

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 466 Thursday, August 25, 2022

## PG&E choppers replacing power poles

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Many Willits residents have been curious about helicopters heard flying in the area, which were especially audible last week.

Helicopters contracted by PG&E have been flying in 30 new steel power poles for one of their circuits running through Willits. These new poles, many along Highway 20 west of Willits, are replacing the old wooden power poles.

The choppers have been lowering poles directly to the work sites, and also transporting equipment and people to three landing sites in the general area, said Deanna Contreras, PG&E's North Bay media representative.

The project is part of PG&E's "system hardening efforts" in high fire-threat areas, Contreras said. The work replacing 30 poles started August 12, and was due to be finished August 24.

Two of the helicopters seen working along Highway 20 last week were a Bell UH-1, owned by Salmon River Helicopters out of Nampa, Idaho, and a Bell Rotorcraft, owned by HELIBRO LLC out of Red Bluff, California.

To learn more about PGE's Community Wildfire Safety Program, visit [https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/community-wildfire-safety.page](https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/community-wildfire-safety.page)

## Humane Society shelter out of room for cats

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"We are at catpacity," the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino announced on Facebook over the weekend. "We currently have 193 cats and kittens in our care and are unable to take more until we have some movement with adoptions."

This follow's last week's announcement by the Mendocino County Animal Shelter that their dog kennels are full.

"Our staff works incredibly hard to care for all these cats every single day," the Humane Society's August 20 post continues, "and the food and medical care adds up really quickly. So here's how you can help:

1) ADOPT! Need a forever friend? We have

Read the rest of  
**Shelter**  
Over on page 13



## BOS to create grants for public records requests

Forrest Glyer  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Just a few days after a county ordinance went into effect charging fees for those requesting public records, last week the Board of Supervisors directed staff to create a program to allow local media members to apply for grants to cover their fees, which now range from \$20 to \$150 per hour for staff time used to fulfill the requests.

The ordinance which put the fees in place was enacted by the board July 12, and the idea to allow media members to have their fees covered came after criticism arose from journalists at local outlets including Sarah Reith of KZYX and Kate Maxwell of Mendo Voice.

Reith, Maxwell and others argued that the high fees would obstruct transparency of the county government and impede the ability of the media and others with legitimate interests to obtain records.

The fee amounts are separated by category, with \$20 per hour charged for more simple "search fees" to "locate, retrieve,

Read the rest of  
**Records**  
Over on page 6

## CAL FIRE's 'new vision' for Jackson Forest

Submitted by CAL FIRE

Following months of collaborative discussions and consultations with community members, Tribal leaders, conservation organizations and forest operators, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection released a new vision on Friday, August 19, outlining how the Jackson Demonstration State Forest will be managed in the age of climate change. The document is available on our website at [www.fire.ca.gov/media/nm2pdccu/jdsf-modernization-vision-8-18-22final.pdf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/media/nm2pdccu/jdsf-modernization-vision-8-18-22final.pdf)

Shared as a series of action steps – some already taken, with others to be incorporated by the Jackson Advisory Group into future management plans – the vision grounds the Jackson Demonstration State Forest in a foundation of science and equity.

One of the most prominent additions included in the

Read the rest of  
**CAL FIRE**  
Over on page 6

## Back to School Beautification

### Willits Elementary Charter School gets fun, fresh paint and decor in classrooms and bathrooms for new school year

"Willits Elementary Charter freshened its look in two classrooms, following the interests and passions of teachers in grades 2 and 5," explained WECS director Charlene Bredder.

"Rebecca Daun Widner painted a garden theme in the second-grade room, with plants and a 'quiet corner' for calming down," Bredder continued, "and Lisa Shepherd, fourth-grade classroom aide and owner of Drift Wood Homes, painted a space theme in the fifth-grade room, and also gave the bathrooms a big makeover, with the theme of 'Spread Kindness.' The school plans to paint two more classrooms in themes next year," Bredder said.

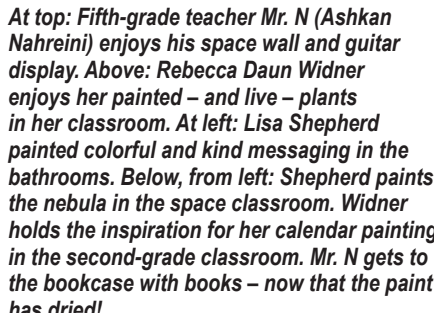
The artful additions make the campus feel bright, shiny and new for the upcoming year, and for students who will be back in session on Monday, August 29.

To learn more about WECS, call 459-1400 or visit [www.willitselementarycharter.com](http://www.willitselementarycharter.com).

– Maureen Jennison



Photos by  
Maureen  
Jennison



At top: Fifth-grade teacher Mr. N (Ashkan Nahreini) enjoys his space wall and guitar display. Above: Rebecca Daun Widner enjoys her painted – and live – plants in her classroom. At left: Lisa Shepherd painted colorful and kind messaging in the bathrooms. Below, from left: Shepherd paints the nebula in the space classroom. Widner holds the inspiration for her calendar painting in the second-grade classroom. Mr. N gets to the bookcase with books – now that the paint has dried!



Photos by  
Maureen  
Jennison

## Charter Directors

Willits Elementary Charter, Willits Charter and La Vida Charter schools directors welcome back their students for the 2022/2023 school year including, above, from left: Charlene Bredder, Mark Page-Botelho and Ann Kelly.



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Goodbye from Dr. Dawson

To the Editor:

Dear Willits: It is with a heavy heart but much optimism that I am writing to inform any friends, neighbors, or patients who haven't heard yet that I am closing my orthopaedic surgery practice in Willits.

I am joining a large medical group in Hawaii.

It has been an honor to be treated with so much respect from the community that I grew up in. I will always treasure the old Howard Hospital motto of "Neighbors helping neighbors," as that is what I have tried to do here.

Those who need records can email requests to [jrdawson@willitsortho.com](mailto:jrdawson@willitsortho.com). With much love,

Jeremiah Dawson MD, Willits

### Free large item 'Dump Week' in Covelo

**Submitted by Caltrans**

Caltrans, the County of Mendocino, Solid Wastes of Willits, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council will host a free large item Dump Week this week at the Covelo Transfer Station, 90500 Refuse Road.

Dump Week started August 22 and continues through Saturday, August 27, from 9 am to 3 pm or until capacity is reached.

Future Dump Day events include one to be held in Willits; date to be announced.

This Dump Week event, where Covelo area residents can properly dispose of their unwanted, bulky items, is made possible by Governor Gavin Newsom's Clean California initiative, a sweeping \$1.1 billion, multi-year clean-up effort led by Caltrans to remove trash, create thousands of jobs, and engage communities to transform public spaces.

This Dump Day collection is limited to furniture, appliances, mattresses, scrap metal, accumulated trash, tires (limit 9 per load), and other large, bulky household items.

No construction materials, business waste, electronics, hazardous waste, treated wood waste, or asbestos of any type will be accepted.

Clean California Dump Days are open to all residents in the area.

This is part of a series of Dump Day events planned for Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino counties. Future events include Casper and Willits communities. Please remember to secure your load.

Dump Day events are organized to further the goal of keeping California highways and waterways litter-free as part of the Clean California Initiative.

Visit [CleanCA.com](http://CleanCA.com) to learn more about how Clean California is transforming communities with Dump Day events to keep trash from reaching our roads and waterways.

### 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.

## Willits Weekly

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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

Jackie Cobbs, features editor

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

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

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

Danya Davis, Police Log / [danya@willitsweekly.com](mailto:danya@willitsweekly.com)

Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter / [margi@willitsweekly.com](mailto:margi@willitsweekly.com)

Debbie Boone Harry, features writer / [debbie@willitsweekly.com](mailto:debbie@willitsweekly.com)

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / [april@willitsweekly.com](mailto:april@willitsweekly.com)

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### Community Foundation seeking field-of-interest grant proposals

**Submitted by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County**

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County is pleased to announce \$166,000 in available funding from its Field-of-Interest Grant Program. Field-of-interest funds are established to make grants in specified areas of interest (e.g., the environment or human services), specified geographical areas, or both. Nonprofit organizations throughout Mendocino County are invited to submit proposals online by September 22, 2022, by 5 pm.

Grants will be available from eight different field-of-interest funds. Available funding includes:

- Arts in the Schools Endowment Fund: total \$6,000; grant range \$1,000 to \$6,000.
- Blood Bank of the Redwoods Legacy Fund: total \$5,000; grant range \$500 to \$2,500.
- Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund: total \$75,000; grant range \$1,000 to \$7,500.
- Environmental Education and Conservation Fund: total \$10,000; grant range \$1,000 to \$5,000.
- Health and Human Services Funds: total \$50,000; grant range \$1,000 to \$5,000.
- John and Sandra Mayfield Family Economic Development Fund: total \$15,000; grant range \$5,000 to \$15,000.
- Releaf Tree Planting Fund: total \$5,000; grant range \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Guidelines and a link to the online application are available at [www.communityfound.org](http://www.communityfound.org). Questions about eligibility, guidelines or the application may be directed to Meredith DeLucia, program officer, at 707-468-9882 x103 or email [Meredith@communityfound.org](mailto:Meredith@communityfound.org).

Field-of-interest funds are created with a specific area of interest in mind, but anyone can contribute to these funds. You can join with others who have a shared passion to help your giving go further together.

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County is a county-wide nonprofit organization that administers permanent charitable funds established through gifts and bequests from individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations. Our mission is to offer people effective ways to engage in advancing the well-being of our communities. For more information, visit [www.communityfound.org](http://www.communityfound.org) or call 707-468-9882.

### Summer Art Walk, August 27: Make prints at the Museum

Join us this Saturday, August 27 at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits, from 5- to 8 pm, as part of another Willits Summer Art Walk! We will be hosting our final Introduction to Printmaking workshop with Miss Rossi

Bring a friend and learn to create linoleum block prints and contribute a print to our Community Printmaking display.

\$7 material fee applies; workshop is for ages 10+.

The fourth-Saturday Art Walks are being held from June through October this year, inviting residents and visitors to "stroll the streets of Willits to discover local artists, new venues, and eateries right here in our own backyard."

The following participants are sponsors of the Willits Summer Art Walks: Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street; Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street; Mendocino College, North County Center, 372 East Commercial Street; BACE, 109 North Main Street (next to Northspur Brewery); Kemmy's Pies, 299 East Commercial Street; Scoops, 110 North Main Street; Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street; Art on the Plaza, 99 South Main Street; and RE Evolution, 15 West Mendocino Avenue.

## Willits Weekly

Online & In Print

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EST. 2013

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### SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

In the mail: ☐ 1 year - \$75 ☐ Additional donation included \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Home delivery: ☐ 1 year - \$50 (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas) (call for details)

Please make checks payable to Willits Weekly | P.O. Box 1698 in Willits, CA 95490

Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print

### QUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047

Web: [www.willitsweekly.com](http://www.willitsweekly.com) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/willitsweekly](https://www.facebook.com/willitsweekly) Email: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

### Mendocino Cannabis Alliance launches pledge drive, awards

**Submitted by Mendocino Cannabis Alliance**

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, the premier cannabis trade association in Mendocino County, is undertaking a pledge drive from August 15 to September 19 to support their essential policy advocacy, as well as their business-development work helping members bring their licensed products to market.

The Pledge of Alliance Drive will culminate at the Mendocino Cannabis Advocacy Awards which will celebrate leaders in the Mendocino County community who have gone above and beyond to advocate for our local legacy cannabis cultivators and businesses.

For this inaugural event, MCA will be honoring: Hannah Nelson, attorney and MCA senior policy advisor; Jude Thilman, medical cannabis educator, Dragonfly Wellness Center owner, and MCA president; and Casey O'Neill, co-owner of HappyDay Farms, emeritus member of the MCA Policy Committee, and founding member of MCA.

As the voice of cannabis in Mendocino, MCA makes sure the best interests of the entire community are represented in their advocacy efforts. In 2020 the licensed cannabis operators of Mendocino County generated over \$110M of economic activity within the county in a cultivation footprint of less than 300 acres.

Since then, the wholesale cannabis market has crashed while the cost of living and doing business has increased, and the ever-changing regulatory process has drained the resources from most of our small local businesses.

Many licensed operators have followed parts or all of their gardens to conserve resources while still working to remain compliant in the licensed market. The direness of this situation requires immediate and sustained attention if Mendocino County is to protect this vital component of our local economy.

It is MCA's commitment to continue moving sustainable local cannabis policies forward, and to do this MCA will need the support not only of its members, but of the Mendocino County community at large.

Recent MCA advocacy successes have included:

- the adoption of a fallowing program that will reduce the minimum tax for licensed operators who voluntarily reduce the amount of their canopy below certain levels
- a commitment from the Cannabis Department not to deny any applicants engaging with them until an appeals process has been developed and implemented
- a commitment from county counsel and county staff to develop and implement an appeals process for applicants
- the ability for local equity operators to use equity funds for county cannabis taxes
- direction from the Board of Supervisors and the Cannabis Ad Hoc to the Cannabis Department to revise the Equity Manual to allow any uses not explicitly prohibited by the state
- ongoing stakeholder meetings with Supervisor Haschak, the Cannabis Department, the CEO's office and other appropriate state agencies and local departments

Throughout this drive MCA will be reaching out to businesses across the county who understand the important role that licensed cannabis activity plays in the stability of Mendocino County's future. MCA invites all locally licensed cannabis operators (and anyone who wants to see a sustainable approach to local cannabis regulations) to join as members, or to support as sponsors.

The Pledge of Alliance Drive is a chance for the entire Mendocino County community to come together and ensure that MCA's important work continues in service to all of Mendocino County.

MCA has already received a commitment for a matching-funds donation of up to \$20,000 for funds raised during this drive, making each donation, sponsorship, or new member signup even more valuable to the future of the organization.

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



Above, from left: Cindy Bodensteiner, who spoke of her experiences as an operating room nurse for 50 years, poses for a photo with her husband, Dr. Gary Bodensteiner, and their two granddaughters. Current Adventist Health administrator Linda Givens speaks with one-time controller Carlton Jacobson. A small but enthusiastic crowd listens to the entertaining stories and memories.

At right: The lions which guarded the entrance to the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital are removed from the grounds.

Below: Attendees who were born in the hospital pose for a group photo: from left, Lorelle Choate, Ken Mace, unidentified, Margaret Eutenier, Laurel Morris, Lee Persico, Randy Weston and Chuck Persico.

Photos by Mathew Caine

## Hospital Wake

### Past staff and patients say goodbye to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, which is scheduled for demolition

"This is a sad occasion and it just broke our hearts to have to make this decision but it cost the Howard Foundation \$10,000 per month for seven years," sighed Margie Handley, president and chairman of the board of the Howard Foundation, as she watched the iconic lions being dismantled and removed from the entrance, the day before the "wake" for the old Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. "That's \$840,000 we've spent trying to keep the building," she said.

On Saturday, August 20, a group of residents and ex-residents, whose lives had intersected with the old Howard Hospital, gathered on the lawn at the back of the building to hear stories and memories, eat food prepared by Gloria Westby and Roots Restaurant, and say goodbye to the beloved building. The old hospital is scheduled for demolition; probably beginning in October, after asbestos and other toxic materials have been mitigated.

"Through the years, vandalism has just trashed the inside," explained Handley. "All the windows have been broken out. Somebody came in and spray-painted all over the wall where people wrote farewells when we moved out of the hospital. We caught a man in the attic about a month ago, lighting matches, trying to burn it down. Somebody saw some smoke, called the fire department.

"At one point in time," Handley continued, "we found people trying to tear all the plumbing out underneath the hospital for the copper. We found a guy living upstairs. Most people didn't even know that was there. It was a space where doctors could go sleep, away back. Some guy was living up there. There were signs that he had been living there a while.

"The hospital property was appraised for 2.5 million dollars," she said, "so that's what we listed it at. We didn't get any response. We lowered the price and kept lowering it. We had it down to \$900,000. We were even willing to donate it to a non-profit.

"This facility was built in 1928, after Frankie [Howard] was killed in 1926," Handley recounted. "Dr. Babcock told his parents that if there was a hospital here, he probably could have saved his life. He wrote out a check for \$42,000 in 1928 [approximately \$700,000 in today's dollars]. Dr. Babcock had already been raising money for the hospital.

"Some people are calling this a wake," said Handley, "and some people are calling it a 'celebration of life.' For some of the people who have worked here for 40 or 50 years, it's really sad for them. Their whole lives were spent in these halls."

Amongst the tears and sad farewells, laughter was heard loudly, as one by one, those who had experienced the zeitgeist of this institution of healing, spoke about their mostly humorous encounters within the walls.

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

### NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits  
707-459-NOYO (6696)  
[www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com)

Happy 60th Reunion  
WHS Class of '62

Movie Times for August 26 thru September 1

### AMERICAN GRAFFITI (1973)

(PG) 1 hr 53 mins

Fri.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 6:45pm  
All Tickets \$6

### THE IRON GIANT (1999)

(PG) 1 hr 30 mins

Fri.: 4:45 & 7:00pm  
Sat./Sun.: 2:30, 4:45 & 7:00pm  
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 7:00pm  
All Tickets \$6

### BEAST (2022)

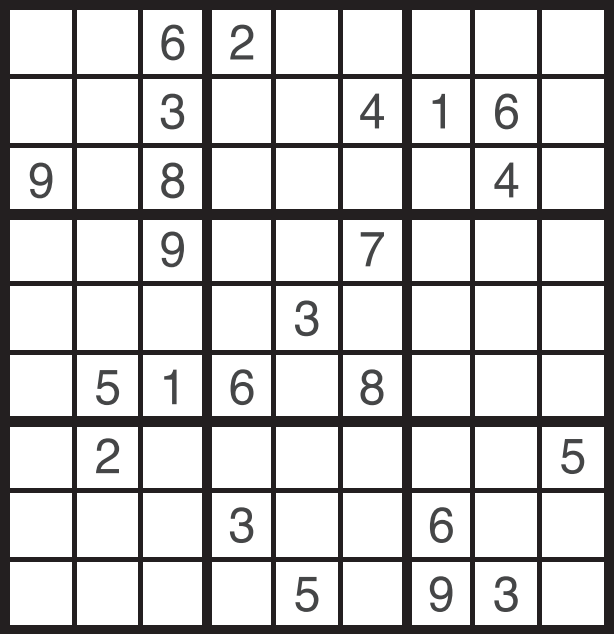
(R) 1 hr 33 mins

Fri.: 5:30 & 8:00pm  
Sat./Sun.: 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm  
Mon.-Thurs.: 5:30 & 8:00pm  
Over 21 Club/ Luxury Recliners

Masks Optional

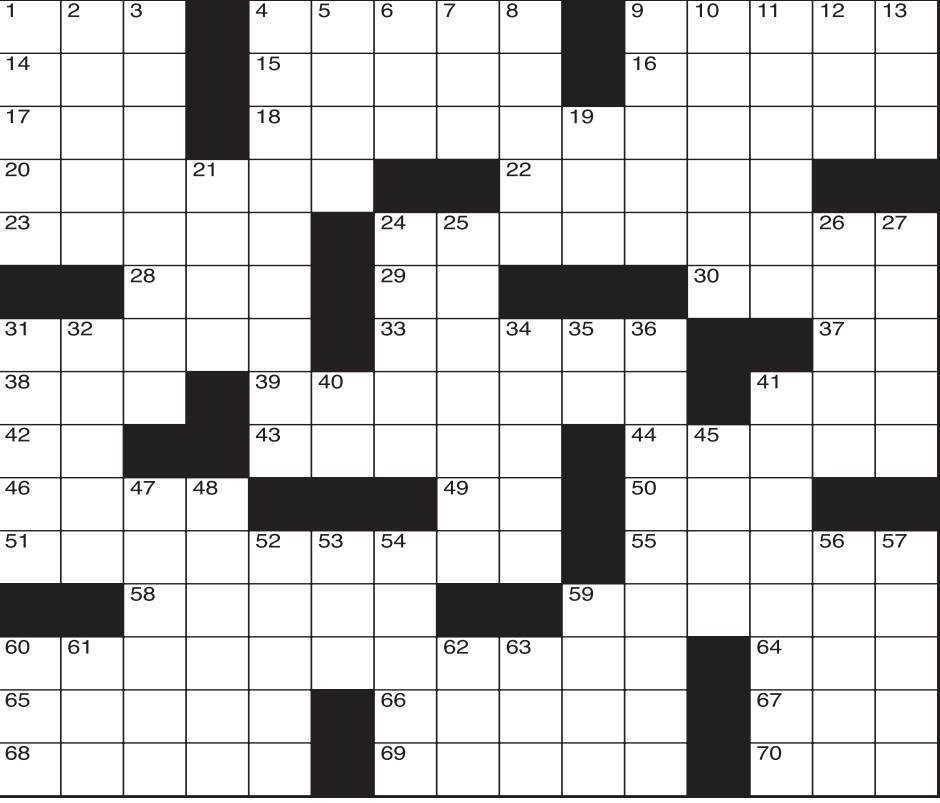


Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page
Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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!

MAKE THE GRADE WORD SEARCH
A word search puzzle with a grid of letters and a list of words to find, including AVERAGE, CLASSROOM, COURSE, EDUCATION, EXAM, FAIL, GOALS, GRADES, GRADUATE, HOMEWORK, KNOWLEDGE, LEARNING, MEMORIZE, PASS, PROFESSOR, QUIZ, RANKING, REMEMBER, REPORT, RETAIN, SCHOOL, SUPPLIES, SYLLABUS, and TRAJECTORY.



- CLUES ACROSS
1. One point north of due west
4. Indigenous peoples of northern Scandinavia
9. Popular California/ Nevada lake
14. Go quickly
15. Fatty acid in soaps
16. Brand of fuel stations
17. State of fuss
18. Romance novelist
20. Members of a household
22. Asserts to be the case
23. Type of infection
24. With metal inlays
28. Chinese philosophic principle
29. Early multimedia
30. Employee stock ownership plan
31. He investigated Clinton administration
33. Shells
37. Six
38. Snakelike fish
39. Capital of Kenya
41. Influential group (abbr.)
42. Used to chop
43. It comes as a case
44. Challenges
46. Small amounts
49. The Golden State
50. Peyton's little brother
51. For walking in Alaska
55. Buddhist honorific titles
58. Lively ballroom dance
59. Capital of Albania
60. Late night host
64. Draw from
65. A way to utilise
66. One who is not native Hawaiian
67. A power to perceive
68. Bulky
69. Horse mackerels
70. Proclaim out loud
CLUES DOWN
1. Hits
2. Bathroom accessory
3. Young
4. Beef cattle
5. It's often in soap
6. For each
7. Innermost membrane enveloping the brain
8. A way to leave
9. Emaciation
10. Punish with a fine
11. Steeds
12. Having eight
13. Greek goddess of the dawn
19. Mature reproductive cells
21. Armadillo species
24. Ancient country in what is now Romania
25. Extreme greed
26. Stars
27. Poems
31. Places to sit
32. One from the Lone Star State
34. Small rails
35. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
36. Where coaches work
40. Indicates position
41. Mammals
45. Resembling a wing
47. Beliefs
48. Hindu male religious teachers
52. Mischievously
53. Where athletes want to end up (abbr.)
54. Large, deep-bodied fish
56. Horned squash bug genus
57. Excessively sentimental
59. Shared verbally
60. You can put it on toast
61. Data mining methodology (abbr.)
62. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
63. Mauna \_\_\_, Hawaiian volcano

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG
August 15 to August 20
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly
The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 88 incidents in this 6 day reporting period.
Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests
August 15
2:44 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.
August 16
11:33 am: IRELAND, Casey Allan (28) of Willits was contacted in the 1600 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of grand theft.
August 17
10:27 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 200 block of South Main Street.
11:48 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
12:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of Robert Drive.
7:50 pm: HENDERSON, Skylar Ty (23) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11364 H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), 11377 H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine), 148 (A) (1) PC (Resisting Arrest), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher and possession of a controlled substance.
August 18
11:08 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.
5:04 pm: LESLEY, Samantha Aline (54) of Willits was contacted in the 600 block of Hawthorne Lane. She was arrested pursuant to 273 (A) PC (Child Endangerment),
August 17 (continued)
10:27 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 200 block of South Main Street.
11:48 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
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August 18 (continued)
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5:04 pm: LESLEY, Samantha Aline (54) of Willits was contacted in the 600 block of Hawthorne Lane. She was arrested pursuant to 273 (A) PC (Child Endangerment),
August 19
4:10 pm: BOLTON IV, John William (46) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of West Commercial Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher).
4:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.
7:10 pm: PETERSON, Eric Daniel (37) of Laytonville was contacted near the intersection of North Main Street and Sherwood Road. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/ or Drugs), and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license, possession of drug paraphernalia, violation of probation, and a penalty for a second offense within 10 years.
August 20
1:43 am: VILLEGAS, Damian (30) of Willits was contacted in the 500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 245 PC (Assault with a Deadly Weapon).
4:53 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
8:34 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of West Commercial Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.
12:21 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.
8:55 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of Mill Street.
11:52 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
Willits Swimming Pool Information
Fall 2022
August 29, 2022– October 28, 2022
Schedule
Monday– Thursday
6:00am–9:00am Lap Swim
4:00pm-5:00pm Aqua Aerobics
Admission Price
Lap Swim \$5
Aqua Aerobics \$7
Senior Discount \$6
For more information: (707) 459-5778

Eager Leo
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Leo arrived at Milo via the Mendocino County Shelter, and it was quite clear he was looking for, waiting for, HIS person. He was pretty shut down. Well, his person couldn't come for him, so he came to the Milo Sanctuary. It took him some time to relax and gain trust.
Once he started taking walks and spending time with our staff, he began to trust again, and now is full of enthusiasm! Now his tail is up and wagging. He is so happy to go on walks and out to our pasture to play ball! Leo would do best with an active family, and would be happy to be the only dog. He can do well with other dogs, but he is selective.
To learn more about Leo or 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 due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.
Aurora the Sweetheart
Meet our big, beautiful gal, Aurora! This princess has the sweetest face and is a real doll once she accepts you into her circle of friends. Aurora lived her whole life in a home, so coming to the shelter made no sense at all. She was very scared here, but has already come such a long way! Aurora is quickly making friends and would love to get back into the home life that she knows, and get out of this heat! Aurora enjoys the company of other dogs and is 100 pounds of sensitive love! If you would like to add this beauty to your family, you can apply at www.mendohumanesociety.com.
The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.
Happy Cat
Happy is just what her name implies, happy. This 1-year-old kitty likes to run around and seems more interested in the environment than people. She does, however, come in for head scratches and pets when she wants to.
The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Happy or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.
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Woven Artworks
Willits Center for the Arts presents fabric creations from 16 artists; opening night this Saturday
Submitted by the Willits Center for the Arts
The Willits Center for the Arts September show presents "Made in Mendocino," a show of what artists can do with fabrics. There will be quilts, installation art, mobiles, and handmade clothes along with a selection of hand-painted clothes by Pearl Manil.
All the artists included are from Willits and Ukiah. The show features work by Laura Fogg, Ursula Parch, Holly Brackmann, Ann Horton, Nan Trichler, Charlotte Tefft, Betty Lacy, Gretchen Moore, and eight other artists.
The show concentrates on the many ways fabric is used for art. Lacy has created mobiles of fabric that float with the slightest wind. Fogg presents her complex political statements in a mandala with the United Nations statement of women worldwide embroidered into it. Parch will show an installation piece called "Redwoods Saved," made of woven fibers of cotton and wool. The piece stands 8-feet-by-6-feet and will amaze viewers.
Meet the artists this Saturday, August 27, from 6 to 9 pm. The show runs through September 22. The WCA gallery is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm.
The Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street, next to Noyo Theatre. For more information, call 459-1726 or email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org.
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Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center (STRC) is a therapeutic riding program that serves children & youth in Mendocino County. The goal of STRC is to teach the skill of riding to children with disabilities and use the added benefits of horse movement, coordination, and personal awareness to help develop skills and interests in their own lives.

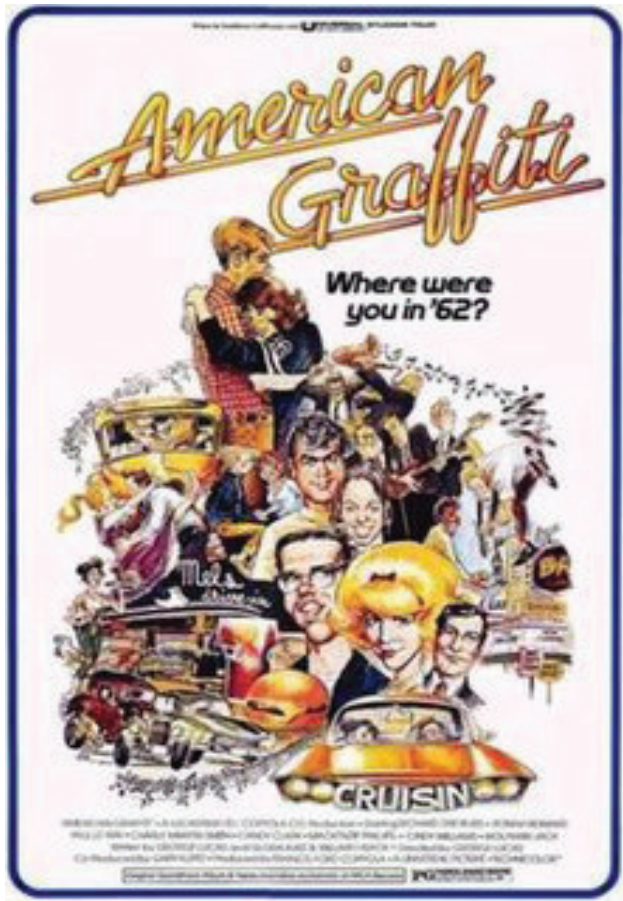












COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

## ‘American Graffiti’

**The Story:** Comedy and drama. It's 1962. Remember high school? The popular kids? The regulars? The nerds? The wild ones who were just a little bit threatening? This flick has them all.



Dan Essman  
Columnist

It's a summer night in a small town. Graduating high school seniors are cruising Main Street. On all the car radios, Wolfman Jack is blasting Fifties rock 'n' roll. Everyone is hungry for something, looking for romance, for sex, or showing off their boss rides. Or just hoping, maybe, to be seen.

Teenagers on the edge of adulthood, but no one is quite there, not yet. Some of the teens have plans to get out of town, to change, to see more of the big world. Some are sad and hoping for everything to remain the same. This flick, made by writer/director George "pre-Star Wars" Lucas, weaves together several stories in tribute to summer nights in his home town, a place only a little bit bigger than Willits.

**My Thoughts:** The tagline on the movie posters is "Where were you in '62?" The Willits High School Graduating Class of 1962 is having their 60th class reunion and asked the Noyo Theatre to run "American Graffiti" as part of the celebration. This well-made and influential movie was released in 1973. That was only 11 years later than the period which the flick memorializes. Even then, that period at the end of the Fifties felt hazy and golden, a kind of a lost paradise.

Maybe it's because the Sixties were so very noisy: LSD, hippies, Vietnam, the Kennedy brothers assassinated, MLK assassinated, the Black Panthers gunned down. Perhaps we were right to mourn and memorialize the era. Today, and I'm not really joking, in celebrating "American Graffiti" we're celebrating nostalgia for nostalgia. It kinda echoes.

**Parents:** It's (horny) teenage humor. So, teens and up. *Willitsian* Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

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Above: Annie Chapman gets her fancy butterfly kite in the air on Sunday, August 21. Above, right: Father and son get their kite high in the sky. At right: Brian Ferri-Taylor shows off his owl kite at the 2nd Annual Willits Kite Fly Up.

Below: Kite Fly Up organizer Greg Suvagian with his handmade kite.

At bottom: A young family flies their sea turtle kite.



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## ‘Send it Soaring’

Kites of all colors and shapes fill the sky at the Second Annual Willits Kite Fly Up on Sunday

Enthusiasm was stronger than the wind as kite flyers gathered on Sunday, August 21, for the Second Annual Willits Kite Fly Up event, organized by Greg Suvagian.

Fellow kite fans Annie and Phil Chapman arrived early to help set up the shade tent and chairs, to create a nice gathering place for the event. Colorful kites were hung up to draw attention, but it didn't take long for fun-seekers to arrive.

A young mom walked up with her two small daughters, who had never flown a kite before. A child-sized butterfly kite was quickly assembled and within moments, the tiny kite caught a breeze and the young girl felt the tug of a kite in flight for the first time.

The wide-eyed excitement on her face was priceless. She instantly proclaimed, "I love flying kites!" Her little sister cried and wanted to fly the kite, too. So, another small kite

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

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## Willits Swimming Pool Fall Schedule

The City of Willits has announced the fall swimming schedule for the Willits City Pool, from August 29 to October 28, 2022.

The Willits City Pool is located to the north of Willits High School's main building at 299 North Main Street. The pool will be open Monday through Thursday, from 6 to 9 am for lap swim, and from 4 to 5 pm for Aqua Aerobics.

Admission price is \$5 for lap swim; \$7 for aqua aerobics; \$6 senior discount.

for more information, call: 1-707-459-5778.

Willits Community and Ukiah Players Theatres Present

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Starring Timothy Fischer

Willits Community Theatre  
Sept. 2 - 4, 2022

Ukiah Players Theatre  
Sept. 8 - 11, 2022  
Gala Night Performance Friday, Sept. 9

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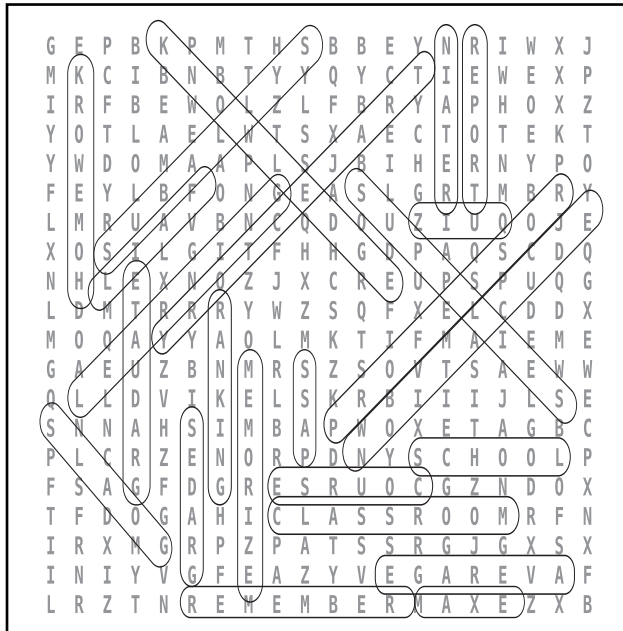
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## Senior Center menu for the week

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, August 25:** Chicken & Rice Casserole, Roll, Green Salad

**Friday, August 26:** Turkey w/Stuffing and Gravy, Veggie, Roll

**Monday, August 29:** Beef Enchiladas, Rice, Beans

**Tuesday, August 30:** Chicken Parmesan, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

**Wednesday, August 31:** Kielbasa w/Peppers & Onions over Rice, Roll

**Thursday, September 1:** Turkey w/Amish Noodles, Green Salad, Roll

**Friday, September 2:** Cheeseburger, Mac Salad

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

## Mariposa Market Customer Appreciation Day, August 27

Customer Appreciation Day at Mariposa Market is Saturday, August 27, from 10 am to 4 pm.

The 43rd year celebration of Willits' organic and natural foods store features Live Music, Face Painting, Tasty Bites, Raffle Baskets and more.

Mariposa Market is located at 500 South Main Street in Willits. Visit [www.mariposamarket.com](http://www.mariposamarket.com) or the "Mariposa Market" Willits page on Facebook.

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

Dr. Bruce Andich, who was part of the influx of "young Turks" from the Bay Area in the 1970s, deftly handled the master of ceremonies duty with his quips and anecdotes from his many years at Howard Hospital, having seen so many come and go over his time.

"This institution was the melting pot," Andich recounted. "Everyone came here at some time. There were two hospitals in Ukiah but that was a long way and there was nothing north of here until Eureka or Fortuna. The 'young Turks' are old codgers now."

Andich introduced all the speakers with, "And this person needs no introduction," prior to introducing Handley; one-time hospital controller Carlton Jacobson; Dr. Tedd Dawson, surgeon for 40 years; Cindy Bodensteiner, a 50-year operating room nurse; and Chris Borycki, known affectionately as the "Boob Lady" for her many years of work in mammography.

Each of the speakers had stories of the people they had known and worked with, conditions of the staff, administration and facilities through the years, tales of personalities, and fist fights in the parking lot.

Andich told one such story: "The married Irv Stoeller, administrator, ran away with Janis, the otherwise also-married director of nurses," mused Andich. "There was absolutely no warning or notice. We woke the next day to a hospital with a serious leadership deficit. Jann Lamprich seized the moment and became the administrator.

"The spurned Mrs. Stoeller then began a relationship with the new anesthesiologist, who came to us from San Francisco with high recommendations but failed to mention his serious addiction to cocaine which came to light when he ran his Porsche into a tree."

Amongst the laughter, there was a serious feeling of loss and sadness, as if the fond memories were trying to overcome the inevitable destruction of this much-beloved building. Through the years, science and politics have created many changes in an ever-evolving medical practice, but they do nothing to erase the love of this hospital in which so many were born and treated, and in which many have died or spent their entire professional careers.



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

was unpacked and their mom joined in the fun, also. As soccer players left the field, kites started filling the sky with color and shapes of all sort. Aside from the traditional kite styles and newer, triangular "Delta" kites, novelty kites of all types added a delightful whimsy to the aerial show.

Not one, but two turtles took to the sky. Annie Chapman's colorful and frilly butterfly kite was probably the most beautiful kite at the event, but its fancy design struggled to stay aloft, as the wind subsided.

Brian and Kathleen Ferri-Taylor brought their realistic-looking owl kite, which was a good flier. Brian explained that his owl kite not only flies for fun. It has a dual-purpose, serving as a woodpecker deterrent on his property. So, it's a "working kite."

As more kite fliers joined in, there was a "fly over" by a Blue Angel fighter jet kite. Parents joined in with their kids and kites rose up from all over the large field.

After a few hours, as the sun lowered toward the western hills, the winds calmed, challenging the skills of the kite fliers. Switching to lighter kite styles bought more flight time for some, but eventually the wind gusts became gentle breezes and it was time to pack the kites away for the day.

The field slowly cleared of people and kites, as the wind died down. Then, event organizer Suvagian brought out a handmade kite he built. It was a box-type kite, but a more intricate design. When the other kites were grounded for lack of wind, Suvagian's delicate creation came to life in the smallest wafts of air.

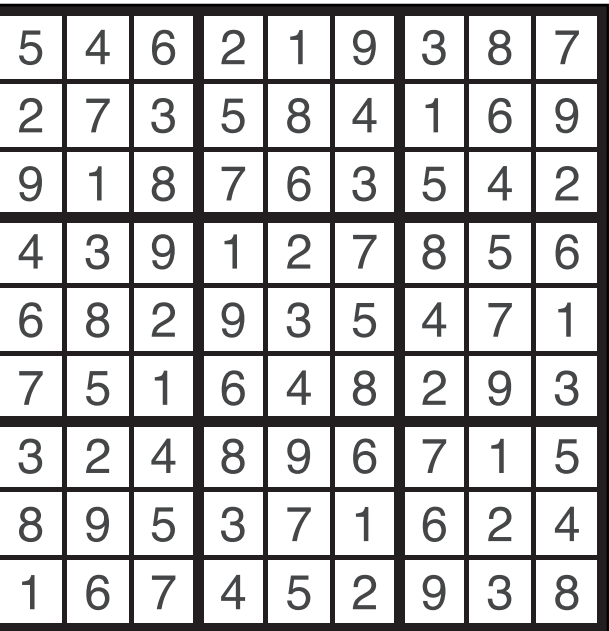
Packing up was a time to share stories of the fun day and plan for the next Kite Fly Up event, which may happen this spring.

So, stay tuned and "let's go fly a kite and send it soaring!"

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Above, from left: John Fisher and Sandy Oppenheimer, who have offered their beautiful artwork at Art in the Gardens since 2012, smile at this year's event. The Real Sarahs take the stage. The dahlia gardens are an eye-popping highlight of the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens for many visitors. At right: This pop-up labyrinth offers some active meditation time at Art in the Gardens. At far right: Memorial benches allow hikers to rest and reflect along the "Path to the Sea" at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. Below: Miss Rossi's Paint & Sip classes are a big crowd-pleaser at the 2022 Art in the Gardens event. At bottom, left: The sign for Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens welcomes visitors to Art in the Gardens on Saturday, August 6 and Sunday, August 7. At bottom, right: A painter enjoys participating in Miss Rossi's Paint & Sip class.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde



## ‘Art in the Gardens’

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg hosts annual event of art vendors and live music

Colorful flags billowed in the breeze as morning fog kissed the Mendocino coast. Anticipation was in the air at the 29th annual Art in the Gardens event, at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg on August 6 and 7.

**Margi Gomez Guhde**  
Features Writer  
margie@willitsweekly.com

The vibe was mellow but focused as artists and craftspeople set up their booths and displayed their wares on the garden's large events lawn. Friends who had not seen each other through the COVID years shouted out greetings and chatted happily.

Over 40 vendors set up at Art in the Gardens this year, with mediums ranging from homemade pet products to high art. Jewelry, paintings, ceramics, mosaics, silk-screens, woodwork, and other unique and diverse offerings offered shoppers much to choose from.

The range of art media was stunning, from whimsical mosaic birdbaths and birdhouses, to giant pomegranates and pinecones in wood-fired ceramics. Wood sculpture and landscape, figurative and abstract paintings to please every taste proved that the universal appeal of art and nature was the main draw at Art in the Gardens.

This was the 29th year of the Art in the Gardens event. Attendance, on average, has been around 1,200 people for the two-day event, but this year the organizers saw around 1,600 visitors. Events coordinator Jamie Campione laughed when I asked how long this much-anticipated event took to organize.

"I work on [Art in the Gardens] all

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



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## A look back: the August Complex fires

Fog in the morning again in Willits the last couple of days has kept the temperatures lower and the fire danger less.

Two years ago, in mid-August 2020 the August Complex lightning fires were on their way to becoming the largest wildfire in California history burning 1 million acres across seven counties.

The fires also produced a huge amount of smoke across Northern California.

On September 8, 2020 in Willits, there was so much smoke that it was dark as midnight at 3 pm, and all the streetlights came on – with videos to prove it. All that smoke also helped put down the local Oak Fire, which was a potential threat to Willits until the wind changed.

CAL FIRE's Forest Health program published a look back at these fires this week, titled: "August Complex: A Wildfire Resilience Success Story: Forest Health treatments yield important management insights."

"Even the most devastating incident provides an opportunity to learn," CAL FIRE posted on Facebook about this story. "The 2020 fire year was unprecedented, with more than 4.3 million acres burned and citizens across the state kept under a blanket of smoky air for months.

"Despite the devastation, there were successes and lessons learned about how fuels reduction projects interact with wildfire and fire suppression tactics. The August Complex, the first California wildfire to reach more than 1 million acres, began on August 18 after several days of dry lightning produced more than 12,000 strikes.

"As a result, more than 90% of the Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Project in the Mendocino National Forest was burned over. At the time of the fire, just more than half of the planned fuel reduction treatments had taken place and were in different stages of completion. How the treatments fared and the lessons learned is the subject of this featured success story."

Below is the text; to see the full story with photos and maps, visit <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1a0a88e7872e48919831793fd496b814>

In mid-August, 2020, a plume of moist air from Tropical Storm Fausto headed northwards, mixing with a hot, dry, high pressure system that had been situated over California and Nevada. The resulting atmospheric instability produced an unprecedented dry lightning storm. Between August 16 and August 18, more than 12,000 lightning strikes were recorded, resulting in some 585 ignitions.

Of those ignitions, 37 would go on to constitute the August Complex. Producing fires that were substantial in the own right – such as the Elkhorn and Doe fires – they would eventually merge, leaving a million-acre footprint across seven counties.

The August Complex burned from August 18 to November 12, 2020.

It ultimately consumed 1,032,648 acres, around 1% of the state's total landmass.

The August Complex burned across three national forests – including Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity, and Six Rivers – and seven counties, including Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Tehama, Glenn, Lake, and Colusa.

### Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project

Critics wouldn't look at a "giga fire" like the August Complex and find much success in it. However, every incident provides an opportunity to evaluate the result and adapt future practices based on that result.

The Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership provided one such opportunity. Under a CAL FIRE Forest Health grant awarded to the Tehama County Resource Conservation District, in collaboration with the Mendocino National Forest (Paskenta), and Crane Mills, the August Complex allowed for a comparative study in fuels management practices that will guide management decisions well into the future.

The area has an extensive fire history, but all prior incidents dwarf in comparison to the August Complex.

At the time of the fire approximately 2,500 of the planned 4,054 acres of the Tehama Mendocino Fuels Reduction Partnership had been treated.

Treatments across the project area focused on basal area reduction, and included mastication, manual hand-cut/pile, mechanical cut/pile, and mechanical thin/biomass removal.

Some 90% of the project footprint area was burned over by the August Complex fires.

Differences among treatments provided an opportunity to observe how treatment prescription may have influenced fire behavior and overstory mortality.

### Lessons learned

A review of the landscape post-fire suggests that fire behavior was influenced by all basal area reduction treatments. Fire activity was moderated, transitioning from crown fire to surface fire where basal area – and therefore canopy density – were reduced.

Despite the moderation in fire activity, complete overstory mortality was observed in all treatment areas where biomass had not been removed. These treatment areas experienced a rearrangement of fuel such that the thick mat of masticated or piled material acted as "jackpots," eventually killing the roots of overstory trees as they smoldered and emitted heat.

Areas within the footprint that were treated at least four years prior did not experience overstory mortality, likely because the resulting fuel mats had decomposed or the piles had been burned previously.

Minimal mortality was observed in treatment areas where the biomass was removed from the site (in this case, utilized for bioenergy production).

Long fire residence time in the fuel bed likely resulted in root damage and eventual mortality to the residual overstory.

The interval between treatment and the occurrence of wildfire allowed the material to decompose, resulting in beneficial fire effect and minimal overstory mortality.

### A Forest Health success story

While the treatment areas in the Tehama Mendocino Fuels Reduction Partnership project did reduce wildfire activity, this event constitutes a different kind of success story. By providing a rare opportunity to compare fuels management practices, this project will help guide biomass management decisions to come. This small case study suggests that biomass generated from Forest Health fuels treatments should be removed from the site if managers want stands to be resilient to wildfire in the near term.

Forest Health practitioners can take these lessons and use them to guide management decisions going forward.

Learn more about CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program at [www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/climate-change-and-energy/forest-health](http://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/climate-change-and-energy/forest-health)

## Willits man killed in motorcycle accident

Submitted by the California Highway Patrol, Garberville

On Sunday August 14, Douglas Prado, 70, of Willits, while driving a 2009 Harley Davidson motorcycle, was killed after being hit by a wrong-way driver on Highway 101 southbound at Talmage Road.

At approximately 6:25 pm, Ronald Sarenus, 83, of Ukiah was attempting to merge his white 2013 Toyota Venza onto Highway 101 southbound on the ramp from Talmage Road. At the same time, the Willits man driving a blue Harley Davidson motorcycle was on Highway 101 southbound to Talmage Road.

Sarenus turned from Talmage Road and drove the wrong way onto Highway 101, southbound to

Talmage Road. The motorcycle was struck by the SUV traveling the wrong way.

As a result of the collision, the driver of the motorcycle sustained fatal injuries, and the driver of the SUV was unharmed. Sarenus remained on scene and cooperated with authorities.

Alcohol and drugs do not appear to be a factor in this collision. This incident is an active investigation.

*Editor's Note: Last week's CHP press release did not include the name of the driver of the motorcycle, pending notification of his next of kin, but Mendocino County Sheriff's Office confirmed this week it was Douglas Prado of Willits.*



The rest of **Shelter** From page 1

cats of every age, size, and temperament! Come in and visit us and we can match you with the perfect pal. To see adoptable cats, visit <https://mendohumanesociety.com/adoptable-cats>

2) FOSTER! Have some space in your home, but aren't too sure about having a furry friend for more than a few weeks? Fostering helps the shelter immensely by opening up space and staff time to accommodate new cats.

3) VOLUNTEER! We usually only have about four staff or so a day to help care for our cats on-site, so they could really use the extra attention from volunteers! Grooming, cuddling, and playing with our kitties helps them stay happy and healthy.

4) DONATE! Whether it be food, toys, blankets, or even money, we could not care for all our cats without your help! We strive to keep our adoption prices as low as we can to prevent it from being a barrier to pet ownership, but our \$100 fee barely covers the medical costs of an adopted cat's spay/neuter and vaccines. We use all other donations to care for the cats in all the other ways, and with almost 200 cats, it definitely isn't cheap. Our food bill is about \$500 every month for the cats alone!

However you can help, our staff and our animals are grateful for your contribution to the care of the homeless felines in our community! Thank you!!

### Adoptions by Owner

HSIMC also announced a new tool last week for those who need to find new homes for their pets.

"We know times are hard, and many pets are

in need of being rehomed," HSIMC posted on Facebook on August 19. "While we can't say yes to every request we want to help provide solutions, including something new: "Adoptions by Owner."

Pet owners are invited to upload a photo and description of pets needing a new home, after completing an "Owner and Pet Information" form.

"Please include the following information about your pet: pet description, age, spay/neuter status, and any other information that will help find the right home for your pet – including your contact information. Pet owners and potential adopters are responsible for communications as far as veterinary records and other needed information."

To submit a pet that needs to be rehomed go to: <https://mendohumanesociety.com/adoptions-by-owner>

### Kritter Karnival & Silent Auction

HSIMC also announced plans for the return of the Kritter Karnival & Silent Auction on Sunday, September 18, at the HSIMC facility at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. The first Kritter Karnival was in 2019, but has been on hiatus thanks to COVID.

It's a Family Fun Day, with free admittance, live music by Chicka Boom, kids activities, temporary tattoos, silent action, bounce house, petting zoo, a fire truck courtesy of Redwood Valley Fire Department, and beer, wine and lunch available for purchase.

More info: 707-485-0123 or [info@hsmc.org](mailto:info@hsmc.org).

**94<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**  
**MENDOCINO COUNTY FAIR AND APPLE SHOW**

**DATES:** Friday, September 23 through Sunday, September 25, 2022

**LOCATION:** Fairgrounds, Boonville, Anderson Valley, Mendocino County, California

**HOURS:** 9 am to Midnight Daily!

**ADMISSION:** ★ Adults - \$10 ★ Juniors 13-18 - \$8 ★ Children 7-12 - \$6 ★ 6 and under - Free  
Admission tickets available online at [mendocountyfair.com](https://mendocountyfair.com)

**SPECIAL PROMOTIONS:** ★ Friday - Seniors - 65 and over \$6 - ALL DAY!  
★ Friday - Children 12 and under - FREE!  
★ Three Day Pass for Seniors - 65 & over - \$20 (Purchase Pre-Fair)

**CARNIVAL:** ★ Daily! Pay-One-Price for Unlimited Rides - Valid all day  
\$35 Pre-Sale (before Fair opens) - \$40 if purchased during Fair  
Pre-Sale available at the Fair Office & Lemon's Market in Philo, A.V. Elementary School & online at [mendocountyfair.com](https://mendocountyfair.com)

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** **HORSE SHOWS** - Friday ★ 4-H & FFA - 8 am ★ Open - 11 am ★ Rodeo Arena  
**APPLE BOWL VARSITY FOOTBALL** - Friday - 5 PM - Arena

**DANCE** - Friday ★ 8 pm to 10 pm in the Rodeo Arena featuring **Scott Forbes Band** ★ Free with Fair Admission!  
**C.C.P.R.A. RODEOS** ★ Saturday night - 8 pm ★ Sunday afternoon - 2 pm

**DANCE** - Saturday ★ 9:30 pm to Midnight in the Rodeo Arena featuring **Dean Titus & The Coyote Cowboys** ★ Free with Fair Admission!

**SHEEP DOG TRIALS** - Sunday - 10 am - Rodeo Arena  
**CLASSIC CAR SHOW** - Sunday - 10 am - Rodeo Parking Lot  
**PARADE** - Sunday at Noon - Highway 128 to Rodeo Arena

**DANCE** - Sunday ★ 6 pm to 9:00 pm in the Rodeo Arena featuring **Los Cautivos & Los Elegantes DTC** ★ Free with Fair Admission!

**ENTERTAINMENT:** All Free with Fair Admission - Continuous Family Entertainment, including –  
**Godfrey the Magician** – Multiple Shows Daily – Lawn Stage

**BRI** Crabtree ★ Cutest Show on Earth  
★ Music by Jamie Floyd ★ Dennis Forel - Ballonacy  
★ Pony Land Petting Zoo, 10 am to 6 pm

**PPLE TASTING** Daily! Sample some of Mendocino County's award winning vineages!

**WINE TASTING:** Daily! Sample some of Mendocino County's award winning vineages!

**SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS:** **24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CALIFORNIA WOOL & FIBER FESTIVAL**  
**95<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CALIFORNIA NATIONAL WOOL SHOW**

★ Livestock Shows ★ Parade of Champions – Saturday ★ Floral and Garden Displays  
★ Feature Booths ★ Apple Displays ★ Arts and Crafts ★ Classic Car Judging  
★ Pony Rides ★ Spinning Contest – Sunday

**PARKING:** \$5 **PLEASE:** No Pets **WEBSITE:** [www.mendocountyfair.com](https://www.mendocountyfair.com)

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Highway 101 to Highway 128 West to Boonville  
**MAILING ADDRESS:** P. O. Box 458 - Boonville, CA 95415  
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:** 707.895.3011 **EMAIL:** [mcocfair@pacific.net](mailto:mcocfair@pacific.net)



SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

**Agape Bible Church**  
290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
*Where love is first and the Bible is central.*  
Sunday Services:  
10:00 a.m. - Worship  
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
www.agapebiblechurch.com

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456  
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.

**Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom**  
•Sound of Soul events  
•Membership Discourses  
•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  
**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 Aaron Bandanadam*  
Mass times:  
Confessions by appointment: 459-2252  
Sunday Mass inside: 9:00 a.m. English 10:30 a.m. Spanish  
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Covid guidelines apply.  
*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**  
Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
*ALL ARE WELCOME*

**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
707-459-5714  
Friendly, open worship  
Saturdays  
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
Zoom Transmission Available.  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m.  
399 W. Mendocino Ave.  
*All are welcome!*

**Willits United Methodist**  
*A Christ centered, progressive church*  
*ALL ARE WELCOME*  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.  
459-2855  
Facebook: www.facebook.com  
If you want to be included in this column please call:  
**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com



Above, from left: Pat Yoxall entertains with her ukulele at the Willits Physical Therapy table. Ellie "Bean" Bruce and Robert "Legz" Smith serve chili for the Little Lake Grange. The Willits Wild Bunch brought their secret chili recipe. Richard Baker, Harrah Senior Center executive director, oversees the event. Below, left: The "Mike Tobin Method" utilizes a cupcake pan to methodically sample the chilis. Below, right: Every chili has a distinct look as well as taste and kick.



## Fiery Competition

Chili Cook-off returns with some tasty entries to help raise money for the Willits Senior Center

Fourteen entities vied for the right to be called the "Best Chili" at the Willits Senior Center's annual contest (with a couple lost years due to the pandemic) last Friday. Although this year's entries were moved to Recreation Grove Park, the sense of fierce, but friendly, competition remained. Each chili was unique in its presentation of flavor and ingredients, even the table decorations in which they were ensconced and offered to the hungry public were unique.

Amid the light-hearted competition, each proud purveyor of the varying degree of spicy-hot comfort food gladly extolled the tasters with tales of how they were created. Although, some played it closer to the vest than others, preferring to let the results do the talking.

At the Willits Rotary table, Tamara Alaniz boasted: "We have winning attitudes. We have Hammer-Smashed Chili, Chicken Chile Verde. Everything has actually physically been smashed by a hammer at some point. Every chili, every tomato can, everything. Every piece of meat, every onion. Every shallot, every garlic. Everything.

"And there's no beans," continued Alaniz. "This is Texas-style chili. This is based on the band Cannibal Corpse's song 'Hammer Smashed Face.'"

"[This is a] no fart zone – gluten-free, tootin' free," she joked. "Rotary doesn't fart around. I want to win. I want to enter the first chili cook-off I've ever entered and win and then retire as champion."

The Little Lake Grange entry was stewarded by Ellie "Bean" Bruce and Robert "Legz" Smith.

"There's a lot of stuff in the chili," said Bruce surreptitiously. "This is locally sourced Grange chili. It has our secret Grange seasoning. It has ground beef that Mike Adams, one of our Grange members raised in town. It has tomatoes and bell peppers and onions and garlic, all from the Farmers Market. The black beans are from the

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

At left, above: Elizabeth Basterrechea of Willits Physical Therapy is, obviously, a Cincinnati Bengals fan. At left: Adam Celaya presents his chili in an ice cream waffle cup.

At right: Young Emily Adams helps to run the Northbrook Healthcare Center booth.

Below, from left: Here is an example of the proper way to serve Cincinnati chili. The Little Lake Fire District booth is manned by Harry So and Samantha Sundvold. Willits City Finance Director Manuel Orozco samples some Rotary Club chili.



The rest of **Botanical** From page 12

year long!" Campione explained. "But most of the planning and logistics begin falling into place between January to August. It takes a solid six to seven months, around 40 volunteers, and almost 20 staff members!"

Campione was enthusiastic about the Sip & Paint event hosted by Miss Rossi. "Most people really enjoy spending a few hours in the garden getting their creative juices flowing. You can't really ask for a more beautiful setting to enjoy a glass of wine and create your own piece of art!"

A variety of food purveyors participated in Art in the Gardens, including the ever-popular Cowlick's Ice Cream, and the Botanical Garden's Rhodie's Cafe. Fort Bragg's iconic Thanksgiving Coffee was on hand selling coffee by the pound, and offering free cups to all comers.

As the gate opened for visitors, musicians tuned up on the ample stage. Art in the Gardens has long featured some of the best musical talent in Mendocino County, and 2022 was no exception. Fingers snapped and bodies began to sway as bands from diverse genres took the stage.

New Nashville West with Gene Parsons, the Real Sarahs, Moon Rabbit, and Mama Grows Funk made sweet music all weekend, attracting locals and visitors to the grassy "dance floor," while others hung out with friends in the circle of hay bales or at cocktail tables spread around the lawn.

Button Quinn was the featured artist this year, and her silvery blue painting of the coastal cliffs was chosen for this year's poster. She told me that the staff at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens could not have done more to make her feel special.

"Art in the Gardens is magical," Quinn said. "Great weather, wonderful food, so many happy faces. I haven't smiled and talked so much in years."

Dynamic artist duo Sandy Oppenheimer and John Fisher presented their work for the 10th year of Art in the Gardens. Fisher is an accomplished marble sculptor, whose work "Prayer" was purchased by an anonymous buyer, and was then donated back to the Botanical Gardens. It is now living amongst the heath and heather collection.

Oppenheimer is a master collage artist who described her work as, "painting with paper." She was the featured artist back in 2012, and she said Art in the Gardens is one of her very favorite art fairs.

"Once your work is featured," said Oppenheimer, "the gardens sets up a tent and panels for you, which makes it much easier. The hometown feel is what makes this event unique. Most of the vendors and musicians are local. It's like one big garden party."

In addition to the formal art, there were also areas set up for unique art experiences, such as an on-site community painting project from the non-profit Flockworks, and a meditative walking experience from artist William Grace Frost, who creates temporary and permanent labyrinths. Willits' own Miss Rossi presented two days of "Paint & Sip" to an enthusiastic group, offering a beginner painting experience that included some of Mendocino County's finest wines.

Art in the Gardens was just part of all there was to see at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens on August 6 and 7. Areas of dahlias, heathers, rhododendrons, succulents and more were just a walk away from the events lawn. The ample vegetable garden displayed fabulous edibles and sky-high sunflowers and herbs of all kinds.

As always, several handmade benches could be found, adorned with bronze plaques etched with poetry and names, memorializing departed loved ones and offering the opportunity to sit and take in the beauty of this special place. Sea birds and even whales can often be spotted from this unforgettable path to the sea, which leads the walker through unspoiled nature, to where the blue Pacific beckons at the edge of the world.

The Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens is located at 18220 North Highway 1 in Fort Bragg. They are open 10 am to 5 pm daily. Tickets cost \$15; \$12 for seniors 65 and older; \$8 for children ages 6 to 14; children 5 and under are free. Call 707-964-4352 or visit [www.gardenbythesea.org](http://www.gardenbythesea.org) for further information.

The rest of **Chili** From page 14

Grange Grain Project. This chili has a little kick at the end."

Gloria Westby of Coast Hardware was pitted against her group, the Willits Wild Bunch. She was conflicted but nonetheless wanted to win.

"We are the Patriotic Chili," she said proudly, wearing a T-shirt that had "Merica" printed on it. "It's just hamburger and chili beans, chorizo, special seasonings, kidney beans, and a lot of love."

The Wild Bunch, on the other hand, declared that their chili was mostly unstated ingredients, "It's a secret what's in the chili," said Richard "Pops" Venturi. "A little bit of 20-50 weight (oil). That makes it go through easier. Easy in, easy out. If it has a little burn goin' down, that would be the whiskey. You can have it in a separate glass or all in one bowl."

Shay, of Full Spectrum Paint, who brought his family to man the booth, said: "Our secret ingredient is pork sausage and several spices and some goop, some of our leftover paint. We have to get rid of it somewhere. Brokeback chili, 'wish I could quit ya.'"

Elizabeth Basterrechea of Willits Physical Therapy offered Cincinnati-style chili, designed to be eaten over spaghetti. As she prepared the food, Pat Yoxall serenaded on her ukulele. At the next table, Virginia Jorge ran the Senior Center Bean-Go Chili, a nod to the weekly bingo game which she will be restarting at the first of the year.

Northbrook Healthcare Center had the unique Bi-Tri Chili, made from bison tri tip. "The chili has beans, veggies, three kinds of meat," explained Brittany Adams. "We've got bison, tri tip, hamburger."

Nearby, Adam Celaya served just plain chili. "This chili has no name," he claimed. "Just plain chili, not the world's hottest, spiciest chili. Simple chili with flavor and seasoning, that's all. It's just chili. How hard can that be?" His entry was served in an ice cream cone.

Little Lake Fire with Harry So and Samantha Sundvold brought a fire engine in case anyone's chili was too over-the-top hot, like the Hillbilly Chili next door, created by Michael Pitts.

The winner of both the Best Chili and the Best Decorated Table was Mike Tobin's Matsubayashi Shorin-Ryu Sheriff's Activity League Karate Club.

"We have real chili," insisted Tobin. "This is not chili with beans. This is actual Texas chili made with meat, not California chili where they put beans in it. That's chili with beans."

Sadly, this year there was no Hottest Chili award. "We got complaints in the past," quipped Richard Baker, Senior Center executive director. "People were making the chili so hot that it fried people's taste buds. They couldn't taste anything afterwards. I tried to encourage people to eat those chilis last. It just escalated over time."

"I think Hillbilly Chili won several years in a row," said Baker, "until Little Lake Fire won one year. Hillbilly came back with chili just so hot that nobody could stand it. People had to rush to the bathroom. I think a couple people also vomited. We would have to have people sign a medical release and have an ambulance on site."

So, whatever one considers "real chili," the variety and creativity exhibited at the Harrah Senior Center's Chili Cook-off was a treat for the piquant-minded epicures. In addition to the chili, the Senior Center sold their traditional root beer floats, and provided free corn bread muffins to accompany the chili.



Above: Sophia, left, and Joselyn enjoyed their own plates at the July breakfast. The girls help out by serving juice and also helping to set up and clean up. Above, right: Little Lake Grange Business Manager Erica Bruce-Kroesen sells breakfast tickets at the July Pancake Breakfast.



Above: Cathy Welling tends a batch of fried eggs on the griddle.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Above: Checking in for a Sunday morning family breakfast, from left, Gracie, Maureen, Magnolia and Matt Jennison. Above, right: Barbie Svendsen loads up a plate of breakfast goodies in the Grange Kitchen. Below, left: Richard Jergenson shows off his three pancake batter dispensers, from left: Buttermilk, Gluten-Free and Sourdough. Below right: Volunteer server Mark, center, helps Lynn and Rick Williams with the details of their breakfast orders.



The rest of **Cannabis** From page 2

The Mendocino Cannabis Advocacy Awards and Dinner will take place from 4 to 7 pm at Cafe Beaujolais on September 19, 2022. Tickets can be purchased at [www.eventbrite.com/e/mendocino-cannabis-advocacy-awards-dinner-tickets-399750724177](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/mendocino-cannabis-advocacy-awards-dinner-tickets-399750724177).

Ticket prices include world-famous pizza from Cafe Beaujolais, farm-fresh salad and raspberry lemonade from MCA member Radicle Herbs, delectable local dessert, coffee, music, goodies from our members' personal gardens, access to our very special silent auction, and more!

MCA has sponsorships available for this event and the ongoing work of the organization. Visit <https://mendocannabis.com/sponsors> for more information. To join MCA as a locally licensed cannabis business, visit <https://mendocannabis.com/join>.

Individuals without licensed cannabis businesses who wish to support our efforts can go to <https://mendocannabis.com/register/individual-non-business-supporters> to become an MCA supporter.

Those wishing to donate funds to support the work of MCA without becoming a member or sponsor can visit [www.efundraisingconnections.com/c/MCA](http://www.efundraisingconnections.com/c/MCA) to make a digital donation, or email [info@mendocannabis.com](mailto:info@mendocannabis.com) for alternative donation options.

MCA is a not-for-profit California Mutual Benefit Corporation, but donations are NOT tax deductible.

The Mendocino Cannabis Alliance serves and promotes Mendocino County's world-renowned cannabis cultivators and businesses through sustainable economic development, education and public-policy initiatives.

## Pancakes Plus

Monthly fourth-Sunday breakfast back into the swing at the Little Lake Grange

Don't forget it's the Little Lake Grange's Pancake Breakfast this weekend, Sunday, August 28, from 8 to 11 am. The monthly Pancake Breakfast returned from its COVID hiatus in July, and plans to continue every fourth Sunday.

The three choices of pancakes - Sourdough Wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, or Gluten-Free – are the stars of the breakfast plate, but the organic local eggs, Beeler's Quality Bacon, and a delicious organic fruit salad are also tasty, with real butter, juice and organic coffee or tea, plus Amish Organic Maple Syrup for \$1.

Tickets are \$9, \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for children under 10.

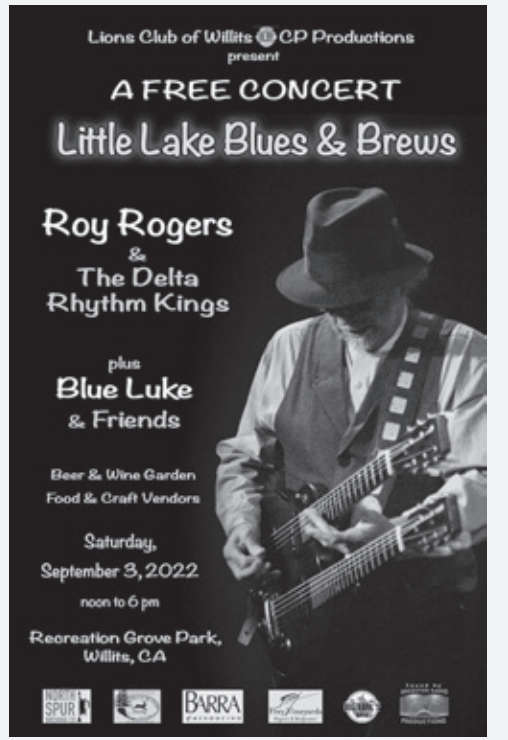
Little Lake Grange #670 is located at 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of Main Street)

– Jennifer Poole

## Little Lake Blues & Brews, September 3

Lions Club of Willits and CP Productions present a Free Concert, LITTLE LAKE BLUES & BREWS, featuring Roy Rogers & The Delta Rhythm Kings plus Blue Luke & Friends.

Little Lake Blues & Brews is set for Saturday, September 3, 2022, from noon to 6 pm, at Recreation Grove Park in Willits. Also featuring a Beer & Wine Garden and Food & Craft vendors.





# TURNING UP THE HEAT HOT SEATS



**FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 6 – 10PM**

It gets hotter every hour with Free Play prizes increasing from \$25 – \$100. At 10pm, we're turning up the heat even more with **\$150 Free Play plus 10 entries** for the 5,000 Degrees Grand Prize Drawing on Sept 30 to **win \$5,000 Cash!**

Must earn 300 same-day points to be eligible.

For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club.



## THE HEAT IS ON MONDAYS

**10AM – 10PM**



The higher the temperature (points earned on Mondays), the more you get to play on us! Choose one offer.

---

250 DEGREES (250 pts earned) = \$5 Free Play

---

500 DEGREES (500 pts earned) = \$10 Free Play

---

1000 DEGREES (1000 pts earned) = \$25 Free Play

For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club.



## SIZZLING SUNDAY SPINS



At **3 pm**, 5 winners who earn 100 same-day points will spin the wheel to win up to \$100 Free Play.

At **7 pm**, 5 winners who earn 200 same-day points will spin to win up to \$100 Free Play.

For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club.



**SHERWOOD  
VALLEY CASINO**

**WWW.SVRCASINO.COM**

**100 Kawi Place • Willits, CA 95490 Tel: 707-459-7978**

Management reserves the right to cancel or modify any promotion at any time without notice.  
For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.