

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 469 **Thursday, September 15, 2022**

## 5 firefighters had ‘minor’ injuries

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The five firefighters reported injured from the Walker Fire south of Willits had only “small minor injuries,” CAL FIRE Public Information Officer Jonathan Pierce confirmed Wednesday.

There were three minor sprained ankle injuries and two minor burn injuries.

“We had two local government ankles, and one CAL FIRE ankle, and two CAL FIRE burns,” PIO Pierce said. “I know the CAL FIRE folks are already back in service.”

The California Department of Forestry declared the Walker Fire south of Willits 100% contained on Saturday, September 10, and noted that “fire resources will continue to patrol the fire area over the next few days.”

The final figure for acres burned is 124 acres. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The Walker Fire originally started on Thursday, September 1, around 3:45 pm, as three small fires right to the east of Highway

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

## Arrests in Ukiah for countywide mail thefts

By Sgt. M. Vazquez for MCSO

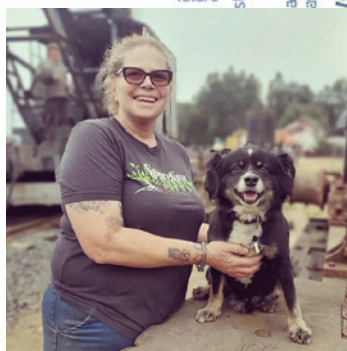
On September 9, 2022 at about 1:29 am, deputies from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office assisted Ukiah Police Department officers on a traffic stop in the 500 block of North Dora Street in Ukiah

Upon arrival deputies identified the four occupants of the vehicle as Marlen Nunez-Alvarez, 19, from Boonville; Victor Martinez, 22, from Boonville, Elijah Devinegomes, 19, from Boonville, and a 17-year-old male from Redwood Valley.

Deputies assisted the UPD officers in searching the vehicle and located numerous stolen checks, personal documents, and U.S. mail which belonged to people who reside in various locations throughout Mendocino County.

In total, deputies counted 53 stolen checks, which totaled over \$60,000 in monetary value.

Upon further examination, Read the rest of **Thefts**  
Over on page 2



Above, from left: Roots' Trainmaster Chris Baldo, left, and volunteer operators William England and Eli Mosher, right, stand on top of the Ohio Steam Crane Locomotive. Roots of Motive Power's Alexis England smiles with her pup Turbo. Jeff Schwab, Ken Middlebrook, Alan Siegwarth, all from the Niles Canyon Railway, take a pause from working to say hello to passersby. Below: The Roots of Motive Power yard is filled with tons of pre- and post-restoration equipment, including this steam donkey in the foreground. At bottom: Roots' new Mouton Quarries #202 Porter Steam Locomotive.



Photos by  
Maureen  
Jennison



## Steam & Smoke

Cooler weather and lots of fun at Roots of Motive Power finale event Sunday

Despite the smoky air, the community continued to appreciate the weekend's festivities at Roots of Motive Power Sunday, enjoying train rides, steam printing, and checking out the yard filled with antique items. Read more about the event on page 5.

## Board replies to critical grand jury reports

Forrest Glycer  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Official responses from the board of supervisors to six different grand jury reports, which were critical of the county's handling of various issues, were approved by the board at their meeting on Tuesday.

Among those grand jury reports were “Measure B Re-Examined,” “Redwood Valley Water District – 48 Years of Water Insecurity,” and “The Mendocino County Cannabis Equity Program – ‘Building the Airplane While It’s Flying.’”

The responses to the reports initially came from six different supervisor ad hoc committees assigned to them, and they were all approved unanimously Tuesday by the full board after some minor changes were made at the meeting.

The responses to the reports varied, but there was often agreement by the supervisors with the grand jury's findings that there were problems with how the issues had been handled by the county, and that changes either had been implemented or were planned to be.

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

## WELL presents ‘Our Energy Future’ forum on September 22

Submitted by Willits Economic Localization

What can we do to shift to energy that alleviates the climate catastrophe? That's the theme of “Our Energy Future: Save Money / Save the Climate” – a Zoom forum hosted by Willits Economic Localization on Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 pm. Click on the link: <http://tinyurl.com/WELL-Energy-Forum> or contact [strong@willitsonline.com](mailto:strong@willitsonline.com) for other options to join the forum.

Our three presenters each have expertise on what we can do, including local and individual actions, to wean us from fossil fuels – reducing our impact on greenhouse gases, while simultaneously saving money!

The presenters are:

Geof Syphers has been CEO of Sonoma Clean Power since its inception in 2013 as the Community Choice Aggregator serving Sonoma and Mendocino counties. SCP builds utility-scale solar, wind

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



Above, left: Students manned the Sober Grad booth selling hot dogs, sodas and more. Above, right: Magnolia enjoyed checking out the yellow handcar in the engine house. At right: Anita Hawley helped ink carvings for the steam printing process. At far right, top: Greg and Mary Kanne enjoyed three laps of free train rides around the loop. At far right: Watching the train chug along the tracks was better than people-watching after a while. Below, left: Wendy Wilmes holds a funny carving: “I am inverted, Jon” reads Garfield's bubble. Below, right: Laura McDonald holds an inked carving, ready for its turn under the roller.





A thank you to  
our local fire cooperators

Submitted by CAL FIRE MEU

September 12 – The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit would like to extend a sincere thank you to our local fire departments, and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

CAL FIRE moves resources to fires throughout the state and relies heavily on our local fire departments to assist with wildland fires and during resource draw-down. This year is no different.

Local fire departments have answered the call several times, providing station coverage, out-of-county strike teams, and augmented CAL FIRE response to wildland fires throughout Mendocino County.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, along with other local law enforcement cooperators, have done an outstanding job with evacuations and road closers to assure the people of Mendocino County are safe. This type of cooperation is what makes CAL FIRE successful in protecting the people, property, and resources of California.

Over the past two weeks, we have seen an increase in fire activity throughout Mendocino County. With the assistance from our local fire departments and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, we have aggressively suppressed these fires. While the Walker Fire reached 124 acres, the rest were contained with less acres burned.

Fire personnel are operating under conditions that have the potential for extreme fire behavior and large fire growth – this is largely due to dry fuels and record-breaking temperatures.

As the potential for extreme fire behavior persists, Mendocino Unit Chief Luke Kendall would like to remind our Mendocino County residents to remain knowledgeable about wildfire prevention and preparedness.

The "One Less Spark Campaign" covers equipment use (mow before 10 am); debris burning (permits and burn bans); vehicle use (secure chains); campfires (permits and local restrictions); and target shooting

The "Ready, Set, Go! Campaign" covers harden your home (fire-ignition-resistant); Defensible Space (clear vegetation); Action plan (know what to do); Prepare (be ready); and Emergency supply kit

CAL FIRE's website, [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org), is an excellent resource for more information and offers and an in-depth look at both our "One Less Spark Campaign" and "Ready, Set, Go! Campaign."

The rest of  
Thefts

From page 1

it was noted that some of the checks were already forged with the names of some of the occupants in the vehicle.

Upon further investigation it was determined that Nunez-Alvarez, Martinez, Devinegomes, and the 17-year-old male were conspiring in an attempt to cash or trade the stolen checks for financial gain.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is currently working with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to attempt contact with all the identified victims in this case.

Nunez-Alvarez, Martinez, Devinegomes and the 17-year-old male were placed under arrest for grand theft [487(A) PC], possession of stolen property [496(A) PC], and conspiracy [182(A)(1) PC].

Nunez-Alvarez, Martinez, and Devinegomes were booked into the Mendocino County Jail where they were to be held in lieu of \$15,000.00 bail separately.

The 17-year-old male was booked into the Mendocino County Juvenile Hall.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Charges dropped

Samantha Aline Lesley of Willits Weekly let readers know that all charges were dropped in her August 18 arrest by the Willits Police Department that was listed in the WPD Police Log in the August 25, 2022 edition. Lesley sent a signed Detention Certificate from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office that declares that "the taking into custody of Samantha Lesley by the Willits Police Department was a detention only, not an arrest. Samantha Lesley was released on August 22, 2022 by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office."

Nome Cult walk to arrive in Round Valley on Saturday

Submitted by the U.S. Forest Service

Willows – The annual Nome Cult walk from Chico to Round Valley began on Sunday, September 11 and is due to arrive at the Round Valley Indian Reservation on Saturday, September 17.

The 100 mile trek follows the route that Indians were forced to march from Chico to the Nome Cult Reservation in 1863. Descendants of Native Americans who took part in the original relocation and other supporters walk the route each year. Although the path itself has disappeared, this route is now called "the Nome Cult Trail."

Forest officials advise visitors and motorists along the trail route – M4, County Road 55 and FH7 into Eel River Station and Covelo – to be mindful of the event this week and ensure the safety of those walking the Nome Cult Trail.

The final days of the schedule are:

- Thursday, Sept. 15, Walk to Wells Cabin
- Friday, Sept. 16, Walk to Eel River
- Saturday, Sept. 17, Finish walk to Round Valley Indian Reservation

The removal of Indians from Chico to the Nome Cult Reservation in 1863 is one of the many forced relocations following the establishment of reservations in northern California in the 1850s. Several different tribes were moved to the Nome Cult Reservation after it was established in Round Valley in 1856.

Holiday Craft Fair call for artists

Willits Center for the Arts is now accepting entries for the 35th Annual Holiday Craft Fair, to be held December 9 and 10, 2022 with space at both the Willits Community Center and Willits Center for the Arts.

This is a two-day show starting Friday noon to 7 pm and again Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. All interested artists, hand crafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs, who hand-make their own products, should request application forms by e-mail to: Bonnie Belt at [belt.bonnie@gmail.com](mailto:belt.bonnie@gmail.com) or visit: <https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/holiday-craft-fair> or by mail: Willits Holiday Craft Fair, c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Dr. Willits, CA 95490. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Please note acceptance is subject to quality of work and earliest postmark date. Applications will be accepted until October 15, 2022 or until all booths are filled.

For further information you can call Bonnie Belt at 707-459-4792 (landline) and leave a message.

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, September 15: Baked Chicken Stuffing w/Gravy, Green Salad, Roll

Friday, September 16: Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Veggie, Biscuit

Monday, September 19: Roast Beef & Cheese Deli Sub, Fruit Salad

Tuesday, September 20: Rigatoni w/Sausage, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, September 21: Carnitas Burritos

Thursday, September 22: Chicken & Rice Casserole, Green Salad, Roll

Friday, September 23: Ground Beef Tostada, Rice, Beans

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

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

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

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EST. 2013

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

PG&E's campaign of destruction

To the Editor:

PG&E's tree butchers returned to East Hill Road last week. After a couple months of chainsaws in the morning, chainsaws in evening, residents had a reprieve. But they're back, cutting as arbitrarily before.

Is it revenge? In April the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors sent a letter to the governor asking for a moratorium on cutting, arguing that "PG&E's lack of line and equipment maintenance is the primary cause of PG&E culpable fires, not tree falls."

And just last week a coalition of land owners, timber companies, and county boards of supervisors helped defeat Senate Bill 396, which would have given PG&E's contractors full right to cut whatever they wanted, wherever they wanted, subject neither to California timber harvest laws nor the rights of private landowners to sue for property damage.

Undeterred, PG&E still claims it is not subject to state laws regarding tree cutting, and it still defies common sense in its work here: East Hill Road is just a mile from a fire station, there are fire hydrants along the way, and many of the trees cut bear no danger to power lines. But contractors apparently get paid per job, so they have plenty of incentive to continue to cut.

PG&E is an (un)regulated public utility. Keep in mind that "public" in that sentence means that it is supposed to be of service to the public; that's why it's granted a monopoly over the power lines that serve us. But PG&E is a private company, owned by shareholders and deriving profit wherever it can. It is supposed to be regulated. Unfortunately, as far as anyone can tell the state-appointed Public Utilities Commission only meets occasionally for cocktails and to rubber stamp whatever PG&E wants.

The company's defeat in the Senate last week was apparently the first time that PG&E has ever suffered a major legislative defeat, according to KZYX's excellent report. But like other (un)regulated public agencies we know (think Cal Fire, think Caltrans), the company continues to claim that it can do what it wants, how it wants, when it wants. Until, of course, it is successfully sued, in which case, in restitution, it can do whatever it wants, however it wants to do it, whenever it wants.

The current campaign of destruction is a case in point, because it is supposed to make us all feel better about the wildfires that PG&E's faulty equipment started across northern California. It doesn't make me feel better, because it doesn't address the problem.

It's time and past time to stop the tree cutting. We don't need it, and we don't want it. Folks throughout northern California agree. It's also time and past time to dismantle PG&E, vest power over the power lines in regional, democratically elected bodies, and end the charade of "regulated public utilities." Senator McGuire, where are you on this one?

Michael Foley, Willits



Above, from left: DJ Garrett Moore shows the attendees how it should be done. Friends who work together at Safeway enjoy a selfie. Leda Jones and Katie Madison take to the dance floor.

Braving the 'Stage'

Amateur singers perform their favorite songs at Diggers during twice-monthly karaoke night

It was a loud and raucous night at Digger's – A Bar & NO Grill filled with laughter and song and dancing and friends. Garrett Moore, the DJ and emcee of the twice-monthly karaoke (Garraoke, after the DJ) extravaganza, consulted with the prospective singers as they had their choices entered into the computer queue.

The performers then took to the "stage" and delighted the crowd with their less-than-perfect but extremely enthusiastic interpretations of classics, modern rap, country, blues, and any other genre that they were feeling that evening.

"We used to have a fairly thriving karaoke community in Willits a few years ago," lamented Moore. "Al's bar had a really stellar karaoke night until they [closed down]. The goal is to bring people out to have fun doing karaoke until midnight and then I switch over to DJ dance music after karaoke. Then we party down until closing. If people come out and want to have more dance-floor time, I'll change over to dance earlier."

The karaoke did not interfere with the dancing, however, as several of the singers took to the floor to move to the high-volume music blasting out of the sizable JBL speakers.

Singing was not the only talent exhibited, as one of the more proficient singers whipped out his selection of harmonicas and played them in the breaks between verses. He told Willits Weekly that he loves to practice his harmonicas while driving (hopefully in a car with an automatic transmission).

"Something I've been considering is letting guitarists plug in to the guitar input on my head unit. If they have the guts to plug their guitar into the speaker system in a bar, I'm down to let them," Moore mused.

So far, the every-other-week karaoke night has been very successful.

"The karaoke night has brought out a lot of people," said Moore. "By the end of the night, I have to turn people away. I think the most I've had is 20 singers in rotation. We average around 12 to 13 people who may sing multiple times."

Almost any song that one can strive to perform can be found in Moore's list. He currently has 80,000 titles that he can call up and place in the queue. All the background music, with the vocal track removed, are accompanied on a screen by the lyrics, which change color as the music proceeds, making it easy for the singer to follow. The same lyrics are displayed to the crowd in order to allow them to follow along.

"It's multi-lingual," Moore explained. "We have Spanish, obviously. There's a lot of Spanish in there but there's also Swedish, French, German, and more."

"I'm able to change key and speed," he said. "Most people don't know if they need a different key. The average person that comes up and says, 'I can't sing this song.' I need to ask them what they need, which could be a different key. If someone comes up and says, 'I need this in F-sharp,' I can make that happen with a few keystrokes."

When asked why the participants are willing to stand in front of the crowd and attempt to emulate their favorite singers, Moore replied with his personal take on the question.

"I sing karaoke for total creative release," he said. "I choose songs that tell stories. I get to delve into them and play that emotion up. I sing to myself in the car and the shower, but not usually on a microphone in a bar."

"I've had some introverts come up and do it, and I don't know why they do it. I got broken in easily," Moore said about his first time when he was invited to sign the Dr. Dre / Eminem song "Forgot about Dre."

"I said, 'Yeah. I think I know that song,' but I did not, at all, know that song," remembered Moore. "When the words are so close together on a song, it doesn't matter if they are projected in front of you. I really floundered and realized how much fun it was, regardless of whether or not you are proficient. It's not about if you sound good but more about the activity."

Leda Jones, one of the participants, explained her relationship with karaoke and her first time in front of the crowd: "I was pretty drunk, so I had the liquid courage in me. I sang Elvis' 'Fools Rush In.' Then I did Norah Jones' 'Turn Me On.' I wasn't even aware of the people looking at me. I was in my zone."

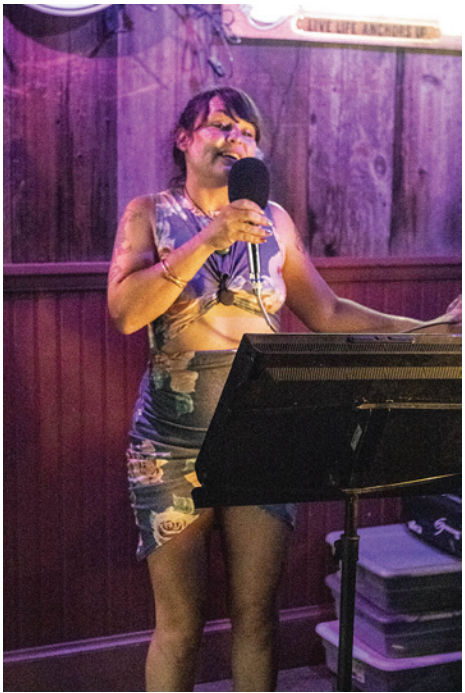
Digger's – A Bar & NO Grill is at 244 South Main Street. Visit their Facebook page or call 459-4977 for more info.

Garrett Moore can be reached for hire to set up karaoke (Garraoke) at an event or venue at: [garrettinusa@gmail.com](mailto:garrettinusa@gmail.com).



Above: As Garrett Moore sings, the words are shown on the big screen. At left: This man played his harmonica in addition to singing country western songs. Below: An enthusiastic crowd cheers on each singer with loud encouragement. Below, left: Laselle Coatney sings "Dancin' Queen" by ABBA in honor of Queen Elizabeth. Below, right: Misty Dawn Allen sings a song of ambiguous meaning, the "Pussycat Song" by Connie Vannett.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

PUZZLE  
ANSWERS  
ON  
PAGE 9

HOW TO  
SUDOKU

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

			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		
	10	11						12					13	
	14						15						16	17
18							19			20		21		
22					23				24		25			
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48			49			50		51				52		
53					54		55					56		
57			58		59				60	61	62			
	63	64						65						
					66									
								67						

CLUES ACROSS

- Crops sown in winter in India
- Investigates
- Treated like a child
- About religious belief
- Widely used exclamation
- Car mechanics group
- Not good
- Indigenous people of Alberta
- Everyone has one
- Fencing sword
- Soaks
- The human foot
- Of she
- Erythrocyte (abbr.)
- Soldiers
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- Playwright O'Neill
- Stone parsley
- Small stones
- Gas descriptor
- Monetary unit of Samoa
- Jeans manufacturer
- NHL great Bobby
- Cool!
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Winged
- Partner to 'oohed'
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Coated
- Furry household friend
- Chinese principle underlying the universe
- Prefix meaning 'within'
- Makes easier
- Transferred property
- Branched
- Hillside
- Abba \_\_, Israeli diplomat
- Bronx cheers
- Drain
- Renews
- Monetary unit in Asia
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Carthaginian statesman
- Aged
- Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- Firearm
- Consolation
- An island in the north Atlantic
- Pitching statistic
- Disconsolate
- A part of a river where the current is very fast
- Call it a career
- Behave in a way that degrades someone
- Health insurance
- Recommend
- Baltic peninsula
- Father
- After B
- Bar bill
- Doctors group
- 2,000 lbs.
- Equal to one quintillion bytes

CLUES DOWN

- Eggs in a female fish
- Military mailbox
- Unit to compare power levels
- Line on a map connecting similar points
- One who accepts
- Partner to cheese
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Small stones
- Southeast
- Where actors ply their trade
- Beloved Philly sandwich
- Intend
- Talk excessively

ANTIQUE WORD SEARCH

E	A	R	C	A	D	E	O	L	H	E	U	Q	O	R	A	B	K	R	U
P	K	Q	S	A	E	O	C	R	A	M	V	D	L	A	R	T	D	B	C
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I	L	B	M	T	P	T	I	E	I	B	T	P	C	U	P	B	O	A	R
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S	A	T	H	S	I	P	I	P	W	E	P	R	K	L	G	S	B	I	W
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V	U	W	B	K	E	I	I	Z	N	O	E	T	A	A	C	S	D	G	B
E	C	G	L	R	C	K	L	P	R	N	T	I	M	E	A	T	V	P	
M	I	N	N	L	O	A	D	E	N	D	O	T	I	L	A	V	E	K	
P	M	H	D	L	D	T	M	L	I	R	A	P	T	R	E	O	U	G	R
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ABATTANT	BAROQUE	CUPBOARD
AMBROTYPE	BEVEL	DECORATIVE
ARCADE	BIEDERMEIER	DESK
ARMCHAIR	BRONZE	NOUVEAU
ARMOIRE	CAMEO	PANELLING
ART DECO	CERAMIC	POTTERY
BALUSTER	CHIPPENDALE	SIDEBORD
BANDING	CLASSICAL	WARDROBE

Chamber Mixer  
to support local  
Mendocino College  
students

Submitted by North County Friends  
of Mendocino College

On Friday September 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, the Mendocino College North Center campus is hosting a Chamber Mixer. Located at 372 East Commercial Street in Willits, the North Center serves students looking to continue their education and improve their professional skills by completing a certificate or pursuing an associate's degree.

This event is sponsored by the Willits Chamber of Commerce and the North County Friends of Mendocino College, a volunteer group of dedicated, local community members who believe in assisting the education and service programs benefitting students in the North County. You can learn more about joining the North County Friends by contacting Tim King at tmking@savingsbank.com.

The funds raised at this fun event will directly support Mendocino College students by assisting with their class fees. Refreshments will be provided by Scoops Deli, Ice Cream and Catering, and complimentary beer and wine will be available. There will be a 50/50 raffle as well as a live auction hosted by Tom Allman.

Some of the items you can bid on to support local students include: a recliner donated by Willits Furniture; a selection of Coro wines in a lovely wooden specialty box; and a cord of wood donated by Stan Cooley of Cooley's Firewood. There will be additional surprises too! Thank you to all of our local businesses who donated auction items.

If you are interested in learning more about the North Center and its class offerings, you should come. If you are a tradesperson who might be interested in teaching a Career Technical Education Class at the North Center, you should come. If you want to help local students on their journey to a better career because you care about your community, you should definitely come. All are welcome! Questions can be directed to Julie McGovern, executive director of the Mendocino College Foundation at 707-468-3164.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home



Gorgeous Zuma

Zuma is an active and loving 2-year-old cat who loves head scratches and pets. She loves to snuggle and relax.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Zuma or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.

Honey the Mouser

Honey isn't too sure what to think of people. She would prefer to be a working cat. A barn or porch would suit her just fine. Honey can live happily with other cats and prefers to be outside.

Honey is part of HSMC's working-cat program, also known as barn cats. It is an alternative-

placement program providing adoption success for cats that have behavioral challenges and are more appropriately placed in alternative environments where they can thrive. Alternative environments may include a semi-outdoor home on a property such as a working farm or barn building, but they can also be feed stores, plant nurseries, warehouses, factories, workshops, breweries, churches, artist studios, offices, and any other property suited for independent-minded cats. "Barn cat" usually refers to cats that live mostly outdoors and naturally help control the rodent population on a property.

Apply to adopt Honey at www.mendohumanesociety.com. The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



A different kind of 'Bucket Truck'

Mendo Mill holds annual Bucket Challenge this Saturday and Sunday

Mendo Mill is ready to fundraise for Willits High School's sports program again for 2022 with their annual Bucket Challenge sale. The creative display in the front of the store features the WHS Wolverine driving a "bucket truck" of sorts in front of the football scoreboard. As always, patrons can buy a bucket for \$5 and save 20% off everything that fits in that bucket. Mendo Mill will then donate \$10 to the local high school sports program. Stop by Mendo Mill on Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18 to participate!



Fired Up

Roots of Motive Power offers free train rides, fires up their steam equipment, and hosts barbecue and auction at annual Steam Festival

"This is our biggest fundraiser of the year," said Alexis England, president of Roots of Motive Power, as she was preparing for the annual barbecue at Recreation Grove Park, which traditionally feeds approximately 400 hungry steam enthusiasts.

Mathew Caine  
Features Writer  
mathew@willitsweekly.com  
"We do our small fundraisers, like during the Santa Train," England explained. "Our events continue to be free. We like to keep it that way and keep it open to anybody who wants to come and enjoy it and learn about the history of this region and enjoy some of the steam. I love this organization. I've always liked the idea of saving something old and bringing it back to life."

"This year, we're doing things a little bit different with our barbecue," continued England. "We're excited to have Smokin' G's and Big D's cooking for us. We usually plan for about 400 people at the barbecue. We've utilized a lot of local people. We have Steve and Sharon Short cooking for us. They're doing lamb kabobs. Starting at 3 pm we have Northspur Brewery beer on tap. Testa Winery donated to us. Kemmy's Pies is doing our cobbler and Scoops Deli is donating the ice cream. We definitely appreciate our community and like to keep things as local as possible."

On Saturday and Sunday, most families started out at the train yard, across Commercial Street, where they could ride the train for free and see all the steam equipment, much of which was fired up for the occasion. Families enjoyed getting up-close-and-personal with the myriad of huge steam shovels, steam donkeys, and other relics of the bygone era of the railroads and logging industries.

Most of the kids were delighted when the train whistle blew and the steam vented, creating white clouds, and the dark smoke puffed from the train's smokestack.

Below, left: Attendees look over the variety of working equipment from the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association. Below, right: This live-auction item used to be a bucy; it was converted into an efficient woodstove. At right: The barbecue, served by Smokin' G's and Big D's BBQ, featured three types of meat.



Book signing for  
'The Adventures of Red'

New Mendocino County author, Nishae Colombo, age 11, is hosting a signing event for her new book, "The Adventures of Red," on Saturday September 17 at Moon Lady/Moon Man, 100 South Main Street, in Willits.

The public is invited to come meet the author and purchase signed copy of her book between 11 am and 1 pm.



Above: "The Adventures of Red," a new book by Nishae Colombo, age 11.  
Below: New author Nishae Colombo looks at a copy of her new book.



Born and raised in Mendocino County, Nishae Colombo has four brothers and an older sister and lives with her family, two cats, two dogs, two roosters, and 14 chickens in Ukiah.

One warm summer evening in 2021 while she was lying on her bed daydreaming, she thought about writing a story about a blue jay. This spark inspired her to begin writing "The Adventures of Red," which she was later able to incorporate in her homeschool language arts curriculum. When Nishae completed her story, she decided to publish it on Amazon for other children to enjoy.

Nishae likes creating art projects, making jewelry, and playing volleyball. She is now thinking up ideas for her next book.

For further information, please call 720-481-9618.

For a sneak preview, available also as an ebook, visit: www.amazon.com/Adventures-Red-Nishae-Colombo/dp/B0B7QDFTFR

Submitted by  
Viktoria Vidali,  
Nishae's  
homeschool tutor



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Sonoma Counties

At left, from top: The Redwood Highway Band is reunited: Bruce Burton, Hank Floyd, Bear Kamoroff, Bruce Hutton and Ken Carter. Each trip was twice around the approximately one-mile loop. New Willits Charter School art instructor Caroline Hambright enjoys her plein air painting of the locomotive crane, until they moved it. The Bluestone engine is moved to its display area. Below, right: In the engine house, Jimmy, of the Black Irish Band, played the banjo along with his band mate, Patrick.



SPIRITUAL  
PATHWAYS

Agape  
Bible Church

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

Amazing Grace  
Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Burton Jernigan  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

The Church of  
Jesus Christ of  
Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive  
Willits, CA 95490  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
Sacrament Meeting  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path  
of Spiritual Freedom

•Sound of Soul events  
•Membership Discourses  
•Spiritual Discussions  
•ECK Light & Sound Services  
More information?  
Call 530-224-8703  
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community  
Church

Celebrating Life In Christ  
25 Hazel Street, Willits  
Modified Worship Service  
10 a.m.  
Other ministries suspended  
for now.  
For appointments call:  
(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua  
Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Confessions by appointment:  
459-2252  
Sunday Mass inside:  
9:00 a.m. English  
10:30 a.m. Spanish  
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Covid guidelines apply.  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis  
Episcopal Church

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

St. John  
Lutheran Church

Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day  
Adventist Church

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

Willits United Methodist

A Christ centered, progressive church  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.  
459-2855  
Facebook: www.facebook.com

If you want to be included in  
this column please call:  
April Tweddell  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com



Thursday, September 15

**Willits Farmers Market:** The weekly Farmers Market at the old Rexall parking lot, downtown. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Thursday, September 22, 3 to 5:30 pm. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales," story time from the Willits Branch Library and the Farmers Market Association, from 3:30 to 4 pm. Tobin will be offering readings of children's books for the community at large.

**Shanachie Pub:** Mitchell Holman, formerly of the San Francisco iconic band, It's A Beautiful Day (famous for the song "Whitebird") will be presenting this event every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month! Playing bass and singing, and often bringing in guest musicians ... a fun night of local music!" Thursday, September 15, 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Friday, September 16

**Fabric: What 15 Artists Can Do With It.:** This is the last weekend for this exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts. Open Friday-Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. 71 East Commercial Street.

**Willits Library Book Sale:** "After a Covid delay of two years the Friends of the Willits Library is delighted to once again host the Fall Book Sale September 16 to 18. The sale will be held in the Willits Library Conference Room. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm on Friday, September 16 and Saturday, September 17. On Sunday, September 18, books will be on sale at only \$3 a bag from 10 am to 3 pm. Volunteer cashiers are still needed. If you can help with a 2-hour shift, please sign up at the library." September 16-18. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

**North County Friends of Mendocino College Willits Chamber Mixer:** "Hors d'oeuvres, libations and raffle prizes. The funds raised at this fun event will directly support Mendocino College students by assisting with their class fees. Refreshments will be provided by Scoops Deli, Ice Cream and Catering and complimentary beer and wine will be available. There will be a 50/50 raffle as well as a live auction hosted by Tom Allman." Friday, September 16, 5:30-7:30 pm. At the Mendocino College North County Center, 372 East Commercial Street.

"The Need to Grow", the Now and Then Film Series: At the Little Lake Grange. "This documentary follows the personal journeys of innovators working to heal our broken food system and their solutions to regenerate our planet's dying soils. Brilliant and inspiring, this should be shown in all communities, worldwide, to educate everyone from childhood that preserving our natural resources is the best way to thrive on earth." Visit [www.earthconsciouslife.org/theneedtogrow](http://www.earthconsciouslife.org/theneedtogrow). Suggested donation of \$5-\$20. Serving organic popcorn with organic butter. Friday, August 16, 7 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

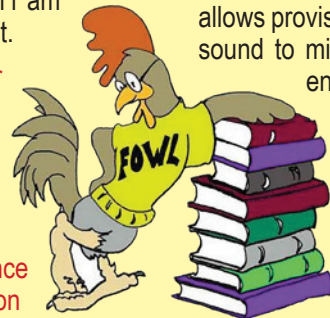
**Shanachie Pub:** S.R. Laws. "Originally from California, S.R. cut his teeth as a songwriter in Austin, Texas. The fertile landscape of the "Live Music Capital of the World" and a thriving music scene yielded a bounty of musical and life experiences like no other. Each passing season allows provisions of a burgeoning sound to mingle with wry lyrics, energetic rhythms and memorable melodies!" Friday, September 16, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**Ravens With Attitude:** Watercolor Workshop with Nancy Collins: September 16-17 at the Willits Center For the Arts. "This class will focus on ravens. We will work on not being stuck in reality but embracing colors within the black. All levels welcome." \$250 + supplies. Register online at [willitscenterforthearts.org](http://willitscenterforthearts.org). Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Saturday, September 17

**Willits Library Book Sale:** Today, Saturday, September 17, from 10 am to 5 pm, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. See Friday, September 16 listing for more details.

**Willits Library Book Sale:** "After a COVID delay of two years the Friends of the Willits Library is delighted to once again host the Fall Book Sale September 16 to 18. The sale will be held in the Willits Library Conference Room. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm on Friday, September 16 and Saturday, September 17. On Sunday, September 18, books will be on sale at only \$3 a bag from 10 am to 3 pm. Volunteer cashiers are still needed. If you can help with a 2-hour shift, please sign up at the library." September 16-18. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.



Participants at a previous Speakeasy show include, front to back, left to right: row to back, left to right) Earlene Gleisner, Pete Winslow, Peter Smith, Linda Posner, Margie Handley, Jane Camp, Freddie Long, Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, and Emmy Good.

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S BACK! What's Happening Around Town

to 18. The sale will be held in the Willits Library Conference Room. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm on Friday, September 16 and Saturday, September 17. On Sunday, September 18, books will be on sale at only \$3 a bag from 10 am to 3 pm. Volunteer cashiers are still needed. If you can help with a 2-hour shift, please sign up at the library." September 16-18. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

**Speakeasy VIII- An Evening of Original Monologues:** "Once again Willits Community Theater's popular storytelling extravaganza, Speakeasy, returns to the WCT Playhouse for two big shows, Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. The diverse and original monologues are performed on stage by local people who have written and prepared their own work for oral presentation. Coordinator Emmy Good says of Speakeasy VIII, "We have a variety of stories, some true, some imagined. We memorize them and present our material in various interesting ways." Tickets are \$15 and available online at [wctperformingartscenter.org](http://wctperformingartscenter.org), and will be available at the door if still available. Saturday, September 17, 7:30 pm. Willits Community Theater, 37 West Van Lane.

**Shanachie Pub:** Landers Drifters. Cosmic Americana road dogs transmitting sounds of the West. Original country rock tunes with influences ranging from the Flying Burrito Brothers to Hank Williams Sr. to the Pixies. Visit [Facebook.com/landersdrifters](http://Facebook.com/landersdrifters), [Instagram.com/landersdrifters](http://Instagram.com/landersdrifters). Saturday, September 17, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**2Much Fun! Band at Szechuan Restaurant:** A duo featuring multi instrumentalist Paul Haley and guitarist/vocalist Dave Pierce. "They've teamed up to dish out a tasty buffet of family-friendly, musical favorites, sprinkled with original songs. 2MuchFun! draws their inspiration from a diverse range of musical influences – from The Beatles to The Zombies." Saturday, September 17, from 6 to 8:30 pm. Szechuan, 47 East Mendocino Avenue.

Sunday, September 18

**Willits Library Book Sale:** Today, Sunday,

September 18, is \$3 a bag day, open from 10 am to 3 pm at the Willits Library 390 East Commercial Street. See Friday, September 16 listing for more details.

**"Speakeasy VIII- An Evening of Original Monologues":** Once again Willits Community Theater's popular storytelling extravaganza, Speakeasy, returns to the WCT Playhouse for two big shows, Saturday at 7:30 pm Sunday at 2 pm. The diverse and original monologues are performed on stage by local people who have written and prepared their own work for oral presentation. Tickets are \$15 and available online at [wctperformingartscenter.org](http://wctperformingartscenter.org), and at the door if still available. Sunday, September 18, 2 pm. 37 West Van Lane. See Saturday, September 17 listing for more details.

**Pottery Classes, Sundays in September:** Taught by Sofia Alaoui and beginning Sunday September 18 at the Willits Center for the Arts. "The class will start with a demonstration of techniques. As students work on their project, Sofia will be there to archive their vision. All ages are welcome." September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 11 am to 4 pm. \$325 plus materials. To register visit [willitscenterforthearts.org](http://willitscenterforthearts.org). Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Monday, September 19

**Shanachie Pub:** The Black Heartthrobs. "A four-piece melodic garage rock band from Culver City, CA. Punk bassist for Osker (Epitaph), David Benitez switched to vocals/guitar and is joined by Jane Greely, Mark Yates and Aidan Salier. Irreverent lyrics and catchy choruses abound in their indie white collar rock". Visit [theblackheartthrobs.com/home](http://theblackheartthrobs.com/home). Monday, September 19, 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Wednesday, September 21

**Shanachie Pub:** Open Mic Night. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers

from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Every Wednesday. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**History Makers:** Print and Play with Trains at the Mendocino County Museum. Children aged 2 to 6 and their grownups are invited to the museum from 1 to 3 pm Wednesdays in September for this event! Use toy trains to create your own railway line and add colorful scenery with stamps and drawings, or enjoy playtime and build a track with our wooden train set. Wednesdays, September 21 and 28, 1 to 3 pm. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street.

Thursday, September 22

**Willits Farmers Market:** The weekly Farmers Market at the old Rexall parking lot, downtown. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Thursday, September 22, 3 to 5:30 pm. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales," story time from the Willits Branch Library and the Farmers Market Association, from 3:30 to 4 pm. Tobin will be offering readings of children's books for the community at large.

**"Our Energy Future: Save Money/Save the Climate":** A Zoom forum sponsored by Willits Economic Localization. Presenters include Geof Syphers, CEO of Sonoma Clean Power, Keith Rutledge of the Renewable Energy Development Institute, and John Takes of North Bay Solar Electric. September 22, 6:30 to 8 pm. The Zoom link is [tinyurl.com/WELL-ENERGY-Forum](https://tinyurl.com/WELL-ENERGY-Forum). Info: Madge Strong at [mstrong@willitsonline.com](mailto:mstrong@willitsonline.com) or 707-459-1493.

**BACE Autumn Equinox Celebration:** "Join us for a tremendous evening of music, art and movement. Come through early for Movement & Sound bath, amazing bites by @zocalove and check out the new art by @tribe13gallery." Tickets are \$25 pre-sale (available on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)), or \$35 at the door. Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 pm. BACE, 109 North Main St.

Friday, September 23

**Shanachie Pub:** Carlos Selections. "Carlos Hernández and Taylor playing Reggae riddims and Hip Hop beats. Hernández, trumpeter from Puerto

Rico, offers diverse music groups with musicians that he has worked with since his first visit to Northern California back in 2016. Genres from jazz to latin, from reggae to funk, to music without labels. Ready to exponentiate the inspiration of his guest artists." Visit [www.facebook.com/mayequa](http://www.facebook.com/mayequa). Friday, September 23, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**Diggers Karaoke Night:** Hosted by Garrett Moore on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month. September 23, 8 pm to midnight. Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

**Willits High School Football:** The Varsity and Junior Varsity football teams take on St. Helena at Willits High School, Maize Field, 299 North Main Street. September 23, JV plays at 5:30 pm, and Varsity at 7:30 pm.

Saturday, September 24

**Willits Summer Art Walk:** "Our downtown is brimming with talented artists and creative activity. Plan to spend the evening exploring art, history, music, and dance." Many local venues are involved, showing art exhibits and displays, and providing food and drinks. These include Art on the Plaza (99 S Main St), Willits Center for The Arts (71 E Commercial St), Re-Evolution (15 W Mendocino Ave), Shanachie Pub (50B S Main St), Scoops (110 N Main St), BACE (101 N Main St), Kemmy's Pies (299 E Commercial St), and the city library and museum. September 24, and October 29, 4 to 8 pm. For more info visit [willitscenterforthearts.org](http://willitscenterforthearts.org).

**Shanachie Pub:** Saturday Scramble with Tyler B. Every second and fourth Saturday from 3 to 6 pm. "You're invited to bring any instrument you can play and sign up for a 'band' to perform a 15 minute set with other local musicians. Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!" Saturday September 24, 3 to 6 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**Shanachie Pub:** Wormhead. An alternative rock band formed by multi-instrumentalist and frontman Jeremy Cremer. This show features the band



playing an acoustic set. Visit [wormheadband.com](http://wormheadband.com). Saturday, September 24, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**Sarah Rose McMahon, Malakai Schindel and Forrest Glyer at the Willits Community Theater, with Special Guests Kyle Madrigal and Lhasa Summers:** This group of longtime collaborating musicians come together for a special concert at the Willits Community Theatre. With musical histories that include the Real Sarahs, Schindig and the Dirt Floor Band among other acts, they have a diverse mix of musical backgrounds and influences that range from Americana and folk to jazz and world music. Tickets are \$20, available at [wctperformingartscenter.org](http://wctperformingartscenter.org), or you can call 707-459-0895. Saturday, September 24, 7:30 pm. Willits Community Theater, 37 West Van Lane.

Sunday, September 25

**"Harvest Sharing" at the Little Lake Grange:** "A free outside community event sharing our delicious season's bounty of food, food-related items, and local herbs in the grange's back parking lot. Bring extra harvest from your garden, and food-related items like extra dried or home-canned goods. Herbalists are also invited to bring culinary and/or medicinal herbs, fresh or dried. Please drop off the harvest you wish to share between 9 am and 12 pm. This event will be in conjunction with the Grange Pancake Breakfast that same morning. Sunday, September 25. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

**Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast:** "The best 'scratch' pancakes and local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods." \$9 per diner, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for children under 10. Sunday, September 25, 8 to 11 am. 291 School Street.

**Willits Weekly's Centerspread Calendar is back! Please send listings and digital graphics to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) by our deadline, end of day Monday for each Thursday edition.**

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES Classic Film Series: "The Lorax"

**Story:** Animated musical adventure quest about a boy named Ted and Audrey the adorable red-haired girl he loves. Audrey says that if Ted can bring her a live real tree then she will give him a kiss. You might ask: how difficult can this be? Well, the problem is they live in a futuristic

walled town without plant life, nor animal life, only people. Zero. Sterile. Plastic everything. Ted, a lad of infinite pluck finds a way out of the town. And what he finds seems to be endless stretches of clear-cut hills and plains. No trees. What to do? Dilemmas compound (lotsa stuff happens). Poor Ted. He meets the somewhat irascible Lorax who is the spirit guardian of trees, whose bad temper is clearly justified – all the trees are dead. But this is a love story, with a happy ending. No more spoilers. Oh, there's a bad guy gangster-type who is the mayor of the town. He loves money. He hates trees. And he has it in for Ted.

**My Thoughts:** Inventive camera angles. Good story, a parable. And for Ted, a true Hero's Journey. I liked the songs. Great soundtrack. And I liked the animation. My guess is that when Willits was a logging town that kept going economically based on board feet, "The Lorax" would have been a very unpopular story, what with the clear-cutting aspect. But that time has passed. This is a kind movie about respecting the Natural World. What's not to like?

**Parents:** I watched the flick with a decent-sized crowd Saturday afternoon. Kids and their mothers. It seemed to me that a good time was being had by all. I was raised by my grandmother to be a Sierra Club/ Earth Firster, and I subscribe to the moral of the movie. Love trees. Talk to them, they're great listeners. And be kind to each other. *Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.*



## MENDOCINO COUNTY FAIR & APPLE SHOW

SEPT. 23<sup>RD</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

OPEN 9 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY!

**FRIDAY, 9/23:**  
Free admission for children under 12  
Admission is \$6 for seniors 65 and over  
**5 pm: Apple Bowl - Football**  
**8 pm: Dance - Scott Forbes Band**

**SATURDAY, 9/24:**  
**8 pm: CCPRA Rodeo**  
**9:30 pm: Dance - Dean Titus & the Coyote Cowboys**

**SUNDAY, 9/25:**  
**10 am: Sheep Dog Trials**  
**10 am: Vintage Car Show**  
**Noon: Parade**  
**2 pm: CCPRA Rodeo**  
**6 pm: Dance - Los Cautivos & Los Elegantes DTC**

GENERAL ADMISSION:  
ADULTS \$10 | JUNIORS 13-18: \$8  
KIDS 7-12: \$6 | 6 AND UNDER: FREE

Apple Tasting | Livestock | Wool & Fiber Show | Exhibits

# BOONVILLE FAIRGROUNDS

See full schedule online: <http://mendocountyfair.com/>

## Ongoing Events

"ImPRESSED, A Celebration of Printmaking": Showing at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits through September 25, ImPRESSED celebrates the art of printmaking and community. Prints from local artists, both contemporary and beloved, will come together to inspire an appreciation for the fine art of printmaking, while offering a warm invitation to try your hand at becoming a printmaker! Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street.

**Free Home Hardening Inspections Still Available:** To apply contact info@[sherwoodfirewise.org](mailto:sherwoodfirewise.org).

**The Redwood Empire Food Bank:** Twice-monthly food distribution in Willits, in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields. Groceries To Go, Senior Basket (for low income seniors 60 or older), and Diapers all available the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

**Mendocino County Animal Shelter Cat & Kitten Special:** Half off adoption fees at both the Ukiah and Fort Bragg shelters. Cats and kittens over 4 months old are eligible for this purrfect special event. For more information call the Ukiah shelter at 467-6453, or the Fort Bragg shelter at 961-2491

**Diggers Karaoke Night with Host Garrett Moore:** Second and Fourth Friday of every month. From 8 pm to midnight. Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

**The below all take place at the Willits Center For The Arts, 71 East Commercial Street:**

**Lifeline Life Drawing:** Drop in Life Drawing Group. Thursdays, 1-4 pm. Sliding scale. For info call Margaret at 459-9251.

**The Willits Photography Club:** "invite

you to join us for friendship, inspiration, and sharing. Beginners to professionals are welcome." Meetings are the second Saturday of each month, with the next one taking place on October 8 at 10 am.

**Family Capoeira:** "Community, Confidence, Wellness". Mondays and Wednesdays in September, 5-7 pm. For info call Tony at 831-332-3684.

**West African Drum and Dance:** Every Thursday. Drum class with Saturnin Ba from 5-6 pm, and dance class with Marshailena from 6:15-7:45 pm. Each class is \$15, or take both for \$25.

**Ceramics Open Studio:** Fridays, 12-5 pm during regular gallery hours. "We invite experienced potters that are familiar with ceramic arts to join us during our open studio".

**The below all take place at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street:**

**Open Mic Night:** Every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20-minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises."

**Mitchell Holman:** First and third Thursday of each month. "Formerly of the San Francisco iconic band, It's A Beautiful Day, Holman will be playing bass and singing, and often bringing in guest musicians. A fun night of local music!". Starts at 7 pm.

**Saturday Scramble with Tyler B:** Second and fourth Saturday of each month. "You're invited to bring any instrument you can play and sign up for a 'band' to perform a 15 minute set with other local musicians. Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!". From 3-6 pm.

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Movie Times for September 16 thru September 22

## "Elementary! A Master Lover's Book Club"

New and classic mysteries shared. "The Willits Branch Library is proud to announce its first book club, solely devoted to mysteries. Any adults who appreciate a good whodunit, are invited to sign up at the library's circulation desk and get ready to meet and talk all about the riveting tale, The Man Who Died Twice: A Thursday Murder Club Mystery by Richard Osman. Hosted by Librarian Benjamin Macbean the first Thursday of every month, starting on October 6, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.mendolibrary.org](http://www.mendolibrary.org) or 707-459-5908.

## Ranch Rodeo

The 11th Annual Ranch Rodeo, October 8 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. "This year's event will see the return of the BBQ Cook-Off and the return of rodeo riders doing ranch-oriented tasks on horseback and on foot. There will also be the addition of a cornhole tournament as well as bull, bronc and ranch bronc livestock riding events too. The all-day event starts at 9 am at

## Willits Center for the Arts presents

**Fabric: What 15 Artists Can Do With It**  
Meet the Artists  
August 27, 6-9pm  
open through 9/18  
Fri-Sun 11am-5pm  
[willitscenterforthearts.org](http://willitscenterforthearts.org)

## Malakai Schindel, Sarah Rose McMahon, Forrest Glyer

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(PG) 1 hr 26 mins  
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(PG) 2 hrs 9 mins  
Fri.: 4:00 & 7:00pm  
Sat./Sun.: 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00pm  
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### Caltrans inspects damage after Walker Fire

Whenever there is damage to highway infrastructure, the California Department of Transportation is ready to respond to the scene. Just last week, crews were called to the Walker Fire that has burned over 120 acres south of Willits in Mendocino County. The blaze started Thursday, September 1 and quickly spread east of U.S. 101.

Caltrans assembled a team from Maintenance, Construction and Hydraulics to assess the damage caused by the fire. After inspecting the area, at least 2,000 feet of guardrail, over a mile of right-of-way fencing, and two culverts will have to be replaced. Paving is also needed to ensure the section of roadway is safe for the traveling public.

"Drainage systems can be damaged by fire, particularly when there are plastic pipes," said Caltrans District 1 Hydraulics Engineer Nanette Nickerson. "We always check all components of our roadways following a fire to ensure the structural integrity of the road, the structural integrity of the safety systems such as guardrail, and to make repairs where necessary."

An Emergency Director's Order was approved with funding secured, and a contractor was selected to make repairs for the fire-related damages. The northbound right shoulder will remain closed until repairs are made.

– posted by "Caltrans District 1" on Facebook, September 9

Above: Caltrans District 1 and other agencies assess damage caused by the Walker Fire south of Willits, on the freeway (left) and off (right). Below: Fire damage to a culvert and guardrail (at bottom) located on U.S. 101 south of Willits.





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### The rest of Roots From page 1

stack. Although, some came equipped with noise-cancelling headphones in order to attenuate the volume.

The train, pulled by the venerable old Bluestone engine, wended its way two times per trip around the one-mile loop that took the riders around the yards of ancient steam equipment, the soccer fields where games were in full swing, and past the demonstrations of the working implements.

One of the more popular cars on the train was the caboose, where kids could ride up high to get a different perspective on the route.

"The Northwest Pacific Historical Society restored the caboose," explained Roots librarian Bear Kamoroff. "They did a beautiful job, and they have no tracks, so it's on

semi-permanent loan to Roots of Motive Power. That caboose came through Willits maybe five or six days a week for years behind freight trains, until 1969 when the federal government outlawed all wooden railroad cars and required that they

all be steel."

Every piece of equipment in the Roots yard has a story and the longtime members are always willing to impart their vast knowledge.

"This is an Ohio Locomotive Crane," said one of the founding members, Chris Baldo, who was working with the crane locomotive. "It has a 20-ton capacity. It's self-powered and can pull cars. It's a coal locomotive. It does everything a crane can do. It does everything a locomotive can do. It's a Weyerhaeuser crane so it was used for loading logs. It was also used with a clamshell bucket to clean out the drainage ditches, necessary on the railroads. It's a pretty versatile tool."

Back at the Rec Grove, people arrived for the barbecue and began to peruse the silent auction items as well as the five valuable pieces up for live auction, including a redwood picnic table and a buoy from Noyo Harbor that had been converted into a fireplace.

While the dinner was being prepared, the crowd was treated to the sounds of "the reunion of the Redwood Highway Band," explained Bear Kamoroff. "We have Hank Floyd on guitar, myself on bass, Bruce Burton on banjo, Ken Carter on vocals and lead, Bruce Hutton on the drums." They played mostly traditional country music.

There was a new vendor at the event this year, Mac and Walter Carson's Knives. They brought a beautiful array of shiny, artistic and useful utensils, the making of which were instigated by Mac, a young enthusiastic boy with autism, who convinced his father to start the company, thus giving Mac purpose and something to do. The knives were well received by the attendees.

The Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association (<https://edgeta.com>) brought a display of fascinating smaller machines which they arranged along the sidewalk in the park.

This is the 40th year of Roots of Motive Power and they are always looking for new members and, of course, donations to keep their restorations going.

"Memberships are \$35 per year and you get three really fine newsletters," said Baldo, "but mostly, if you'd like to come and work on old steam equipment, the first and third Saturday of each month, we're over at the Roots yard adjacent to the Mendocino County Museum.

"We'd be happy to get some help from you. If anyone wants more information, they can call 707-272-3472, and I'll help them out.

"The railroad library is open," he added, "Wednesdays and Thursdays at the museum. We have quite an archive of books and materials on trains. If people would like to join Roots as a member, they can send a check to Roots of Motive Power at 400 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490."

For more information, visit [www.rootsofmotivepower.com](http://www.rootsofmotivepower.com).

### The rest of Reports From page 1

As described by the county' Superior Court website, the Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury is a group of 19 local citizens serving for one year who "are empowered to investigate the operations of the various officers, departments, and agencies of local government, as well as to provide civil oversight of county government departments and agencies, and to respond to citizen's complaints. Each Civil Grand Jury determines which officers, departments and agencies it will investigate during its term of office."

The supervisors' responses basically consisted of two sections – one where they said if they agree with the findings of the grand jury reports, and another where they said whether the county is implementing the recommendations put forward.

For the "Measure B Re-Examined" report, the grand jury laid out several critiques, some aimed at the Measure B ordinance itself, and some at the county's actions since it passed.

Measure B is a sales tax measure passed by county voters in 2017 to fund mental health projects.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak and Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren were on the ad hoc which crafted the response to the grand jury report.

Out of the eight Measure B findings by the jury, the supervisors agreed fully with seven of them.

They agreed that the Measure B language was "imprecise about the execution of the programs" which "has resulted in a lack of ground rules for discussions and making recommendations to the BOS"; and that "the responsibilities of the [Measure] B Committee were unclear" in the ordinance, "resulting in members assuming authority which belonged to the BOS."

The supervisors also agreed that "there has been no direct funding for [substance use disorder treatment] as recommended" in Measure B, and that "the high costs to construct the [psychiatric health facility] may reduce funds available for other proposed services and programs."

In addition they agreed with the grand jury that there had been insufficient auditing of Measure B tax money.

"Annual independent audits of taxpayers' money were not performed, resulting in no definitive answer to what funds are available or have been expended," the grand jury findings stated. "The first 15 months of operations are excluded from the commissioned audits. Not starting from day one does not give a complete financial picture."

As for the jury recommendations, the supervisors responded that the county had implemented two of them – that "the board ... will include greater detail in future special tax ordinances," and that county staff will continue to pursue grant opportunities to properly fund the Measure B projects.

However, as to the recommendation to fund substance abuse treatment in the county with Measure B money, the supervisors responded that it "requires further analysis."

"Measure B funds have been provided indirectly for [substance use disorder treatment] through Respite Care, the Crisis Residential Treatment Center and other programs," the supervisor response stated. "The board and committee will consider additional funding for SUDT programs in their future meetings."

Quite a bit of disagreement between the grand jury and the supervisors emerged in the response to the report, "Redwood Valley Water District – 48 Years of Water Insecurity."

First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty was the only one on the ad hoc committee responding to this report, and Redwood Valley lies in his district.

McGourty did not agree to support any of the four findings of the grand jury report, or implement any of their four recommendations, and the rest of the supervisors also signed off on McGourty's responses by voting to approve them.

Essentially it appeared that the grand jury was urging the board and county to become more involved in helping the Redwood Valley County Water District solve their longstanding water shortage issues, but McGourty and the board felt it was not within their authority.

As stated in the original June 29 grand jury report, "the Redwood Valley County Water District ... has never been able to provide water security to its customers," and "does not have sufficient water rights or water resources to serve its current customers."

The report details a long and complex history which led to this involving the Russian River Flood District, the Coyote Dam, Lake Mendocino access, lack of storage capacity, and outstanding debts on federal loans for water infrastructure.

The report stated that the RVCWD has not been allowed to add another residential customer since 1989 due to a court moratorium, that household use is currently restricted to 55 gallons per person per day in the district, and "since April 2021 there has been no available water from the district for existing agricultural customers" who are instead "operating only on storage ponds and groundwater."

One grand jury finding was that "the

consolidation of local water agencies is the logical first step in not only securing water availability for the RVCWD's residents and businesses, but for the entirety of the Ukiah basin."

They also found that an outstanding \$6.5 million federal loan balance "remains a burden to RVCWD, limiting access to available funding sources for infrastructure, maintenance, and upgrades."

To both of these findings, Supervisor McGourty stated that the board was not "the proper entity to respond to this finding," since it "lacks authority over the local water agencies or their consolidation," and "lacks the information to opine on the operations of RVCWD."

The grand jury suggested in another finding that the Mendocino County Water Agency, which is still in the process of taking shape, take steps to help the Redwood Valley water district.

"The Mendocino County Water Agency is being reestablished for oversight of all water issues within the county," the finding read. "The MCWA would be the logical entity to bring forward monthly reports to the BOS to ensure RVCWD water security and the federal loan debt remain visible on the BOS legislative calendar."

But McGourty disagreed, stating that "this is not the purpose of the MCWA."

His response continued: "The MCWA is a flood control and water conservation district, and it lacks any legal authority or oversight over other special districts, such as RVCWD."

"Additionally, the MCWA does not have the funding or resources for 'oversight of all water issues' and instead is trying to assemble a water resource team focused on technically assisting the 42 water purveyors in our county in grant applications and communications with state water resource agencies."

The first two grand jury recommendations centered around actions it was urging the RVCWD to take – to "immediately pursue all avenues towards consolidation with local water districts," and to "pursue partial or full loan forgiveness and/or develop a repayment plan" for their federal debt.

To both these McGourty simply replied, "The board has no authority or oversight over the RVCWD and lacks any ability to implement this recommendation."

The other two grand jury recommendations asked that the First District supervisor and the MCWA give regular reports to the board on issues impacting the Redwood Valley water district, but these two were rejected by McGourty and the supervisors.

"Regular formal reports are potentially misleading to the public, as they may imply that the board or MCWA has some authority over RVCWD," the supervisors' response stated. "District 1 supervisor can include updates in supervisor reports on agenda, but monthly reports to the full board would be excessive, given that the board has no authority over RVCWD."

For the grand jury report on the Cannabis Equity Grant program, Haschak and McGourty were on the ad hoc committee assigned to respond.

The equity grant program was initiated by the state and aims to help those harmed by the war on drugs enter the legal cannabis market, by giving funding to local jurisdictions for grants and other assistance.

The grand jury had found that the county equity program was beset with problems, and the supervisors agreed with four out of five of their findings.

They agreed with the statement that "there was no process developed for the distribution of grant funds to individuals prior to applications being received," which "has resulted in extended delays at every step from eligibility to application to communication to contract generation."

The supervisors also agreed that the contractor hired to help with the equity program, Elevate Impact, was ill-equipped to handle the task, and that county efforts to help get applicants through the state requirements were too slow.

As for the recommendations by the grand jury, the supervisors did say that one had been implemented – approving that "cannabis issues be sent to the General Government standing committee."

However, regarding the rest of the recommendations, it seemed there was still much progress to be made.

One recommendation from the grand jury was that "the county provide detailed instructions to future applicants for the [cannabis equity grant] program regarding potential permit issues and record-keeping requirements."

The supervisors responded that "the recommendation has not yet been implemented."

"Communication is needed, and the [Mendocino Cannabis Department] has been conducting monthly meetings to better inform applicants of the requirements," the supervisors' response read. "Unforeseen issues continue to arise, solutions are needed, and education required to overcome the challenges of this program."

The supervisors also said at the time of their

report (the initial ad hoc grand jury responses were crafted near the end of August), that the county may not get out all the cannabis equity grant checks to applicants before an August 31 deadline, when it could be at risk of losing the money which had been allocated by the state.

"As of this report, there has been collaboration to address any delays, yet the deadline is approaching and all the checks have not yet been distributed," said the supervisors.

### The rest of WELL From page 1

and battery storage, offers the nation's first 24 / 7 renewable service called EverGreen, and opened the groundbreaking Advanced Energy Center.

Prior to SCP, Syphers worked for 20 years in California's electric industry on solar, wind and battery storage systems and utility energy-efficiency programs. Syphers will give an overview about Sonoma Clean Power and how it helps its customers reduce their energy bill and carbon footprint.

Keith Rutledge is a co-founder and director of the Renewable Energy Development Institute that began in 1990 with the Solar Expo and Rally and has continued years of educational services and demonstration projects for renewable energy and clean air transportation solutions.

He has worked in this field internationally. Locally, Rutledge managed REDi's Home Energy Link Programs in Willits and Fort Bragg and helped develop the Off-Grid Home Mortgage program.

Rutledge will discuss REDi's energy efficiency, renewables, and clean air transportation opportunities. He notes that there are great tax and utility incentives, low / no-interest financing, and commercially available technologies that both SCP and PG&E offer for residents and businesses.

John Takes is founder of North Bay Solar Electric in Willits. He has over 40 years of experience in the solar energy business, much of it based in Mendocino County. (He is substituting for Jonathan McChesney of Radiant Solar Technology, who had a schedule conflict.)

Takes' topics may include: frequently asked questions on solarizing a grid-tied home, and common misconceptions; off-grid basics for the curious; back-up power – generators vs. batteries; heating and cooling our homes in the electric future; hot water and recirculation.

After the initial presentations, there will be lots of time for Q&A from the audience. We will also make a recording of the forum available for later viewing.

WELL organized this forum to help our local community – government, residents and businesses – learn practical ways to save money while reducing our impact on the climate crisis. We hope this will also inspire actions far beyond our local area!

WELL also works on other ways to strengthen local sustainability, including local food, water conservation, human and environmental health, transportation, emergency preparedness, and local investing. To join WELL and receive our newsletters and updates, go to [www.well95490.org/join-donate](http://www.well95490.org/join-donate).

### The rest of Injuries From page 1

101 at mile marker 43.50.

The fires burned up into the Willits Watershed, towards Morris Reservoir. After a full wildland fire response, including plenty of air attack, CAL FIRE announced in their 7 pm update that same day that "forward progress has been stopped."

Evacuation warnings the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office had issued for Pine Mountain and Ridgewood Ranch Road subdivisions were lifted at 9 pm that evening.

CAL FIRE continued to announce higher degrees of containment on the Walker Fire in their am and pm incident reports as the days progressed, getting up to 109 acres burned with 85% containment the morning of Tuesday, September 6.

Then a flare-up occurred late that afternoon of September 6 near Morris Dam, which again drew a full response of air and ground resources, and "forward progress" was announced as stopped at around 9 pm.

CAL FIRE announced 85% containment the morning after the flare-up was dealt with in its September 7 am report, increasing to 87% that evening, then 90%, then 92%, then 97%, reaching 100% containment as of September 10.







Photos  
by Jamie  
Chevalier



At top, from left: Breadseed, or opium poppies, come in lots of colors and types (Quail Seeds carries many, both single and double, in several colors). Crimson clover is a fertility-building cover crop that is easy to sow now without disturbing your summer crops – just sprinkle seed under and around existing plants, cover with compost or soil mix, and water in. Now is the time to plant poppies and other California wildflowers. Above, from left: Hungarian pink winter lettuce is a rare variety that has become a local favorite for winter due to its buttery, silky leaves that have a beautiful rose-like head with pink-bronze highlights. Fava beans are both a winter cover crop and a fine edible crop that can be eaten as young leafy tops, as green shell beans, and as a dry bean (the dry beans are made into falafel and hummus). Radishes are renowned for growing quickly – try salad radishes like these as an understory crop around tomatoes or squash.



At top: Spinach leaves come in three types: savoy (crinkled), flat, and arrowhead (for winter growing here, I recommend Monster of Viroflay, an excellent savoy, or Monopa, a flat-leaf with good flavor). Above, from left: Mustard, like the Red Giant seen here, is an ultra-easy crop for winter. Colorful chard is a great source of baby greens for fall salads. These baby lettuce leaves are growing in a raised bed next to the back door for easy access on dark winter nights; you can cut the outer leaves every week or two for a continuous harvest. At right: Farewell-to-spring is a native wildflower that is easy to grow if planted with the fall rains for spring bloom.



Photo by Karen  
Morton

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

## September: A breathing space

During our heat waves this year, the nighttime has felt like a refuge of coolness and peace after the daily onslaught of heat.

Most plants feel the same way. Night is literally the time when plants breathe, opening the pores called stomata on their leaves to let in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Moisture rises in the soil and allows them to drink and make new cells. If it sometimes seems to you that your plants grow overnight, you're right, they do.

September's combination of warm soil, sunshine, and longer nights gives seedlings perfect conditions for fast growth, as long as they have access to water. Starting seedlings in trays is one way to give them the conditions they need when the open garden is still too hot, too dry, too windy, too crowded, or too weedy for good seed germination.

Or start seeds in the garden and water them often. But start them now, before frosty nights and shorter days slow down or stop growth.

In the last decade, research on plants and soils has created a quiet revolution in how we understand growth and fertility. Most gardeners have not heard about it yet, but it turns out that fertile soils get that way not from minerals or from additions like manure, but from plants themselves.

Plants use the energy of the sun to make sugars and other carbon-based nutrients. Some of those carbs become part of the plant's tissues – that's the story we always knew. But lots of sugars and other compounds ooze from the plant roots into the soil. The carbs in these root exudates, as well as the carbon from decaying plant roots in the ground, are the fuel that feeds soil life – fungi, bacteria, and zillions more.

It's this soil life that makes nitrogen for the plants to eat, and converts soil minerals into a form plants can absorb. The reason that forests grow so lush without fertilizer or amendments is that the soil is full of undisturbed roots – living and dead. The surface has a constant mulch of dead leaves and other organic matter. No plow or tiller disrupts the web of underground life.

Where to start on a garden scale? Leave plant roots (except perennial weeds) in the ground rather than pulling them out. Use mulch. And plant cover crops this month.

Don't wait for your summer crops to be over – scratch in some seed around your tomatoes and squash, then mulch over it. If you want something that will overwinter, feed the soil, and be easy to cut down next spring, try vetch, crimson clover, bell beans, or Austrian winter peas.

With both the cover-crop peas and garden peas, you don't have to wait for pods – just clip the shoots for salads and light cooking. They taste like peas, and are ready in less than a month. You can even grow them on a window sill. Get them started now, and you will have fresh, new flavors when the tomatoes and zucchini are just a memory.

Another thing to consider this month is how to use any space you have under cover. A greenhouse, cold frame, or tunnel doesn't just keep the plants warmer, it also keeps them from getting beat up, muddy, and slug-gnawed.

Peas, broccoli and lettuce respond particularly well to protection; they are fairly fragile plants that like cool conditions but can't take a lot of punishment from wind and wet. Easy crops that don't mind outdoor weather are turnips, miner's lettuce, erba stella, Napa cabbage, tatsoi, mustard, fava beans, endive, and cilantro.

In colder climates, many gardeners dig up rosemary and other semi-tender plants to bring them indoors in a pot. Here in Willits, I've done that with peppers. Many will last quite a while in the greenhouse, giving them time to ripen more fruit. Peppers do well in pots. I've known people to keep them for years as house plants.

Fruit trees seem to be producing especially heavily this year, and earlier than usual. If you have trees you don't visit often, they may be riper than you expect. When trees bear a very heavy crop, they often skip fruiting the next season, exhausted by producing so much.

Canning and freezing extra when you have the chance is good insurance against years of no harvest. Like our gatherer ancestors, we provide for the future best by staying alert and flexible in the present.

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in Alaska and California and taught gardening in schools, as well as living in a remote cabin and commercial fishing. She wrote the Bountiful Gardens catalog from 2009 to 2017, and is now the proprietor of Quail Seeds, [www.quailseeds.com](http://www.quailseeds.com).



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