707@gmail.com or 707-941-0028.

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

market. As more insurers have declined to provide new coverage or renew existing policies, more Californians have turned to the FAIR Plan for the basic property coverage they need.”

The FAIR Plan will insure homeowners regardless of a property’s fire risk, unlike traditional insurance companies.

The FAIR Plan site also reports data by zip code, though updated only through September 2024 at present. In the Willits area’s 95490 zip code, 853 FAIR Plan policies were in place as of last September, a 15.1 percent increase from September 2023, with a total exposure of \$596,609,673.

Fifteen businesses in the 95490 zip code were covered by FAIR as of September 2024, up 36.4 percent from September 2023.

The California FAIR Plan Association was established in 1968 “following the riots and brush fires of the 1960s,” and became the insurer of last resort to meet the needs of California homeowners unable to find insurance in the traditional marketplace. The website states: “The FAIR Plan is not a state agency, nor is it a public entity. There is no public or

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

as Inez Milholland and Anjelica Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt. First premiered at Sundance Film Festival, “Iron Jawed Angels” has been widely praised for bringing to life the fierce and inspiring struggle that ultimately granted American women the right to vote.

Parade, program: in Mendocino

On Sunday, August 24 at noon, the community will gather at the Kelly House in Mendocino to celebrate the 105th anniversary of women’s suffrage.

The celebration begins with a parade from the front lawn at Kelly House, followed by a program at 12:30 pm, featuring distinguished speakers and performances:

- Keynote Speaker: Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer, representing one of the world’s largest economies.
- Devreaux Baker, Mendocino County Poet Laureate, reading from her work.
- Natalie Rogers, Santa Rosa City Councilmember, addressing

taxpayer funding.” Instead, the FAIR Plan is “a syndicated fire insurance pool” comprised of all licensed property/casualty insurers that write basic property insurance in the state. “The FAIR Plan issues policies on behalf of its member companies. Each member company participates in the profits, losses and expenses of the Plan in direct proportion to its market share of business written in the state.”

How to apply for coverage under the FAIR Plan? First, visit www.cfpnet.com/how-to-apply/ or call (800) 339-4099 to learn more, but the site or customer service agents will tell you the first step is to find a broker. “Insurance agents and brokers may have access to property insurers other than the FAIR Plan. If they cannot find you insurance through another insurance company, they can assist you in applying for a policy through the FAIR Plan.”

The California Department of Insurance has an online “Home Insurance Finder” where you can get lists of insurance companies or agencies/brokers in your region:

https://interactive.web.insurance.ca.gov/apex_extprd/?p=400:50

the significance of women’s civic leadership.

- Mendocino Women’s Choir, offering stirring choral music.

Attendees are encouraged to wear period costume and bring chairs or blankets for lawn seating.

This celebration is sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Cloud Forest Institute, League of Women Voters, and Mendocino Women’s Political Coalition.

The date coincides with the 105th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which enfranchised women at the federal level. California was among the early leaders, granting women the vote in 1911, nine years before the nationwide victory.

Women’s Equality Day is celebrated annually on August 26 to mark the passage of the 19th Amendment, a milestone in American history achieved through the tireless work of suffragists who fought for decades for equality at the ballot box.

The rest of **Cakes** | From page 10

good. It’s a pan cake, not a pancake.”

The cakes that the participants brought to the affair had no shortage of variety, each a work of the confection arts, and each mirroring the personality and taste preferences of the creators. “I have a tuxedo cake. It’s a chocolate cake. It has a dark chocolate and a white chocolate mousse with a chocolate ganache,” said Katherine Hill of Laytonville. “It’s almost sinful.”

Michelle Snider, demonstrating that a creation is the sum of its parts, said “It’s a Reese’s peanut butter cup cake. Wheat, milk, eggs, and peanuts. I like all of those things so it should taste good.”

Jackie Cobbs of Craft House Baking is a professional baker, and it showed with her cake that was equal parts dessert and work of art. “It is a coconut passion fruit cake. It has passion fruit curd and a cream cheese Swiss meringue buttercream. A curd is made from egg yolks and sugar, butter, and in this case, passion fruit puree. I’ve found that a lot of recipes call for cornstarch, but it reacts weird with citrusy fruits and makes kind of a metallic taste, so now, I don’t use cornstarch. I use one full egg and the egg white helps thicken it enough. The flowers [that decorated the cake] are cannas. They’re not edible, but they’re not poisonous.”

Kristina Ayres brought three cakes, her own, that of her young daughter, Ariana, and one from a friend, Julia Lynn-Marie (a cannoli cake). Ayres’ cake was a blackberry lime cake with homemade blackberry jam and blackberries inside. “It has a lime Swiss meringue buttercream,” she explained. Young Ariana was proud that she had made her own cake. “I forgot what flavor it is. It has berries, a lot of berries on the inside and a lot of frosting. It has a lot of sparkles on it,” she said, admitting that she had some help with instructions.

Angela Gessner, a professional cheesecake maker brought her whole family to enjoy the cakes. She brought two cheesecakes with blackberry topping. Katie Brenneman brought a pumpkin spice cake with a cream cheese icing. “One of my husband’s favorites,” said Brenneman. “I promised to bring him some treats.” Lucky guy.

After arranging all the cakes, they each filled boxes with slices of the sweet treats and sampled them with great enthusiasm. When everyone had their fill, the leftovers were donated to the ER crew at Howard Memorial Hospital.

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TASTY BITES IN TOWN

BRICKHOUSE COFFEE - Willits

3 South Main Street - 707-680-0188 - facebook.com/brickhousewillits
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212 South Main Street - 707-459-1214 - jdredhouse.com
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SPECIAL:** Buy 1 straws organic soft serve, get 1 free! Must show ticket for
train to get special deal! Offer valid Friday-Sunday.

KEMMY'S PIES - Willits

299 East Commercial Street - 707-367-5498 - facebook.com/kemmypies
Coffee, sweet and savory pies sold whole or by the slice, quiche, tarts,
sweet treats and more. **HIGHBALL RIDER SPECIAL:** 15% off with ticket!

LOOSE CABOOSE CAFE - Willits

10 Wood Street - 707-459-1343 - loosecaboosecafe.com
Coffee, espresso, milkshakes, famous hot sandwiches, soups,
hot dogs, salads, daily specials and more.
HIGHBALL RIDER SPECIAL: Sandwich or specialty salad, fountain drink,
chips and specialty coffee, dine-in, or take it to-go for \$20. Must show
ticket for train to get special deal!

NORTHSPUR BREWING - Willits

101 North Main Street - 707-518-4208 - northspurbrewing.com
Craft brews, wine, cider, sliders, sandwiches, salads, and hot dogs.

SCOOPS ICE CREAM & DELI - Willits

110 North Main Street - 707-272-9646 - jdredhouse.com
Coffee, espresso, ice cream, smoothies, sandwiches, and more.

THE WHISTLE STOP - Willits

280 East Commercial Street - 707-841-3033 - whistlestopwillits.com
Ice cream, sandwiches, salads, grab-and-go case, desserts and more.

TICKETS & INFO: SkunkTrain.com

The rest of Wilma From page 1 at their facility. They also have a toy museum on the property which houses the largest PEZ collection in the Bay Area, antique and unique toys, and even a section of banned toys including the infamously dangerous Lawn Darts and the spinning fairy toy: Sky Dancers.

Bruce Kennedy, owner of Bell Plastics, excitedly accepted the deposit check, and he and the crew will get to work creating Wilma to the provided specifications.

In brainstorming how to fundraise for Wilma, and not wanting to just ask businesses, community groups, and individuals for just straight donations, an idea came to light to allow people to sponsor, and then choose, a number of items on Wilma – eye color, nail polish color, her hat, etc. Not only did this feel like a good way to give this public art piece more of a sense of collective creation, but also a fun way to ask others to give.

Having Willy and Wilma stand side-by-side at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds makes a wonderful opportunity for marketing, tourism, and photo ops in our small town. Rarely are two of the statues seen together, and a matched set is something special.

Willy is already listed on www.RoadsideAmerica.com and several newspaper pieces have been done about his story, repairs and refurbishing over the years. When Wilma arrives, we hope to make a bigger splash and continue coverage in the news and online. Willits Frontier Days vice president Marcy Barry said the non-profit gets calls frequently from road-trippers and people who see Willy over the fence and want a photo. Barry routinely goes down to the grounds, opens the gates, tells Willy's story, and allows visitors to enjoy the statue close up.

You can read more about Willy's story, Wilma's story, make online donations, and more here: <https://www.willitsfrontierdays.com/wilma.html>. Inspired to donate? Have questions? 707-972-7047 or willitsfrontierdays@gmail.com

While there has been a lot of community support for Wilma, there will always be some that don't agree with the project at hand. I have received phone calls and emails from a few people who wanted to chat, and I was happy to help shed some light on the plans and intentions of this project.

The Wilma project is underway by my own energy, efforts, time and moxie because it's something that I want to see happen in the town I love at a place I hold dear. Willits Frontier Days has been a part of my life for over 35 years. I showed and participated in events there in my younger years, over the years I've covered hundreds of WFD events for two newspapers, and for over the last decade, I have donated thousands and thousands of hours as the chief photographer, graphic designer. and web person for the non-profit.

I offer you this thought: Be the change you want to see in life, and in Willits. There's no reason that anyone can't take on a similar project (public art is amazing and could be dotted across our town!) or any other project (have a passion for a particular group, cause or club? Do something amazing for them!) Get an idea, get permission, make the calls, shake the hands, get the support, follow it through, and make it happen! Willits would be lucky to have even more opinionated and motivated people who get things done - imagine what a town this could be! I can't wait to see what we come up with next!

Above: Kai Wada Roath stands at the Confusion Hill booth, alongside Sasquatch and the Jolly Green Giant. At left: Just how big are the shoes of the Muffler Men? Here's a toddler size 8 for comparison!

Photos by
Maureen Jennison

Happy 5th Wedding Anniversary to Matthew and Maureen Jennison

I'm so excited that this will be the fifth time we get to celebrate our wedding anniversary on whatever day lands on the fourth Saturday in August! I know we were hoping this year would be less crazy than last, and while that's true in some regards, here's to 2026 and it being back to a party year anyway! Whoohoo! I love you!

– Maureen Jennison

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