# Council still talking, not cutting yet

Jennifer Poole

Editor & Reporter

After two special budget workshops, members of the Willits City Council were still stymied in understanding details of budget cuts they will need to make to the 2025/26 fiscal year budget due to lack of data or numbers that have changed. Councilmember Gerry Gonzalez called the amount of cuts the council will be required to make to balance the budget "a moving target."

At the end of the August 20 "all-day" budget workshop, interim City Manager Rod Wilburn explained that the \$5 million In cuts, a figure Mayor Tom Allman cited, was meant as a projection over a five year period. "I think you have to look at this as a five-year projection, not all this year, but there should be a plan in place that shows, over this timeframe, this is how we're getting finances back into good shape."

The agenda for the regular August 27 city council meeting had no budget vote or formal discussion of specific budget cut listed. Councilmembers did approve another resolution to extend municipal operations another 30 days

 $\stackrel{\text{Read the rest of}}{\textbf{Budget}} \Big \rfloor$ 

Over on Page 11

#### Council to discuss response to grand jury September 10

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Willits City Council has scheduled a public discussion at the September 10 meeting about the council's required responses to the grand Jury report, "Healing the Toxic Culture In the City of Willits Workplace."

The city's responses are due by September 29, 90 days after the report was released on June 30.

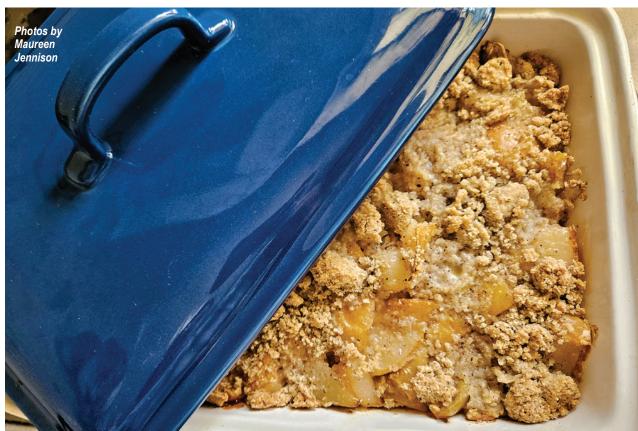
Tom Allman Mayor announced at the August 27 council meeting that he has appointed ad hoc committee of Councilmember Gerry Gonzalez and Councilmember Mathew Alaniz "to prepare an initial response to the grand jury report." On September 10, Allman continued, "it will be on the agenda to have a public discussion on the grand jury report."

Here are five findings listed in the grand jury report:

F1. The Grand Jury found the existence of a toxic and intimidating workplace

Read the rest of Response

Response |
Over on Page 11



Pear crumble, right out of the oven (above) is the best served with a splash of cream (below).



# The Perfect Pear

Fruit, and crumble topping, are the perfect pairing for using up late summer's fruit, even if it means turning on the oven

Heat your oven to 375 degrees, and chop and core pears, apples or other fruits and toss together with a handful of cornstarch and freshly grated nutmeg, cinnamon or other spices you enjoy. You can also add a splash of liquor, like rum, brandy or Amaretto. In another bowl, crumble together two sticks of cut-up cold butter, a cup of flour, a cup of brown sugar, a dash of vanilla extract, a heavy dash of the same spices that you added to the fruit, and a pinch of salt. You can also add rolled oats, toasted and chopped nuts or coconut, or even crumbled graham crackers, Nilla wafers, or even lightly sweetened cereal in a pinch! The idea is to give the dessert a sweet and textured topping. Butter a baking dish, pile in the fruit, and top with the crumble topping. Dot the top of the crumble with additional butter pats if desired. Cover and bake until fruit bubbles and top browns, finish uncovered for a few minutes at the end for best browning. Serve with a drizzle of unsweetened cream – even better the next day, cold for breakfast!

– Maureen Jennison



# Steamin Up!

Roots readies for 43rd annual steam festival this weekend



At top: The Roots of Motive Power yard will be open and equipment operating this weekend for the annual steam-up event. Above: Free train rides are always a highlight. Below, from left: In the past, Wendy Wilmes donated tomatoes to the Roots silent auction. Making prints with the steam roller is a sight to see – bring a cut piece to ink, or create one at the event. Lots of bidding – silent and live – takes place to win all the great items at the Roots barbecue.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Roots of Motive Power is proud to present its annual Steam Festival! This event takes place Saturday, September 6 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, September 7 from 10 am to 4 pm. Expect to hear whistles tooting and bells ringing as Roots steams up for the 43rd year in a row. Historic train rides and old logging equipment demonstrations will be going on throughout the festival which will

be featuring: steam locomotives, a steam shovel, steam rollers, stationary engines, Cat & Allis-Chalmers tractors, Mack AC truck, the Keystone steam powered well driller, and more. On Saturday, the annual Appreciation Barbecue begins at 4 pm. Look forward to our world- famous BBQ and live music, a raffle, and a silent and live auction will fill the afternoon with cheers. Don't miss the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association, our guests in Recreation Grove Park. This year we will have Steam Roller Street Printing on Saturday ONLY. One of our Buffalo Springfield Steam Rollers will be making linoleum prints with the help of talented artists from around the state. You can try your hand at print-making and say you did it with an antique steam roller! All in all, it's a unique show you won't want to miss! Directions: Take Willits Main Street and turn on East Commercial Street you'll find Roots at 420 East Commercial Street.

- Posted by Roots of Motive Power



# Proposed zoning changes seek to

seek to encourage Main Street renaissance

B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter

willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits' Main Street, from the bottom of Sherwood Road to the Highway 20 intersection at the Safeway, has 27 vacant commercial storefronts. At a packed August 27 city council meeting, the council and a very eager public discussed proposed ordinance fill those vacancies, encourage businesses, to have fewer restrictions, more people, and even a sake brewery, on downtown Main Street.

The proposed ordinance is for a new Main Street Mixed Use Zone that will run from the Northspur Brewery a block north of Commercial Street, to the Mariposa Market at Alameda Street. A major part of the ordinance will eliminate the current requirement for Street businesses to have off-street parking. Several speakers who want to open businesses said the offstreet parking requirements could not be met for many buildings on Main Street.

Read the rest of Zoning

Over on Page 11

# Little Lake Fire Protection District's August update

Submitted by Little Lake Fire

This August update is the monthly report submitted to the Willits City Council by the Little Lake Fire Protection District. The reports generally are submitted for the second WCC meeting of each month, or August 27 last month.

#### Around the Firehouse

We have completed our annual state mandated inspections of all Schools, Hotels/Motels and Apartments. We have finished up our local Frontier Days events which included providing EMTs for the main rodeos, Jr. Rodeo, as well as engine coverage for the truck pulls.

We are gearing up for Harvest Moon (October 4), Haunted Fire House and providing EMTs for the upcoming high school and youth football games.

I would like to thank the volunteers for their dedication, time and hard work they provide for their community. Michelle is in the process of looking for a grant to fund Smoke/CO detectors as we are running low. She is also looking for a grant to purchase a

Read the rest of LLFPD

Over on Page 4

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

#### 'Summer Scholars' fundraiser set for October 11

To the Editor:

We are a small group of volunteers working to encourage and enhance the progression of the north county area high school graduates to Mendocino College enrollment. Although not an entirely new concept, "Summer Scholars" was launched last summer that propelled the opportunity for North County high school students to earn college credits to new horizons.

"Summer Scholars" is an educational enrichment opportunity open to all incoming 9th through 12th graders to take two college courses at the Willits North County Center during the summer. In addition to college credit, students receive transportation from outlying areas, lunch, a stipend, and a field trip as part of the program. Students get a chance to explore career and educational options to get them thinking about their

This program was funded with grant money that is no longer available. The success of this program begs it be kept alive!

Our volunteer group is called "North County Friends of Mendocino College" and we work to help fill funding gaps at the North County Center. We are facing the biggest challenge in our being. We ask for your help in the continuing the program we call, "The Bridge between High School and College," Please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 11, and plan to join us for a special dinner and evening celebrating continuing education. Tickets will soon be available at the Willits campus or online.

> Dillon Slater, president, North County Friends of Mendocino College

#### Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians issues statement on unauthorized claims

Submitted by Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians

September 3, 2025 - The Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians has become aware that an individual is claiming to represent our Tribe as a delegate. This person, Tina Sutherland, previously served on the Kai Poma Board of Directors but no longer holds any official role, authority, or capacity to act on behalf of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians.

The Tribal Council affirms that only duly appointed and current delegates are authorized to represent the Tribe in any official matters. Any statements, commitments, or representations made by this individual are unauthorized and invalid.

"The integrity of our governance and representation is central to the sovereignty of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians," stated the Tribal Council. "We want to make it absolutely clear to our citizens, partners, and the public that this individual does not speak

The Tribe has taken appropriate steps to notify relevant partners, agencies, and organizations of this misrepresentation and will pursue all necessary actions to protect the Tribe's name and sovereignty.

For verification of official delegates or representatives of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, please contact Talisha Melluish, Tribal Administrator, (707) 459-9690, ta@sherwoodband.com.

The Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo are located on three sites near the city of Willits. They are a Northern Pomo people who still reside on their ancestral lands. Sherwood Valley is governed by a General Council made up of all its adult Tribal Members and is represented in its daily administration and business via a duly elected seven-member Tribal Council.

#### Sierra Club Redwood Chapter calls for comments on repeal of 'Roadless Rule'

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has opened a three-week public comment period on its proposed repeal of the Roadless Rule, a critical conservation policy safeguarding nearly 60 million acres of undeveloped national forest lands across the country, and over 4 million acres across California and here on the North

The Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club (representing Northern California's forests and communities from the North Bay to the Oregon border) calls on community members, outdoor enthusiasts, and concerned citizens to submit comments opposing this rollback before the deadline on September 19,

Comments may be submitted online here https://www. regulations.gov/document/FS-2025-0001-0001 or through snail mail to: Director Ecosystem Management Coordination, 201 14th Street SW, Mailstop 1108, Washington, DC 20250-1124.

The repeal of the Roadless Rule would directly impact treasured wildlands within our region that provide essential habitat, clean water, and recreation opportunities. These include the Snow Mountain, Yolla Bolly, Yuki, Trinity Alps, Siskiyou, and Marble Mountain Wilderness Areas and more across the Six Rivers, Mendocino, Shasta, Trinity and Klamath National

Key benefits of the roadless rule to local communities include: Economic Impact: Roadless areas drive local tourism, fuel businesses like outdoor outfitters, campgrounds, and lodges, and support rural economies.

Environmental Resilience: These intact landscapes help reduce wildfire risk by limiting human-caused ignition sources and preserving ecosystem connectivity.

Community Safety and Character: Clean water, wildlife habitat, and quiet forests are the heart of our forests and quality

In response, Redwood Chapter Conservation Chair Teri Shore released the following statement:

"Keeping our forests roadless isn't just about protecting trees, it's about protecting our families and communities. Wildfires are four times more likely to start in forest areas with roads than in roadless areas because roads bring more human activity - cars, campfires, power tools, and sparks - that ignite most wildfires. This is a matter of both community safety and conservation. Defending these places from being opened up to road-building, commercial logging, and mining and drilling is essential, and a commitment we must keep to future generations.'

For more information on the Sierra Club, Redwood Chapter, visit www.sierraclub.org/redwood

# Aaron Construction

Local contractor specializes in custom cabinets, remodels, new construction, deck rebuilds and more

Ben Franklin famously said, "If you want something done, give it to a busy person."

Mathew Caine

They always seem to organize themselves in a manner that ensures completion of a job. At Aaron Luedemann's workshop, it is evident that he is extremely busy, with projects, jobs and assignments. There are areas that seem, to the untrained eye, to

be in disarray, but after spending some time there, and hearing his explanations, one gets a sense that the seemingly uncoordinated piles are actually quite organized, albeit covered in a thin layer of wood dust.

His company, Aaron Construction, does it all. "I'm a general contractor," said Luedemann. "I'm a custom cabinet shop. We are capable of doing anything from the ground up, foundation to roof. I can find somebody to do stonework if needed. I've been doing construction since 2004. I used to work for Coburn's Construction and Cabinetry for about 17 or 18 years. They had a shop north of town. We did a lot of work in Mendocino and Lake counties. We even went to Sonoma County a few times. He was one of those guys who would do just about anything that needed to be done. I learned most everything I know from him.

"I got licensed in 2015," Luedemann said. "I continued working for him for a couple years. Then, I was able to purchase most of his cabinetry tools. We've been on our own since 2020."

Luedemann is a multi-generational Willits resident, along with his wife, Heather, who describes herself as "the wife, the mom, the nana," enjoying her family and taking care of their three adult daughters' kids. Both he and his wife and his three girls graduated from Willits High School, and they all still live in the community, with the exception of one of his daughters who now lives in Lake County. "We have so many relatives here, my kids had to do a whole family tree before they dated anyone in the area," said

Luedemann works long hours and spends his free time in his shop, working on projects and practicing his music. Although Aaron Construction has several large projects, his passion is cabinetry. "I like cabinetry the best," Luedemann explained. "I don't know that I could do it full time, 40 hours a week, all year long, because you're inside, looking at the same place all the time. I like framing different things because you get to be in different locations. The scenery changes. If I had to pick one skill, it would be the cabinetry. It's fun being able to create something out of piles of wood."

Luedemann has another passion, his music. He plays bass and guitar, and is currently in the group, Tastes Like Chicken. In his "spare time" he is building a guitar to his personal specifications.

Recent and current projects include building an arch for his daughter's wedding. "I ended up building it out of African mahogany," he said.

Currently, the company - Luedemann and his two employees - is working on a "barndeminium" residence. "It's basically a big metal building like this shop. The footprint is a 100-by-60 feet, so it's 6,000 square feet. It has about a 4,000-square-foot garage with a two-story residence in the other part of it. That's in Ukiah. I do work in Ukiah and Willits. I have another job we're doing up in Brooktrails, finishing up a little house, putting kitchen cabinets in.

Another project that the company did was the framing for the huge multi-use building at the Willits Charter School. "I worked on the gym / auditorium at the Charter School. We did all the framing for the building. It was a lot of fun. That was my largest project at the time. I keep getting bigger jobs and stretching my abilities. I did the two four-plexes on Mitchell Lane off of Baechtel," said Luedemann. "I worked on The Munchery. We did all the framing for the restaurant. I fabricated all the panels and everything under the bar, did all the faux beams, the post wraps, and all the trim work. I did the pergola outside, the covered patio. That was my first restaurant. It was a fun project."

Aaron Construction will take on smaller jobs as well. "Kitchens and baths are among the favorite things we like to do," Luedemann explained. "I've done some outdoor kitchens. I can fix furniture, repair and refinishing. We can change outlets. We've stepped into the realm of old growth redwood tables with my friend, Matt Harbour, of Harbour Quality Redwood Products. We've been talking about, on our weekends, starting to play with some epoxy tables. We've seen videos of people getting really creative and doing river tables. It would be fun to dive into that a little bit.'

As Willits Weekly was finishing up its interview in Aaron Construction's spacious workshop in the old Remco complex, there was a hint of a rumble which kept getting louder until it overtook the conversation. A loud whistle began to blow as the Skunk Train came thundering by, which could be seen through the open bay doors. "It's pretty cool. Not a lot of people can say the train comes by their job," said Luedemann with an amused grin.

To learn more about Aaron Construction, visit their Facebook page or call 707-354-

707-841-7692 800 Hwy. 20

Lic# 1041980

Willits, CA 95490

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At top, left: Aaron Luedemann shows one of his passion projects that he has been working on in his "spare time." At top, right: This machine creates precisely drilled holes for the dowels that will help hold seams together. Above, left: A custom kitchen made with oak cabinets is on site at the Aaron Construction workshop. Photo by Aaron Construction. Above, right: A double sink vanity in the master bathroom of the "barndominium." Photo by Aaron Construction. At right: Luedemann looks over some of the raw materials he will be using on his projects. Below: Luedemann's workshop is a creative miasma of materials and projects.









Above, left: Luedemann shows the product of the shaper table. Above, right: These pieces of wood will become multi-faceted cabinet faces.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Gas & Diese Pay at the Pum

7am - 10p

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## Celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month this September

#### Submitted by Mendocino County Library

This September, Mendocino County Library invites in school, it all starts with a library card. you to celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month and discover how a single card can open the door to endless

out books. From free programs and job resources to libraries connect communities to information, inspiration, access to every student in the county." and each other.

This year's theme, "One Card, Endless Possibilities," is a reminder that libraries are for everyone – no matter your age, background, or goals. Whether you're diving into a new hobby, searching for your next great read, brushing up on tech skills, or helping your child succeed

"A library card equals access to information," said Mendocino County Librarian Mellisa Hannum. "They help promote literacy and open doors to imagination With a library card, you can do more than check and critical thinking. Library cards are so important, Mendocino County Library is partnering with public homework help, e-books, and Seed Libraries, today's schools on Student Success Cards, a way to offer library

At Mendocino County Library, you'll find:

 Virtual author talks, online tutoring, databases for language learning, and U.S. Citizenship prep courses for taking the Naturalization Test.

Books, digital books, magazines, and newspapers,

Library by Mail, Seed Library, and Library of Things, CA Parks Passes, Discover & Go passes, and more.

• Programs and events for all ages — from storytimes and book clubs to teen game nights, quilting groups, and

Getting a library card is free, easy, and empowering. For students, it's a key to academic success. For adults, it's a gateway to lifelong learning. For everyone, it's a smart way to stay connected to your community

Stop by any branch of the Mendocino County Library the Willits branch is at 390 East Commercial Street - or visit us online at mendolibrary.org to sign up for your card today. Because with a Mendocino County Library card, the possibilities are truly endless.

#### 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



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P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047 willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweeklv@gmail.com / 707-459-2633

Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographress / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-972-7047

Jackie Cobbs, features editor

Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter

BB Kamoroff, news reporter Annie Evarts, reporter / features writer

Addison Alvarado, school board reporter

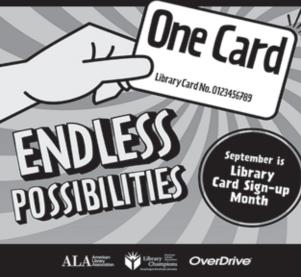
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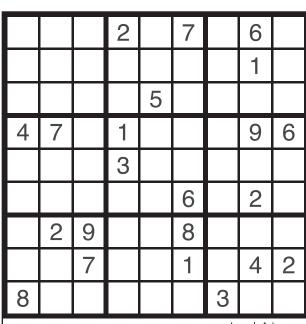






# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



# FRUIT-FILLED WORD SEARCH

UFYVKDCITRONFDIPEARL

|--|



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Fairly large 6. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 9. Cover the entirety of 13. Leafy appetizer
- 14. Showy ornament Norse personification of old age
- 16. Athletes 17. Closes tightly
- 18. Attack via hurling items 19. Where the reserves stand 21. Sword
- 22. Begat 23. Damage another's reputation 24. Northeast
- 25. Turf 28. For each
- 29. Hours (Spanish) 31. Western state 33. One who offers help
- 36. Flanks 38. A woolen cap of Scottish origin 39. Free from drink or drugs
- 41. Tunnels 44. Mature
- 45. More dried-up 46. News organization 48. Steal something 49. Forms one's public

persona (abbr.)

64. Resembling a wing 65. Small projection on a bird's wing 66. Of the Isle of Man

51. Female fish eggs

54. Edible starches

61. Horse grooms

63. Chinese dynasty

60. In a place to sleep

62. Off-Broadway theater award

56. Historical

- 67. Derived unit of force (abbr.) 68. Plate for Eucharist **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Vipers 2. Ancient city in Syria Slog 4. Emits coherent radiation
- 5. 'Pollock' actor Harris Bleated 7. Monetary units of Afghanistan 8. Tooth doctor
- 9. One who takes apart 10. Commoner 11. Beat poet Ginsberg 12. Cave deposit material 14. Home energy backup

17. Begets

20. Face part 52. Small petrel of southern seas 21. Frocks 23. Hill or rocky peak 25. Giving the impression of dishonesty

26. About ear 27. Male parents 29. Popular grilled food 30. Vaccine developer 32. Not conforming

34. Polite address for women

35. 1970 U.S. environmental law

37. Astronomical period of 18 years 40. One who fights the government 42. Center for Excellence

in Education 43. Watches discreetly 47. An electrically charged atom

49. Hymn 50. Arabic given name 52. Popular pie nut 53. City in Zambia 55. Species of cherry 56. John \_\_\_, British writer 57. Be next to

59. Give birth to a lamb or kid

58. Make angry

61. Unhappy

## WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT **POLICE LOG**

August 18 to August 24 By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

2:18 pm: Officers initiated a theft

2:33 pm: SPICER, Donald Eric (36) of

Willits was contacted in the 400 block of

McKinley Street. He was arrested on felony

7:56 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

8:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop near

the intersection of Railroad Avenue and

8:30 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

10:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop

near the intersection of Pine Street and

7:24 am: Officers conducted a stop near

7:51 am: Officers responded to a

10:19 am: Officers conducted a stop in

the 1500 block of South Main Street and

2:21 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

2:28 pm: Officers initiated a theft

investigation in the 800 block of South Main

1:12 am: Officers responded to a report

1:53 am: CURTIS, Rickie Allen (52) of

Willits was contacted near the intersection

of North Main Street and Casteel Lane. He

was arrested on misdemeanor charges of

9:52 pm: Officers responded to a

disturbance in the 300 block of Bittenbender

10:06 pm: EAGAN, Daniel Martin (46)

of Oakland was contacted in the 100 block

of North Main Street. He was arrested on

misdemeanor charges of driving under

the influence of alcohol, driving with a

suspended license (revoked for DUI), and

8:43 am: Officers initiated a burglary

10:36 am: Officers responded to a

9:56 pm: Officers conducted a stop near

the intersection of South Main Street and

East San Francisco Avenue and issued a

disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside

investigation in the 300 block of Robert

of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of

Street and issued a warning.

Alder Court and issued a warning

disorderly conduct (alcohol).

Lane and issued a warning.

August 24

the 1700 block of South Main Street and

disturbance in the 1400 block of South

the intersection of North Main Street and

Catherine Lane and issued a citation.

State Street and issued a warning.

Main Street and issued a warning

200 block of South Main Street and issued

East Valley Street and issued a warning.

100 block of North Main Street and issued

charges of domestic battery.

a warning.

August 22

issued a warning.

issued a citation

investigation in the 800 block of South Main

The officers of the Willits Police August 21

Department reported 76 incidents in this 7-day period.

**Summary of Active Investigations** 

and Arrests

#### August 18

HOW TO

SUDOKU

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

Sudoku puzzles are

1:04 am: SHEILS, Nicholas James (39) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Marcela Drive. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of battery and trespassing (refusal to leave).

11:38 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of Robert

4:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

4:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Railroad Avenue

8:41 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Valley Street and Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.

9:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:01 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main

5:14 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued

6:35 pm: TUCKER, Andy Blake (54) of Covelo was contacted near the Highway 101 and Shell Lane Overpass. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of illegal burning, illegal dumping of a pollutant near water, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and disobeying a court order (contempt of court).

#### August 20

10:42 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main

2:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of

4:25 pm: HELLER, Clint Aaron (51) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order.

8:45 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Highway 20 and issued a citation.

9:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Alder Lane and South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Manzanita Avenue and Hazel Street and issued a warning.

10:34 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Holly Street and Poplar Avenue and issued a citation.

From page 1

The rest of LLFPD

\$6,000.00 fire educational bounce house that will teach children about fire safety in the home.

#### Training update

For the month of August training consisted of Firefighter Safety and Survival and ladder training. EMT refresher training consisted of circulatory emergencies (internal/external bleeding and shock, as well as cardiovascular system review). We also provided fire extinguisher training to Northbrook nursing home staff. If anyone in the community is interested in fire extinguisher training please reach out to us at the firehouse.

As of the current date, Little Lake Fire has responded to 421 calls for service.

#### Informational

Reminder: Extremely important to have a visible addresses posted. Please keep gutters/roofs cleaned and free of debris. For further information to protect your home in the event of a wildfire please reference Mendocino Fire Safe Council's website.

Schools are back in session – always slow down in school zones and watch for children crossing the street. Expect heavier traffic around town and give yourself extra time to reach your destination. Stay alert avoid distractions. Safe driving keeps both kids and drivers safe.

#### Labor Day weekend update

"What a weekend! No rest for our volunteers this weekend. 9 calls alone just yesterday," Little Lake Fire's Administrative Officer Michelle Schnitzius posted Tuesday morning at the "Willits Fire Station 54" page on Facebook.

"Fun Fact: Your fire department is strictly a volunteer fire department on evenings after 5 pm, holidays, and weekends. No paid staff. So, thank you to our responders for CHOOSING to respond to our community needs You are MORE than just

on evenings after 5 PM, holidays, and weekends. No paid staff. So, thank you to our responders for CHOOSING to respond to our community needs. You are MORE than just volunteers. - Michelle













Above, from left: Dad takes a break while the kids get their exercise. Walkers are utilized for some of the skaters who are less steady on their feet and can be a good learning tool. The snack bar provides non-sugary sodas, pizza, and other treats. One of the early skaters, this girl enjoys her light up skates.

At left: Participants of all ages and abilities populate the skating area. Below: Roland Spence and Jayma Shields-Spence's dog is always present and knows to stay out of the way. At bottom: Megan, Roland, Chris, and Jayma enjoy running the skate night at



# **Skate Night**

Laytonville's Harwood Hall hosts fun evening of roller skating on Fridays

The first Skate Night of the season groups here, very young to adults. Most of started out slow. At 6 pm, there was one intrepid young skater taking the opportunity a few high schoolers but there are also to speed around the makeshift track at

skated at different speeds.

Harwood Hall, which became a skating rink with the addition of a group of traffic cones placed in the middle of the cavernous room, denoting the center of the oval. People of all degrees of skating competency tried on skates, inline and the regular four-wheeled variety. They took to the floor and somehow coexisted comfortably, even though they

"Roller skating at Harwood Hall has been happening since the early '50s, as far as I know. It was quite popular back in the '70s." said Roland Spence, who, with his wife Jayma Shields-Spence, has fronted many Laytonville projects, including the Skate Park. "We remember the disco rollerskating craze, with the afros and the bell bottoms. This disco ball is from that era. We got the motor running again recently, so it's been brought back to life recently. We got some new lights. Right now, we don't have all of them set up because it's not getting as dark yet, being the summertime. When the time change happens, we're going to have all the rest of the lights in here. We'll actually be able to see the disco ball light show. The kids love it."

Spence continued, "We get all age

them are elementary-school kids. We get quite a few adults who come here, just on their own, not with kids. They just want to skate with their friends or on their own for exercise and have a good time, listening to music. We also host birthday parties at Skate Night. We invite people to call Healthy Start: 707-984-8089 to schedule a birthday. It's free to schedule a birthday party. We sing 'Happy Birthday' for the birthday kid, who skates around by himself as we sing to them.

"The kitchen is open. We do nachos, pizza, and sometimes hot dogs. We also have little snacks and drinks for the kids. We banned sugary sodas a couple years ago from Skate Night. It's really helped with the kids' behavior. They don't get so

According to Spence, big nights can see as many as 60 people on the floor. During the season, Skate Night happens every Friday, 6 to 8 pm. There is a hiatus around the holidays, as Harwood Hall is utilized as the North Pole Toy Express Wrapping Extravaganza. It turns into Santa's

Skate Night is not designed as a moneymaking venture. They charge a mere \$1 to participate, and \$2 to rent skates from their vast inventory. Skating was one of

Read the rest of Skate

Over on page 9









Hundreds of skates are available to ren at a very nomina fee. Above, right: A young skater learns to keep her balance and soon will not need this walker. At left: Harwood Hall has hosted skating since the 1950s.

> Photos by Mathew Cain



FARMERS INSURANCE

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5:00pm - 6:30pm Pre-Sale Tickets Only **Available at the Senior Center** 

Dinner for 2 \$40 1/2 BBQ Chicken Cole Slaw \* Calico Beans \* Rolls \* Brownies **1501 Baechtel Road** 



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#### 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 dult 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, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

#### Eckankar: The Patl of Spiritual Freedo • 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: Wednesdav-Fridav 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 appointmet at

707-459-2252 https://stanthonywillits.org/ saintanthonywillits@gmail.com We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis **Episcopal Church** 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 acebook.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.

Willits United **Methodist Church** 

All are welcome!

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 ir

this column please call: April Tweddell (707) 972-2475 april@willitsweekly.com



#### Thursday, September 4

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Willits Farmers Market at City Park, with vendors along State Street on the north end of the park. For the freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot dinner, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Every first Thursday of the month, September 4 this month. Meet the Library at the Farmers Market, 3

Moody Cat

Featuring Sean &ehe

4 Piaci Pub

ort Bragg, CA

to 4:30 pm, with library card signups; information about library services and events, and an activity for the kids to enjoy.

#### Friday, September 5

Moody Cat Trio at Shanachie: Moody Cat Trio, featuring Sean Lehe, performs funkadelic soul on Friday, September 5 at 8 pm. Shanachie

Skate Night at Harwood Hall: Bring your friends, enjoy the music, and glide into an evening of fun with roller skating from 6 to 8pm on Friday, September 5 at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.

#### Saturday, September 6

Country Quilts and Crafts Grand Opening: Visit us on Saturday, September 6, from 11 am to 3 pm for refreshments, prizes and a mystery discount at time of purchase, while you check out our wide selection of quilting and crafting supplies. Country Quilts and Crafts, 1611 South Main Street, Willits.



43rd Annual Steam Festival at Roots of Motive **Power:** A two-day heritage celebration starts with demonstrations and free steam train rides from 11 am to 4 pm on Saturday, September 6 at Roots of Motive Power (420 East Commercial Street). Then join us at Rec Grove Park for Steam Roller Printing from 11 am to 3 pm, and our famous BBQ at 4 pm followed by an auction. Tickets for the BBQ may be purchased at the event. More info: rootsofmotivepower.com.

Willits P.E.O. Annual Yard Sale Fundraiser: The Philanthropic Educational Organization chapter XO will hold a vard sale to raise money for their scholarship fund for Willits students on September 6 from 8 am to noon at 63 Northbrook Way,

Willits Community Yard Sale: Find some great deals at this community sale, Saturday, September 6 and Sunday, September 7 from 9 am to 3 pm in the residential area on the west side of Willits. Mendocino Ave, Redwood Ave, and beyond!

Painted with Fire exhibit opens at WCA: A showcasing of ceramic art fired in a traditional Anagama kiln by artists Leslie

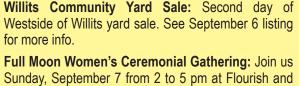
Campbell, Jason Sovanich, and Margi Gomez. Exhibit opens September 6 with a reception from 6 to 8pm featuring an artist talk, tasty nibbles, live music and beverages, and runs through September 28 at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street,

#### Sunday, September 7

Free Herbal Seasonings Class at the Grange: Join us in the Grange Kitchen where Annie Waters will alk about the benefits of herbs and you how

9/5 Shanachie Pub Willits, CA to make your own dressings, seasonings and basil pesto sauce with samples to taste and take home. Sunday, September 7 from 2 to 4pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street Willits. There is limited seating so call 707-889-2449 to preregister

Steam Festival at Roots of Motive Power: The second day of this event includes demonstrations and free steam train rides from 11 am to 4 pm at Roots of Motive Power, 420 East Commercial Street, Willits. See September 6 listing for more info.



Community

SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2025

9 AM - 3 PM

GRANGE GARDEN

FREE CLASS!

Sunday, Sept 7, 2025

BASIL PESTO,

Herbal Seasonings,

Make your own Salad

Dressing

unity Resilience

gard

Flow, 1726 South Main Street, Willits. More info: 707-750-9515. Flourish and Flow Yoga in the Park: Every Sunday

> in Rec Grove Park from 10 to 11 am with rotating instructors each week. All levels welcome and children may attend if supervised and with an adult. Classes are donation based and last month raised \$550 for the Humane Society! Donations for the month of

#### Tuesday, September 9

benefit the Willits

September

Senior Center.

Eckankar Meeting at the Library: Join us for a spiritual discussion and raise your spiritual IQ with the second installment of Soul Travel Explorations, September 9 from 11 am to noon. For more info call Joy, 707-367-3777. Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. (This program is neither sponsored by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.)

#### Wednesday, September 10

Virtual Author Talk at the Library: Join in this virtual discussion with expert Jefferson Fisher and learn strategies and phrases that will forever change how you communicate. Register and submit your questions to the author at mendolibrary.org, under Events, Willits

Events. September 10, from 11 am to noon at the Willits Branch Library.

#### Thursday, September 11

NCBE and Willits Frontier Days Mixer September: A celebration sponsored by the Northcoast Builders Exchange to highlight the NBCC Bootcamp Project, showcase our dedicated students, and recognize the generous

sponsors and volunteers. This free event will be held on September 11, from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits Frontier Davs Rodeo Grounds, 423 East Commercial Street.

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

Inland Valley Women's Chorus Begins 32nd Season: Join us this Thursday, September 11 and every Thursday until June (except holidays) from 6 to 7:30 pm to sing

songs of peace,

joy, social justice

and healing. New

members welcome

and no audition or

required. Carpooling

Willits. Holy Trinity

is available

Church, Mary

experience

(next

from

prior

South

Avenue

DMV) in

More info:

Madge

WOMEN WHO LOVE TO SING!



Inland Valley Women's Chorus Thursday, Sept. 11th ~ 6:00-7:30pm Holy Trinity Church, 640 S. Orchard Ave., Ukiah NOTE: Carpooling available from Willits Info: Madge Strong, (707) 459-1493 or mstrong827@outlook.com

Strong, 707-459-1493 or mstrong827@outlook.com.

#### Friday, September 12

'True West' Opens at WCT: An intense and darkly funny drama written by Sam Shepard and directed by Joshua Sternberg, "True West" opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, September 12 for a three-week run with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pr and Sundays at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20, availab at the door or online: wctperformingartscenter

Monthly Art Talk at WCA: Dr. Julie Alderson presents 'Art of the West,' an examination of how artists have

WILLITS

The Writings on the Wall:

A Creative Writer's Workshop

Calling all teen and adult writers!

Come share your fictional works in a friendly,

supportive environment.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

STARTING SEPTEMBER 18

4:30-6:00 PM

shaped and reflected the mythology of the Western frontier and the enduring significance The West.' September 12 at 6:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

children, along with their caregivers. Friday, September 12, from 11 am to noon in the Children's Library. More info contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908. Saturday, September 13 Brunch Sip and Pain

Storytime with Ms. McCarthy at the Library: Join

us for a fun morning of stories, enhanced with songs,

fingerplays, and a puppet play by local storyteller

Ms. McCarthy. These stories are for preschool age

'True West' at WCT: West" shows "True Saturday September 13 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. For more info see Sept 12 listing.

Sunday, September 14 Brunch, Sip and Paint at WCA: Come have

brunch and paint leaf

SEPTEMBER 12 - 28 202

FLOURISH & FLOW

IN THE PARK

Sundays | 10:00-11:00 am

watercolors with Sandy Strong, Sunday, September 14 Martha Room, 640 from 1 to 4 pm. Fee is \$75 and buys materials, brunch and a seasonal alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverage. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

> "True West" at WCT: Matinee showing of True West, Sunday, September 13 at 2 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. For more info see September 12 listing.

Sunday September 14, 1-4pm

Paint, Sip, Laugh, Eat

\$75 includes materials, and brunch with a

easonal alcoholic or non alcoholic drink

ALL LEVELS WELCOME

REGISTRATION www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Flourish Flow Yoga in the Park: Every Sunday in Rec Grove Park from 10 to 11 am with rotating instructors each week. All levels welcome and children may attend if supervised and with an adult.

Classes are donation based and last month raised \$550 for the Humane Society! Donations for the month of September will benefit the Willits Senior Center.

Free Zumba Demo at Rec Grove Park: Learn how to Zumba at this free demonstration by Flourish and Flow, Sunday, September 14 from 11 am to 12:30 pm (after Yoga in the Park). Rec Grove Park, South Lenore Avenue, Willits.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES **East of Wall** 

Dan Essman

The Story: This is a family drama with horses. knowledge is legendary. Tabby is teaching a trailerload of teenage

to ride. The girls live on Tabby's 3000 acre ranch in Tabby's big trailer. She's

much-loved surrogate Mom. These pretty girls learn to do fancy trick-riding stunts just like the pretty girls in the circus. It's an entertaining eye-catching sales gimmick because who wouldn't like to watch a pretty girl do handstands and pirouettes on horseback? And it's solid proof her horses are well-gentled and well-mannered. Despite her successes, Tabby is not making enough money to support her horse ranch and feed her

A smooth-talking local named Roy has his money-hungry eyes on Tabby's business. He offers to buy Tabby's ranch and half of her horse sales business. What is quite obvious to some of us watching this flick, sinuous Roy seems very very interested in more than money. What has caught his eve is one of the pretty trick riders named Porshia. Tabby's 17-year-old daughter. Roy doesn't come out and say it plainly, no he doesn't. What Roy really has in mind is shadowy, slimy, and unspoken.

My Thoughts: This flick is semi-documentary. It's pretty much a true story. Most of the main characters

are real folk playing themselves: **Tabitha** Zimiga is "Tabby" and her real daughter Porshia Zimiga plays her movie daughter, "Porshia," As for "Roy" the filmmaker went with professional Scoot McNairy, a muchrespected Hollywood character actor. Lots and lots of horses play themselves quite convincingly.

> Parents: I'm relatively sure the flick will bore and confuse kids. And then there's "Roy." You

don't want to have to explain him. Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality

attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

GRANGE GARDEN HARVEST

and SEED GATHERING

are your harvest abundai

Bring your garden

Share seeds, roots,

and plants,

trade, and gift food

to the Food Bank

ther seeds in the Grange Garden, share your seed of produce, trade, share and give to the Food Bank

ember 27th, 2025, 11 am to 2

Lake Grange, 291 School St, Willits, in the back parking lot sponsored by the rural life initialize:

#### Grange Garden Harvest and Seed Gathering, September 27

September 19, 20, 21

Grange Garden, 291 School Street, Willits. info and tickets: blackoakranch.com.

Mobile Showers Available in Willits: from opening until 7 pm, you can be

# Hog Farm Celebration at Black Oak Ranch,

During this free event sponsored by the An intimate weekend gathering for games, a light National Grange Rural Life Initiative Grant, show, Bingo for prizes with Wavy Gravy, the Hog Farm we will cut seeds from the garden and Jamie Film Festival, a craft fair, kids activities and great music Chevalier will show you how to collect, store by Moonalice, Poor Man's Whiskey, and Skeleton Crewe and process seeds for next year's planting. Irio, to name a few. Locally sourced meals with a nightly There will be other talks and presentations beer and wine Happy Hour are included in the ticket price as well to learn ways of becoming more self- and tent, teepee, car and RV camping are available. Come sufficient. Bring your harvest abundance to have fun while helping to raise funds for our new bridge. As share, trade and/or give to the Food Bank, this is a fundraiser, we do not have volunteer opportunities along with any extra plants, bulbs and for this event. Tickets are limited so please purchase in fertilizer, all of which will find good homes advance. September 19, 20 and 21 starting at 2 pm at and create a positive impact! Little Lake Black Oak Ranch, 50350 Highway 101, Laytonville. More

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.

Penny University Coffee Klatch:

Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 pm. We will

meet in the Willits Library meeting

room to discuss various topics while

**LEGO Club:** Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30

pm. "It is LEGO time at the library.

Bring your imagination and start

**Tech Help:** Saturdays from 11 am to

noon. Is your computer on the fritz?

Can't figure out how to open your

email? Want to install a new app on

enjoying a "cup of joe."

#### Share what you are comfortable with, get constructive feedback, and have discussions about publishing. A free event open to ages 13 and up. Paper and pencils will be provided. Chromebooks will be available for checkout with a valid library card. MENDOCINO Library 390 E Comme Willes Californ Lions Club,

# Senior Center Drive-Thru Dinner,

September 26 Drive-thru dinner on Friday, September 26, from 5 to 6:30

pm, is a fundraiser for the Willits Senior Center. Dinner for 2, prepared by Willits Lions, includes: ½ BBQ chicken, Cole Slaw, Calico Beans, Rolls and Brownies. Pre-Sale tickets only for this fundraising dinner: \$40 for dinner for 2. Delivered to your home for an additional \$5. Tickets available at the Senior Center, or online at www.WillitsSeniorCenter.com



Yoga in the Park

3 the Willits Senior Center

September 28th class will be Qigong

structors rotate weekly, each bringing a

Bring a mat or blanket, water bottle, and a

A donation-based class held





will bloom for years at Recreation Grove!

ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME! No experience needed - just bring your enthusiasm Every participant's name will be subtly hidden in the mural design - leaving your mark for years to com-

THIS EVENT IS FREE. For questions e-mail Anna : anna @annajudd.e OK FOR GREEN & ORANGE BALLOONS AT EACH

# VENT & FOOD VENDOR -000 SPACE IS LIMITED

# Theater Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-6660 www.noyotheater.com

**THE CONJURING:** LAST RITES

Fri - Sat - Sun: 4:00, 7:00 Wed - Thur: 4:00, 7:00

(R) 2hr 15min



Showtimes: September 5 - 11

(R) 1hr 47min Fri - Sat - Sun: 4:30, 7:30 Wed - Thur: 4:30, 7:30

**AMERICANA** 

(PG) 1hr 36min Fri - Sat - Sun: 4:15, 7:15

Wed - Thur: 4:15, 7:15

SKETCH

WE'RE OPEN 5 DAYS A WEEK! **CLOSED** MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

REMINDER!

Closed Monday/Tuesday Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.

AMERICANA

#### 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 Snyder City Park on East Commercial. Come at 1pm to be assured a lunch!

Willits Food Bank Donations: Our Willits Food Bank is in dire need of non-perishable food and toiletries! There are donation bins (Sponsored by Willits Indivisible) at: Brickhouse Coffee, Mendo Mill, Willits Branch Library, the Senior Center and the Little Lake Grange.

Willits Indivisible Democracy Vigil: Come join Willits Indivisible every Friday from 5 to 6 pm at Babcock Park on South Main Street. More info visit "Willits Indivisible" on Facebook.

Farmstand at the Commonwealth Garden: Fridays from 10 am to 1 pm for farm-fresh produce and treats. Get there early, some things sell out fast! Garden is located on right-hand side of Haehl Creek Drive, past Howard Memorial Hospital building complex. For more info call 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. More info visit Brickhouse Coffee on Facebook. Open Mic Night at Inner Earth Tea

**House:** every Friday from 5 to 8 pm. Bring your songs, poems, standup 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 8pm for nightly patio parties featuring cornhole, darts and ping pong and on Thursdays, Trivia Night! Some nights we are closed for private events, so check our Facebook for updates. The Munchery, 1797 South Main Street,

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. or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@gmail.

com or 707-456-7729.

The mobile shower trailer will be in entered into the lottery to determine Willits on Mondays and Tuesdays the order from which you pick your 20 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

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 hostan open jam at Shanachie Pub. Bring any instrument, meet new musicians, discover new genres, and explore your creativity!"

may need to bring a helper. Sack

dinners are served from 4:30 to 5:30

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!"

your system? Bring your questions Spinning and Knitting: Every Saturday at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning, 1 to 2 pm; Knitting, 2 to 4:30 pm.

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Story and Playtime: Every Friday Every Wednesday, featuring an from 11 am to noon, bring the kids for eclectic array of local musicians and a story followed by play time in the performers. Pub opens at 3 pm, and Children's Area.

Mid week promotions: Wednesday -Matinee prices to all shows all day.







from left: The monthly maker's market stretches in front of several businesses on Commercial Street. Hailey Trahan and her daughter, Hazel, enjoy meeting people and selling her pieces. Amanda Wierman is the Crafty Dragon, with a variety of fanciful items. Below, from left: Samantha Lazaro dabbles in several types of media, including gouache, acrylic and oil. Amanda Wierman embeds images from the James Webb telescope in her art. Crafty Dragon uses small gears for jewelry, including "gearrings." At bottom, left: There's no shortage of things to buy for gifts or oneself. At bottom, right: Tiffany Chandler makes candles that are fanciful as well as calming and therapeutic.









Samantha

Lazaro is

from her

grandfather

Larry Todd.

Photos by

Mathew Caine

carrying on an









# Craft Fair

Whimsical creatures, colorful key chains. artwork, handmade candles and salves, and more at monthly vendor pop-up at The Whistle Stop

month, normally the second or third weekend of the month," said Tiffany Chandler, of the Ministry of the Divine

Consciousness. "We

Mathew Caine

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

open it up to local craft vendors, have a good old time. We let people have their stuff out to show off their artwork.'

According to the vendors, they do well at these pop-up craft fairs, being that they are in a very visible location in front of The Whistle Stop, at 280 East Commercial Street, across the street from the Skunk Train Depot. This Saturday, there were six booths set up with a plethora of colorful and whimsical items, being sold by local merchants, some with their kids

Hailey Trahan sat in the shade of her popup tent, with her daughter, Hazel, selling her bracelets and other items. "We make bracelets out of silicon beads, a bunch of beaded items," stated Trahan. "We do safety key chains, which are great for everybody. Pretty much everything here can go onto a key chain. That makes it fun. It gives us something to do and keeps us busy. This is our third time down here for this market. It goes pretty well, and we do Willits. Ukiah. Laytonville and Fort Bragg. The Whistle Stop is amazing for letting us set

"I host The Whistle Stop event every up here. She [Saprina Rodriguez] is perfect for our community.

> Brandy Maxwell, of Brandy's Creative Corner, talked about her items, including the whimsical creatures that are made by her husband on his new 3D printer. "I have lots of things. I make beaded items. There are key chains down there, bookmarks, pens, pencils. I make necklaces. My husband has started 3D printing, so we have dragons and turtles and little things. There are also some horses. I also make earrings." The 3D items included horses with moveable legs and many-jointed

> Amanda Wierman is "the Crafty Dragon and that is the name of my business, formerly Dragon Crafts LLC," explained Wierman. I've got Keys to the Universe [embedded with images from the James Webb telescope]. I've got Not Your Mother's Plushie. I've got some stuff from my friend in Boise, Idaho, who wanted me to try to bring some of her stuff here to sell. She does all of the stonework herself. She designs the stones. She wraps the stones. She makes them shiny, and she

"This creature is Ellecorn," said Wierman, Read the rest of  $\top$ 

Over on page 10





at the Park

11 am to 3 pm

On Saturday

**Pg. 8** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047



Willits Weekly | September 4, 2025

- HELP WANTED: -

#### Casino Controller at Sherwood Valley Casino

The Casino Controller directs the cashiering, 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, cashiering, 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 mfitzgerral@svrcasino.com

Rotary 2 Serving our Commuity Since 1948 www.willitsrotary.org WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com



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

EASTSIDE RANCH Commercial orders available

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Willits Weekly

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fictitious

business name

statements,

foreclosure

notices, storage

unit auctions,

and more.

Contact us for

more information

**Margaret Gilman Shults** 

With heavy hearts and profound love, we announce the passing of Margaret Gilman Shults on July 19, 2025,

She was a devoted mother, cherished friend, and radiant soul who lived each day with uncommon grace and wholehearted joy

Margaret departed this world peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, eaving behind a legacy of kindness, achievement, and unwavering light.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Willits Community Center on September 7, 2025 from 12 to 4 pm.

The rest of Skate

From page 5

the original intended uses for the building. "I was looking through the files for Harwood Park - I had to do some paperwork - I found the plans for Harwood Hall. The skate room is actually in the original design from 1948. They intended to do skating right off the bat," said Shields. According to Spence, there is a mountain of old skates and skate parts in the attic.

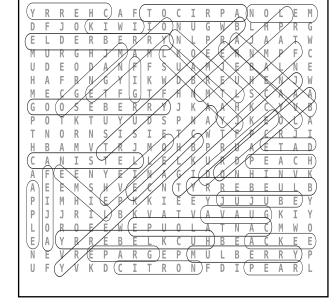
The rules of the night are fairly basic. "Skate within your ability. Don't cut people off. No playing tag. No eating or drinking while skating. Parents or a designated adult must accompany the children. People used to drop their kids off here and go to the bar. We'd be looking for them at 11 pm. 'Where are you? Your kid's here.' Generally, the kids are well-behaved. We haven't had to kick anybody out of Skate Night, ever. We talk it through with them when they act out," Spence explained.

Spence and Shields-Spence are responsible, in large part, for the nearby Skate Park, which is soon going to have the Fifth Annual NorCal Shredfest on Saturday, September

"Six hard rock bands are going to be playing," said Spence. "A couple of them are ska bands from Southern California, Chicano ska punk. They're really good, with full horn sections, upbeat, energetic, positive, fun music. Some pro skaters are coming out. There's a skateboarding competition. There's a huge raffle. Everybody wins something. Also, we have product tosses, lots of really great food from local vendors. There's going to be a beer and wine garden. One of our main beer sponsors is Northspur Brewing out of Willits. It starts at 1 pm. We are asking for a \$10-to-\$20 donation at the door. It's all ages. It'll be a lot of fun."

"The coolest thing about Skate Night is the way that it's set up as a community function. The prices are low, so that everybody can afford to go. It's fun. Everybody has a blast," said Chris Johnston, a Harwood Park board member and ticket taker at the Skate Night.

Harwood Hall, built in 1948, is the de facto community center in Laytonville. It is the site of many events and meetings. The Harwood Park Association is the umbrella non-profit, under which is Harwood Hall, Laytonville Healthy Start, the bookstore at the old High School, the Friends of the Laytonville Library, and much more. For more information about Harwood Hall Skate Night, held at 44400 Willis Avenue, call 707-984-8089.



# at willitsweekly@ gmail.com LEGAL NOTICES

WW468

#### NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends

to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed under the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and Provisions of the Civil Code. The undersigned will sell by competitive bidding online at storageauctions.com starting September 6th @ 7 AM ending September 14th @ 8PM the following said property stored at Cougars Closet II Mini Storage 317 Robert Drive Willits, CA 95490 County of Mendocino State of California.

Andrew Augustine G-12, Michael Sikora D-15, Donald Kershow B-4, Jim Allen B-7, Phyliss Beltran B-37, Angie Johns E-4, Erik Thomsen I-13, Ruthanne Volz F-23

The goods are described as miscellaneous household items & boxes, (contents unknown), clothes, furniture, tools and miscellaneous articles. Purchases must be paid for and picked up within 72 Hours of winning bid by credit/debit or cash

All purchased items sold as -is where-is and must be removed within 72 hours of sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

Dated this 28th day of August 2025 & 4th day of September 2025 by Cougars Closet II Mini-Storage 707-259-0159

Publication Dates: August 28 and September 4,



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## **CLASSIFIEDS** Offices for Rent

Brown Bag Lunch Program

Every Saturday at 1 pm sack lunches are served by local churches, community Bud families at Snider Park on East Commercial. . Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch!

Do you need

food?

(707) 459-3333

Free Food for All

Raise Your Spiritual IO Travel

(1) 180 sq ft, two

rooms, with waiting

room, shared bathroom.

Centrally located, off

street parking, utilities

included, \$375.00. Also

single room office 100

sq ft, \$300.00. 707-354-

Tuesday,

program

neither sponsored b nor affiliated with the

Explorations, 2. We are Soul, an eternal Willits Food Bank 344 Railroad Avenue creative atom of God Discover the wonder Willits, CA 95490 of you! A spiritual Open Wednesdays 8 Fridays, new expanded September 9, 11 am to distribution hours: 11 am 12 noon: Willits Library to 4:30 pm. New Client 390 E. Commercial St Choice model where A FREE community you select your own service sponsored by items. Bring shopping Eckankar in California bags, Bring an I.D. Info: Information? Joy (707) 367-3777

> Pop-Up Library.) Food

Mendocino presents food pop-ups with free food for all: Due to the impact of federa budget cuts, there will be only one monthly pop-up In Willits, or 1st Thursdays, from 10 to 11:30 am at 1250 Blosser Lane. Ir Laytonville, every 4th Thursday, 12 to 1 pm at 300 Cahto Drive. In Covelo, every 2nd Thursday, from 12 to 1 24065 Rifle Road. In Leggett: Every 1st Tuesday from 12 to 1 pm at 65100 Drive-Thru Tree Road. Info:

John Ford Ranch

org; 707-615-6654.

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-

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two veeks. Email us your ad today!

**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/tp

Mendocino

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

Yard Sale Saturday and Sunday 9/6 and 9/7, from am to 4 pm @ 555 Mill Street, Willits. Sale items will be Sports Cards and other Sports Memorabilia, Men's Clothing, Adult Clothing, Kids' Toys, Kitchen Stuff, 55 gal Fish Tank with Cabinet Stand and usewares, and a lo

# **LEGAL NOTICES**

**Fictitious Business Name Statement** 

The following person or persons are doing business as Tight Line Painting, 171 Crestview Street, Willits, CA 95490

Registered owner: Justin Allen Johnson, 171 Crestview Street, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individiual. The registrant commenced to

transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on August 4, 2025. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on August 18, 2025

/s/ Justin Johnson Publication Dates: September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

**Fictitious Business Name Statement** 

The following person or persons are doing business as

Root And Ritual, 70 Nancy Lane, Willits, CA 95490. Registered owner: Veronica G. Fani, 70 Nancy Lane, Willits,

CA 95490. This business is conducted by

an individiual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on August 29, 2025. /s/ Veronica G. Fani Publication Dates:

September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

IAO

Willits Weekly | September 4, 2025 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

### **Furry Friends** Hoping for a Home



#### Affectionate Taylor

Taylor is a handsome 2-year-old male with a playful heart and a gentle soul. This sweet guy loves to romp around, play with toys, and show off his best trick sit – especially if there's a treat involved! While Taylor is full of love, he can be a

little wary of new people at first. With a slow introduction and a bit of patience, he guickly warms up and reveals his goofy, affectionate side. He's the kind of dog who forms strong bonds and will be a loval companion once he feels safe and comfortable.

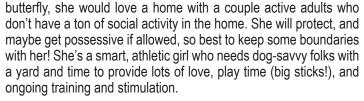
Taylor may do well with other dogs after a proper introduction, so a meet-and-greet with any potential canine siblings would be a great idea. He's still young and would thrive with continued training and structure to help him be his best self. If you're looking for a playful, loving dog with a big heart and a bright future, come meet Taylor – he might just be your new best friend!

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.

#### Energetic Lily

Lily is an active, fullthrottle kind of girl! Grab life by the horns and run with it ... or grab a big stick, rather! She LOVES running and chasing sticks, the bigger the better.

She is super confident, a bit bossy, and selective about the company she keeps. Lily isn't a social



She doesn't love crowds, so no dog parks for Lily.

To learn more about Lily, 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.



Lively Rocko

Foundation at 459-4900.

You can reach the Milo

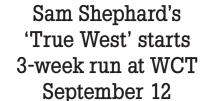
Rocko! perfect buddy to have with you always. Rocko enjoys supervising chores, watching Netflix with the and entertaining you with his crazy kitten shenanigans.

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.

BEING

A TEEN

IS HARD



By Steve Hellman, for WCT

"True West," Sam Shepard's searing tale of brotherly rivalry, identity, and the crumbling myth of the American West, opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, September 12 for a three-week run. Directed by Joshua Sternberg, this intense and darkly funny drama depicts brothers Austin and Lee reuniting at their mother's

Art Talks:

'American Art

of the West'

The Willits Center for the

Arts is proud to announce the

next installment of its Art Talks

lecture series with an engaging

presentation by art historian Dr.

Julie Alderson, titled "American Art

of the West." The event will take

place on Friday, September 12 at

Dr. Alderson, a specialist in

American and European Art from

1860 to the present, holds a Ph.D.

6:30 pm, and is free to the public.

Submitted by WCA

suburban home, where the calm quickly unravels into a

Sternberg, in his directorial debut at WCT, says the action unfolds in very condensed and concise moments of familial conflict. What emerges are two brothers working out truths about themselves in relationship to

"It's an adventurous ride for the audience," Sternberg

# SEPTEMBER 12 - 28 202 FR & SAT: 7PM SW: 2PM Seas.

**ART TALKS** 

ART OF THE WEST

FRIDAY, September 12

6:30 PM.

71 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490
For more information: www.willitscenterforthearts.
707-459-1726
Sponsored by the Community Foundation of Mendo

elation, humor, and even a little fear or anxiety." Shepard has said of his script, it presents the messy process of finding out who we are while also considering the possibility of who else we could become, explains Sternberg. "It's a deep dive into identity that plays itself out on a grimy surface." Featured actors Schyler Marcier, Eric Layer, Cindi Mohr, and Cortlandt Wilson bring "True West" to life where the only thing more dangerous than the desert is the truth.

Performances are September 12-28. with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm and Sunday matiness as 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at the

says, "in how it takes you through a

tableau of emotions, from sadness to

door or online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane. Box Office: 707-216-1826.

Support for WCT is provided by NC Financial Group, Jerry Drew Painting, Big Fish Construction, Julia Morgan Redwood Grove, KZYX and KLLG radio, Community Foundation of Mendocino County, Penserra Group, and Redwood Waste Solutions.

> Sightlines" (University of California Press) and "Thomas Kinkade: The Artist in the Mall" (Duke University

In this lecture, Dr. Alderson will trace the artistic development of the American West, examining how artists have shaped and reflected the mythology of the western frontier - from early encounters to contemporary interpretations. With visual examples spanning centuries, she will explore the enduring significance of "The West" as a cultural concept and the ways in which it continues to influence American identity today.

Join us for a thought-provoking evening that brings together art, history, and the enduring power of myth. Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street.

For more information, visit willitscenterforthearts.org or email info@willitscenterforthearts.org.

The rest of From page 8 Fair

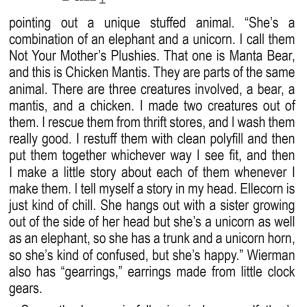
from Rutgers University and currently teaches art

history at Cal Poly Humboldt University. Her scholarly

work explores topics in sculpture, public art, Land

Art, and museum theory. She has contributed to

several academic publications, including "Nancy Holt:



Samantha Lazaro is following in her grandfather's artistic footsteps. He was the well-known illustrator. Larry Todd. She is soon on her way to Oregon to major in digital art. She was selling paintings from a variety of materials and media. She also makes decorated notebooks and doodles.

Tiffany Chandler, the coordinator of the market, sells creative vendors.

pointing out a unique stuffed animal. "She's a homemade candles and salves. "I make the candles, and Ann Brigit Waters makes the salves. My candles are all made out of organic soy wax or beeswax, no harmful chemicals that disrupt the body. They're made with essential oils. I get my soy and beeswax from a small family farm in Iowa. These are CBD salves. There are different types. There are some specifically for arthritis. There are some for gardening hands, if you have the cracked hands from gardening. She has one that has comfrey in it to help minimize pain. They're good for arthritis and hard-working hands.

> "Candles are amazing in general," said Chandler. They're really good to set a mood or an atmosphere for yourself. If you need a moment to step away and get yourself into your own little space, a candle is good for that. They allow you to light your candle, step away, and be within yourself for a moment and let the chaos go. It also brings a nice atmosphere to your home as

Look for notices in Willits Weekly and elsewhere to see when the next Craft Fair at The Whistle Stop will happen. Come and peruse the myriad of fun and colorful items, or enjoy a great conversation with the



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

> Beginning: Wednesday, Sept.17 Time: 1:30-3:30pm Call Now to Register FREE OF CHARGE To register call: Space is Limited Suzanne Picetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676



Susana Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson **Group Facilitators** 

#### College bound? See your counselor!

Submitted by Bob Colvia, Ed.D.

Back to School! It's September 2025 and time for college bound seniors to start their college applications. Students can begin the University California Application and the Common Application (for many private and out of state universities) as early as August 1. The early August application start date can be helpful for some seniors, but I recommend a later start and a relaxed approach.

Start by scheduling a meeting with your high school counselor first. Most of the application deadlines this year are November 30. The entire college application process takes time and thoughtful reflection by parents and students. Communication with your high school counselor is essential. Seeking a high school counselor's advice and help will reduce the stress and enable all to enjoy the process.

There are different terms used in the college application world, and the language can be confusing. Terms like CSU, UC, A-G, AP will have crept into our senior's vocabulary by early fall (SAT and ACT test scores may be discussed, they are currently required by some universities while optional at others). This may lead to more new terms that can be a challenge for both parents and students. Students will be discussing Essays, Personal Insight Questions, GPAs, the FAFSA, CAL GRANTs, UC APPLY, CAL STATE APPLY, the COMMON APP, and needing an FSA ID. It's important for both parents and students to take an active role to learn what these terms mean, and keep track of the various steps in the application process

When we want help, a common answer we might hear is "it's on the web." Just because it is on a website does not necessarily mean we understand it, or how to use it, or its importance. That is when we turn to our high school counselors for help with the college application process. From the development of college lists, to completing letters of recommendation, listening, and guidance, our high school counselors will help our seniors submit their college applications.

from 9 to 10 am.

459-2176

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

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-

5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off

for grocery shopping, banking, doctors'

appointments. Senior Center Thrift Shop:

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

to have the issue that we're talking about

today with numbers floating around. The

So far, as Wilburn commented earlier,

councilmembers have been through "every

page" of the budget, but still haven't made

Wilburn acknowledged the budget

include corrections and omissions

discussed during the budget workshops.

"We need to get accurate numbers, and

Manny [Financial Director Manual Orozco],

that's going to be up to you, what can be

One example cited of changing numbers

in the budget data was the Working Capital

sheet, discussed by councilmembers, and

also cited in public comment on the budget

by Measure K Committee member Sheri

Ebyam. "Working Capital last Wednesday

provided. It needs to be the entirety."

numbers are going to be solid."

any hard decisions.

volunteering: 459-6826.

delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

My advice for seniors and parents of college-bound seniors is to PLAN EARLY. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR as early in the school year as possible. To all educators, thank you in advance, for all of your hard work.

Dr. Bob Colvig, Ed.D. is a former high school counselor, teacher, and coach.

#### Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in pm. Exercise class every weekday morning its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drivethrough lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Thursday, September 4: Chicken Cordon Blu Casserole

Friday, September 5: Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggies

Monday, September 8: Tuna Salad Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Tuesday, September 9: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

Wednesday, September 10, Chicken Fajitas, Rice, Beans

Thursday, September 11: Scalloped Potatoes w/Ham, Veggies, Roll

Friday, September 12: Sloppy Joes, Pasta Salad, Pickle

Activities: Bingo on Friday nights, 5 to 7

The rest of From page 1 Budget |

based on the fiscal year 2024/25 budget.

The vote was 4 to 1 again, with Councilmember Bruce Burton voting no again. Commenting on the plan to bring a complete budget forward at the second meeting in September, Burton said: "As was the plan to have a complete budget in June and July and August.'

"It's been almost four months of this fiscal year having budget be the top item of every month," Mayor Allman said at last week's meeting. "Any idea when we could get it done?"

"We're shooting for the second meeting in September," manager Wilburn responded. The regular meeting that week would be Wednesday, September 24.

"So the first meeting [in September] we'll be having the preliminary [budget]"? Allman asked.

"If we can have it done by the first meeting, that would be ideal," Wilburn said. "I just want to make sure.... I don't want it was \$11.9 million."

The rest of From page 1 Zoning

A second part of the proposed ordinance will allow residences on Main Street, above and behind storefronts, adding not only much-needed housing, but bringing more people, more activity, and more commerce to the heart of downtown.

A third part of the ordinance will allow small "nano-breweries" to open on Main Street: breweries producing up to 3,000 barrels a year (a barrel holds 31 gallons). Currently, breweries are prohibited on Main Street unless the brewing is considered to be an offshoot, a sideline, to an eating establishment, which is how Northspur Brewery was able to obtain a permit to open. Breweries produce beer and ale and, especially for Willits, sake: A local and very popular - chef and brewer from Japan, Ryo Muto, who currently owns the Hatake Farm Kitchen ghost (to go only) sushi restaurant in town, would like to open a sake brewery on Main Street.

Another part of the ordinance encourages local business ownership. "Formulabased businesses" (franchise and chain stores with more than 10 locations, such as Starbucks and Subway and Baskin & Robbins) will not be allowed to operate in the Main Street Mixed Use Zone unless granted a conditional use permit from the city. This means that the city council can decide if a franchise or chain store business

was \$8.3 million," Ebyam said, "and today

can open on downtown Main Street.

City councilman Bruce Burton pointed out that Main Street businesses would also be helped greatly if the city eliminated some of the red no-parking curbs: "The city has red curbed a significant amount of Main Street in favor of bike lanes that are seldom used." Burton's suggestion, however, is not part of the proposed ordinance. It would require additional preparation by the city's planning department, which has not received any direction from the city council.

#### **Entertainment Zone proposed**

Yet another Main Street proposal, though not part of the proposed ordinance, is to establish an Entertainment Zone, a specified area of Main Street that, during special events, people could walk around the event area with a beer or a glass of wine. Any business with a city-issued alcohol license and a license from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) could sell beverages, in specially labeled containers, to take out. This Entertainment Zone is still only in the discussion stage.

The Main Street Mixed Use Zone ordinance will get a second public hearing and council vote at the September 10 city council meeting

#### Mendocino Winegrowers announces results of Mendocino County Fair Wine Competition

Submitted by MWI

Mendocino Winegrowers, Inc. recently announced the results of the 46th annual Mendocino County Fair Wine Competition at a special event at Ukiah's California

For the first time ever, the competition – held on Saturday, August 16 at Brutocao Winery in downtown Hopland – comprised simultaneous People's Choice and professionally judged competitions

"There are very few other competitions anything like this," says MWI Executive Director Diego Mendoza. "A chance for wine-loving consumers to taste and rate wines that have been double blinded, alongside professional judges, is as unique an experience as one can have in the wine

This year, 124 wines across 49 different winery labels were entered into the competition, all within the Mendocino County AVA, or American Viticultural Area. Awards were given in 14 categories, or classes. As in years past, Gold+ wines will be poured at MWI's booth at the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show in Boonville from September 12-14.

Three exceptional wines won Best in Class in both the People's Choice and the professionally judged competitions: Girasole Vineyards 2023 Pinot Noir, Rustic Ridge 2023 Zinfandel, and Husch Vineyards 2024 Late Harvest Gewurztraminer in the Dessert Wines category. Event organizers noted that there was also a lot of crossover in wines earning Gold and Double Gold in numbers need to be "consistent" and

> "It's extremely gratifying, as a producer, to know that professionals and consumers all rated our wine so highly," says Zac MWI Harvest Party on November 8 for Robinson of Husch Vineyards, whose family has been making this particular wine in Anderson Valley since the 1970s. Their Late Harvest Gewurztraminer also won Best in Class in the 2024 competition.

"We will always evolve what we do to best serve our members and to promote Mendocino County," says Archer of the

culture at the City of Willits office (excluding the Police Department). This has prompted City employment.

F2. The Grand Jury found the Willits City Council failed to provide oversight of top management for compliance with personnel policies and procedures.

F3. The Grand Jury found the City of Willits employees do not have an effective avenue for bringing complaints to the attention of top management. This is due to the failure to follow the Willits Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.

F4. The Grand Jury found the City of Willits presently does not have a Director of Human Resources. Portions of the Willits Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual expressly contemplate such a position as employees are instructed to seek help from the Director of Human Resources.

F5. The Grand Jury found that the Willits City Council had not conducted annual performance reviews of the Willits City Manager by April 30 of each year.

The report also lists recommendations:

R1. The Grand Jury recommends the Willits City Council direct its City Manager to demonstrate compliance with the existing written Personnel Policies and Procedures

unusual competition format. "What will never change is our commitment to supporting and promoting Mendocino County, not just our grapes and wines but the broader community as well."

David Lopez and Scarlett Frauto at

the 2025 Mendocino

County Fair Wine

which featured

People's Choice

judged contests.

Photo by Edgar

Castro.

Competition awards,

awards this year, as

well as professionally

Archer explained that wherever possible, the competition sourced from local businesses including The Thatcher Hotel, Ukiah Natural Foods Co-Op, Schat's Bakery, Flora Quest Farm, Creative Workshop, Ukiah Paper Supply, and Lake Event Design.

There were nine industry judges who participated: Sarah Doyle, wine & beverage reporter at The Press Democrat, WSET Level 3; Chris Sawyer, Master Sommelier; Laura Ness, wine journalist with the San Jose Mercury News and Wine Industry Network: Diane Baccaro, certified sommelier and owner of Rendezvous Mendocino; Bernadette Byrne, former executive director of MWI; Charles Brock, wine buyer at Surf Market; Bekah Burnett, wine sales; Bob Blue, retired Mendocino County winemaker; and John Buechsenstein, enologist, adjunct wine faculty at The Culinary Institute of America, and recipient of the 2025 Rhone Rangers Lifetime Achievement Award.

"We're so grateful to these industry experts for sharing their time and considerable expertise with us, especially within our non-traditional format," says MWI President Elizabeth Archer. "They were all very good sports!"

In addition to voting, attendees of the People's Choice competition had the opportunity to provide comments on their favorite wines. The winner, George Swain. received two VIP tickets to the annual his comment about Greenwood Ridge Vineyards 2023 Mendocino Zinfandel: "With more notes of baking spices than Grandma's house on a Sunday, this wine is a crowd pleaser.

For a full list of competition results, including links to all the winning wines, visit mendowine.com.

From page 1 Response

R2. The Grand Jury recommends the Willits City Council create a mechanism highly qualified, dedicated workers to leave for compliance and oversight to ensure all personnel policies are being followed, by January 1, 2026.

> R3. The Grand Jury recommends the Willits City Council direct the Willits City Manager to restore and fill the position of Human Resources Director by January 1,

> R4. The Grand Jury recommends the Willits City Council conduct annual performance reviews of the Willits City Manager by April 30 of each year.

The Willits City Council is required to respond to all findings and recommendations

Willits Weekly confirmed that the public record shows that the city council did do a performance review of former city manager Brian Bender every year as required. Reviews were done at the February 8, 2022, March 22, 2023, and April 10, 2024 meetings, as confirmed by agendas, minutes, and videos of the meetings. Bender started work with the city in January

When asked if the Grand Jury had looked up the public record showing the performance reviews had been conducted, foreperson Mary Leittem-Thomas said Manual for the City of Willits, by July 31, the Grand Jury had evidence for and had verified everything in the report.



PRIMARY CARE • WOMEN'S HEALTH • PEDIATRICS • DENTISTRY • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH • SPECIALTY CARE

# Bereavement Support Group

forward.











Adventist Health Howard Memorial has earned FIVE STARS for quality healthcare from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.





At Adventist Health Howard Memorial, quality healthcare and patient safety are our top priorities. We are proud to receive the highest rating possible from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and be among an elite group of only 14% of hospitals nationwide with five stars. CMS assigns star ratings based on a hospital's performance in safety, patient experience and outcomes.

For communities across Northern California in some of our most rural areas, we offer excellent primary and specialty care in our Redwood Medical Clinic and 24-hour emergency care at our state-of-the-art hospital in Willits. So wherever you live in Northern California, there's an expert team ready to serve you and your family with compassionate, personalized and award-winning care.

 ${\bf Adventist Health Howard Memorial.org}$