

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Apple Pie Throwdown

To the Editor:

For a number of years prior to the pandemic, **Not JUST Cowboy Poetry at Emandal** has hosted a contest to see who can bake a great apple pie! This year, on Saturday, October 14, 2023, we will have the first since 2019. I challenge anyone who thinks they make a good apple pie, to make one, bring it out to the farm, and enter it into our Apple Pie Throwdown!

There will be three very well-qualified judges, all entries will be numbered, so they won't be able to put a name to the pie ... a blind judging, so to speak. And once the officials have made their determinations, tastes of pies can be purchased, along with homemade, hand-cranked ice cream, so that the real experts, the public, can also vote for the "People's Choice" award.

There are seven categories for which engraved rolling pins are awarded: Most Delectable Filling; The Perfect Crust; Most Aesthetically Pleasing; Best Over-All Apple Pie in Mendocino County!; Most Creative Apple Pie; People's Choice; and The Next Generation (for folks under the age of 21). It would be grand to have a bunch of younger folks enter.... So far, age has been ruling the contest.

Awards are made just after intermission.

If you have more questions, please either call me (707-459-9252), email

me at tamara@emandal.com or look up the rules online at emandal.com/throwdownrules.

I look forward to seeing you at this sumptuous event!

Tamara Adams, Willits

Oktoberfest in the Redwoods & John Cross Memorial Golf Tournament

To the Editor:

The Willits Rotary Club is gearing up for our "Oktoberfest in the Redwoods & John Cross Memorial Golf Tournament" fundraising event on Saturday, October 7, 2023. Proceeds to benefit the Harrah Senior Center and Student Debt Assistance Program.

"The fundraiser will be held at Ohl Redwood Grove Park in Brooktrails Township, just west of Willits. Guests will enjoy this setting with the option of participating in one or all of the following festivities: a 9-hole golf tournament, tasting of local wines/craft beers, and sampling of traditional Oktoberfest cuisine. Music will be provided by local bands, while guests enjoy socializing and browsing a variety of artisan booths. There will be a Live Quarters Auction and Silent Auction items to bid on.

As a "Gold Tier Sponsor" (\$500) and "Silver Tier Sponsor" (\$250) we would like to offer you multiple entrance tickets

to the festival, food/drink tickets, acknowledgement in the media, and on a banner at the event. You will also have satisfaction knowing you are part of a caring community that provides financial assistance in the form of scholarships to high school seniors and by funding the Willits Senior Center's Meals on Wheels Program.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or simply attending, please note the amounts below. Of course, any amount you may wish to contribute or any items you would like to donate for our auctions will be much appreciated. Contributions can be anonymous as well.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. The Willits Rotary Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and upon request will provide a letter of receipt for your tax deduction purposes.

Please make checks payable to the "Willits Rotary Charitable Foundation" and write Festival in the Redwoods in the memo. Willits Rotary Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Please contact any volunteer below, or mail this form with your payment to: Rotary Club of Willits, P.O. Box 787, Willits, CA 95490

Your tickets will be mailed, or hand delivered to you as soon as possible. Your community thanks you for your support!

Ann Alumbaugh, Willits Rotary Club Event Volunteer, 707-841-1315

Richard Baker, Willits Rotary Club Event Volunteer, 707-354-0614

Jenny Senter, Willits Rotary Club Event Volunteer, 707-888-7834

No drones in firefighting airspace, CAL FIRE warns

Submitted by CAL FIRE Sacramento

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, alongside our cooperators, wishes to issue an urgent warning regarding the incursion of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly known as drones, into firefighting airspace. These incursions have raised serious concerns, as they have led to the temporary suspension of critical aerial firefighting operations on a half-dozen incidents so far this year.

The FAA regularly implements temporary flight restrictions around wildfire areas to protect the safety of aircraft participating in firefighting operations. All aircraft, including drones, are explicitly prohibited from entering these restricted areas unless they are operated by an agency directly involved in wildfire suppression efforts. Even when temporary flight restrictions are not in effect, drone pilots are strongly urged to avoid flying near wildfires as it is considered a crime to interfere with firefighting operations.

"The danger of flying drones near wildfires cannot be overstated," said Jake Sjolund, CAL FIRE staff chief of tactical air operations. "Such actions jeopardize lives and have immediate consequences for firefighting agencies' response efforts."

When drones are detected near wildfires, fire response agencies will ground their aircraft to mitigate the risk of a midair collision. This delay in airborne response poses a significant threat to the safety of firefighters on the ground, residents, and properties in nearby communities. Additionally, it can allow wildfires to expand, putting more lives and resources at risk.

Individuals who operate unmanned aircraft systems without proper authorization over wildfire-affected areas may be found in violation of federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances, regardless of whether a is in place or not.

Those who are determined to have interfered with wildfire suppression efforts and / or endangered manned aircraft or people on the ground with an unmanned aircraft system may face severe consequences, including civil penalties of up to \$20,000 and potential criminal prosecution.

PATRIOTS DAY
COMMEMORATION AT
WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL

'A Day to Remember'

Speech by Roger Ham, September 11, 2023

For most of you here today, the disaster that occurred on this day, 22 years ago is just a bit of history. Those of us that watched on television as this event unfolded 22 years ago will be able to answer the following questions, as well as reflections on other tragic dates in recent history.

So, the question or questions are:

Where were you on September 11, 2001? Or November 23, 1963, the assassination of President Kennedy? Or April 4, 1968, the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.? Or June 5, 1968, the assassination of Robert Kennedy? These are days that will go down in infamy.

September 11 is a day to pause and remember those men and women in uniform who were killed September 11, 2001, as well as those who have lost their lives in the ongoing war against terrorism. (The first responders, whether law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs or fellow citizens helping one another deal with the crisis.)

Twenty-two years have passed, but the images depicted by the news media are still vivid in the minds of many fellow Americans. For those among us today who need a "jog" to their memory, here is a brief accounting of how the day unfolded.

At 8:45 am Eastern Standard Time, American Airlines Flight #11 struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

At 9:03 am United Airlines Flight #175 struck the South Tower

At 9:43 am American Airlines Flight #77 struck the Pentagon

At 10 am the commandeered United Flight #93 crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The events of 9-11, and its aftermath, resulted in the loss of 2,996 lives; of that number:343 were firefighters and paramedics; 23 were New York City police officers; and 39 were Port Authority officers

As Americans recall the horrors of September 11, 2001, it is important that we pause and reflect on the ultimate cost of this catastrophic event: \$123 billion estimated economic loss in the first four weeks following 9/11; \$60 billion in damage to the World Trade Center, surrounding buildings, infrastructure, and subway facilities; and \$700 million to clean up 3.1 million tons of debris.

It's not just the loss in terms of dollars, but something much more valuable – the lives of our brave servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The ensuing "War on Terrorism" has cost our nation the lives of over 7,000 military personnel, 50,000 wounded in action, and countless billions of dollars supporting this action.

The challenge facing all the civilized people of the world as they relate to the War on Terrorism will not end until these fanatics are brought to justice. All is not calm in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Asia as ISIS, al-Qaeda, or their affiliates present an ominous future for continued terror. World opinion needs to remain focused upon the eradication of these inhuman acts perpetrated around the globe.

One way to accomplish this is to "Never Forget" so that those innocent victims of 9-11-2001 did not die in vain. America must remind the world that the deaths of these people will always be remembered and that they will be forever loved.

Thank you for coming to the 22nd Patriots Day Ceremony. Your presence sends a message that America will remember, just as we remember Pearl Harbor, the only other attack on American soil. Yes, we will remember.



Photos courtesy of Carolyn Bakewell

Remembering 9/11

Honoring those lost, and respecting local law enforcement after national disaster 22 years ago

Submitted by Willits High School

Even though students who came to participate in a "Remembrance" ceremony at Willits High School weren't even alive when the attack on the Twin Towers in New York occurred, the lasting effects on society, family members, friends and law enforcement can still be felt, and seen, especially on the anniversaries of September 11.

Willits High School senior and Associated Student Body President Mason Rescina helped coordinate with Willits American Legion Post 174 for a ceremony commemorating all those who lost their lives on 9/11. Staff, students and the community were invited to partake in the event on the morning of September 11 at Willits High School. The invitation was also extended to local EMTs, firefighters, police, servicemembers, and veterans to attend as well.

"Each year, the American Legion Post 174 has conducted a "Remembrance" ceremony honoring local firefighters, law enforcement and first responders, and commemorating the valiant efforts that occurred on 9-11-2001," explained American Legion Post 174 Adjunct Roger Ham. "This year, it was a joint effort with Willits High School in that the Post conducted a brief ceremony in the parking area in front of the main high school building."

Speeches were given by emergency personnel, and the Legion's Ham gave a moving and heartfelt speech at the end of the ceremony, followed by a rendition of taps by Zack Ireland, Sons of the American Legion.

"I am proud of our Leadership students in working with the American Legion Post 174 in putting on the 9/11 remembrance ceremony," said Willits High School Principal Shane Topolinski. "Our students respectfully participated in honoring our brave first responders who gave their lives serving our country."

Library Fall Book Sale

at the
Willits Branch Library Conference room

Friday Sept. 22 10 am to 5 pm
Saturday Sept. 23 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday Sept. 24 10 am to 3 pm

Sunday all books only \$3 a bag!

Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library

Willits Library,
390 East Commercial St., Willits
(707) 459-5908

Brown water update

Posted by City of Willits

UPDATE: As of today, Monday, September 18, the Water Department would like to update the community regarding the unfortunate brown water incident from last week.

At around 1:45 pm Friday, September 15, the contractor working on the new California Conservation Corps (CCC) campus hit a private fire hydrant with a piece of construction equipment. The hydrant is connected to the City of Willits water distribution system high pressure zone (125 psi).

This fire hydrant was shut off within 10 minutes of being hit; unfortunately this caused most of the city's distribution system to be disturbed by the high-pressure velocity that scoured the water mainlines. Some areas may still be affected by light discolored water as the distribution system settles back to normal working conditions. Please be advised not to do light-colored laundry if you are experiencing discoloration.

Our Water Department continues to monitor the system's conditions and will update the community only if there are any lingering concerns.

We ask the community to please contact City Hall/Water Department with any questions you may have.

The CCC contracting firm sends their apologies to the community for this unfortunate mishap and takes full responsibility for the incident.

Original post, September 15: The City of Willits was made aware of a damaged hydrant at the CCC Camp Construction site. It is under control. If you have been affected or have concerns, please call City Hall at 707-459-4601 and hit option "0." If you must leave a voicemail please expect a return call. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Follow "City of Willits" page on Facebook to see this and other updates.

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to 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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Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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MENDOCINO COUNTY FAIR & APPLE SHOW

SEPT. 22ND - 24TH, 2023

OPEN 9 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY!

FRIDAY, 9/22:
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, 9/23:
8 pm: CCPRA Rodeo
9:30 pm: Dance - Dean Titus & the Coyote Cowboys

SUNDAY, 9/24:
10 am: Sheep Dog Trials
10 am: Classic Car Show
Noon: Parade
2 pm: CCPRA Rodeo
6 pm: Dance - Los Elegidos de Oaxaca & Imperio SN

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/>

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

Level: Advanced

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

PRODUCE AISLE WORD SEARCH

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

ARTICHOKE	CAULIFLOWER	LEEKES	POTATOES
ASPARAGUS	CELERY	LETTUCE	PUMPKIN
BEETS	CHARD	ONIONS	SHALLOTS
BRUSSELS	CORN	PARSNIPS	SQUASH
SPROUTS	EGGPLANT	PEAS	TOMATOES
CABBAGE	GARLIC	PEPPERS	TURNIPS
CARROTS			ZUCCHINI

1	2	3				4	5	6				
7						8				9		
10			11			12						
13					14	15			16			
17			18						20			
21					22	23			24			
					25				26			
			27	28			29					
			30				31					
				32			33					
								34	35	36	37	38
39	40				41				42			
43				44					45			
46				47					48			
49									50			
									51			
											52	

CLUES ACROSS

- Second sight
- Standard electrode potential
- Type of gibbon
- John Joseph ... American industrialist
- Manning and Whitney are two
- Abrupt
- Baroque musical instrument
- Post-burning residue
- When you hope to arrive
- Sign up (Brit. Eng.)
- Sun up in New York
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Where people live
- Method to record an electrogram
- Angry
- No longer living
- Simple
- Swiss river
- Portion of a play
- It's under the tree
- Wood sorrels

CLUES DOWN

- No (Scottish)
- Dialect of English
- Former Steelers' QB
- Popular beer
- It can make you sick
- Tropical tree and fruit
- Company officer
- Contact lens term
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- 'Ghetto Superstar' singer
- Piece of turf
- Artificial openings
- Luteinizing hormone
- Unit of energy
- Circular movement of water
- A way of holding
- Popular book of words (abbr.)
- States' group
- Dashes
- Body part
- Electronic countermeasures
- Consumed
- Small bird
- Unhappy
- Football's big game (abbr.)
- Valued object offered in good faith
- Wild goats
- Precede in place
- Small edible fish
- Notice of death
- Body cavity of a metazoan
- Partner to cheese
- Not around

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

August 28 to September 3

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **44 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

August 28

6:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Holly Street and Manzanita Avenue and issued a warning.
 10:40 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Central Street and Monroe Street and issued a warning.

August 29

No incidents to report.

August 30

12:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Elm Lane and Manor Way and issued a warning.

12:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue and issued a citation.

1:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of Monroe Street and issued a warning.

5:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road.

7:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of California Street.

8:15 pm: ALEXANDER, Stephany Sharee (44) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of being a fugitive from justice, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.

8:15 pm: BELL, Jessica May (34) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

August 31

3:17 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

5:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

Volunteers Needed!

We need help setting up on the morning of Harvest Moon (September 30) – setting out haybales, pumpkins, and garbage cans, as well as barriers and traffic signs, etc.

We also need 3 people each 2 hour shift from noon to 8 pm to help with traffic direction to the detour around Main Street.

If you're able to assist, please give the Willits Chamber of Commerce office a call and select your time slot! 707-459-7910.

We greatly appreciate all the efforts of our community members who help and participate with this event year after year!

– Willits Chamber of Commerce

9:14 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Bush Street.

9:34 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:06 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

11:15 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

11:32 pm: SANDERS, Jeff Allan (63) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Alder Court. He was booked on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

September 1

1:06 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

4:36 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

10:16 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

5:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:19 pm: FIGGHOBLYN, Amanda Irene (23) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Monroe Street following a disturbance. She was arrested on felony charges of domestic corporal injury.

September 2

3:08 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

9:36 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

September 3

3:28 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Monroe Street.

6:45 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

County animal shelter needs fosters, adoptions

Posted by Ukiah Animal Shelter

We need your help! The shelter is bursting at the seams. We need adoptions; we need fosters... WE NEED HELP... We need animals to leave the shelter.... We want them to leave as part of your family! Please consider adding another family member to your life! Check out the adoptable dogs and come meet them!

See adoptable dogs here: www.mendoanimalshelter.com/landingpage

Apply here: www.cognitofrms.com/MendocinoCountyAnimalCareServices/animalcareservicespetadoptionapplication

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is open Tuesday through Saturday, 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Please call to make an appointment: 707-467-6453

Looking for something to celebrate?

Learn more about these, or see a list of other days at <https://www.listofnationaldays.com/>

September 21: National Pecan Cookie Day, International Day Of Peace, Miniature Golf Day, National Chai Day, National Opioid Awareness Day, World Alzheimer's Day, World Gratitude Day

September 22: American Business Women's Day, Dear Diary Day, Hobbit Day, National Ice Cream Cone Day, Chainmail Day, International Day Of Radiant Peace, National Girls' Night In Day, National Legwear Day, World Rhino Day, Elephant Appreciation Day, National Centenarian's Day, National White Chocolate Day, World Car Free Day

September 23: National Great American Pot Pie Day, Education Technology Day, International Day Of Sign Languages, National Apple Cider Vinegar Day, Redhead Appreciation Day, Za'atar Day, Celebrate Bisexuality Day, Checkers Day, Restless Legs Awareness Day, Seed Gathering Season – Starts

September 24: National Punctuation Day, National Horchata Day, National Mofongo Day, World Bollywood Day, National Cherries Jubilee Day

September 25: National Comic Book Day, Dia De La Quesadilla, German Butterbrot

Day, National Cooking Day, National Daughters Day, National Food Service Employee Day, National Lobster Day, National Psychotherapy Day, National Roadkill Day, National Yagafit Day, World Dream Day, World Pharmacists Day, Math Storytelling Day, National One-Hit Wonder Day

September 26: National Good Neighbor Day, Alpaca Day, Better Breakfast Day, Human Resource Professional Day, Lumberjack Day, Mesothelioma Awareness Day, National Chimichanga Day, National Compliance Officer Day, National Day Of Praise And Worship, National Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness Day, National Pancake Day, The Last Of Us Day, Love Note Day, National Compliance Officer Day, National Dumpling Day, National Johnny Appleseed Day, Love Note Day

September 27: National Chocolate Milk Day, National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Ancestor Appreciation Day, Morning Show Hosts Day, National Day Of Forgiveness, National No Excuses Day, National Scarf Day, World Tourism Day, National Corned Beef Hash Day, National Crush A Can Day



Above, from left: Players from the Tall Tree Engineering team smile with their team's banner. The Rodriguez family rides the train, including, from left: Martin, Leo, Saprina, Ashley, Amelia and Lorenzo. Members of the Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot smile together. At right: Wade Hosford holds the American flag during the opening ceremonies.



Kicking off Opening Day

Willits Youth Soccer holds first day ceremonies for 2023 season

It was a bright and sunny day for the opening day of Willits Youth Soccer on Sunday, September 10, for the some 200 kids who attended the event.

Maureen Jennison, Graphics & Photographress, willitsweekly@gmail.com

"The kids enjoyed a full day of soccer on the local fields, and families were able to also enjoy the Roots of Motive Power celebration, taking train rides around the field, eating great food, and enjoying time together," said Saprina Rodriguez, board member with Willits Youth Soccer since 1992. "It is always so wonderful to see all the smiling faces and fun the kids are having while they are simultaneously learning sports team values like teamwork and leadership, all while getting exercise and having a fun outlet for all that kid energy!"

Opening day allows all the players to showcase their team banners, meet team members and

coaches, and get started on the 2023 season. This year, Leo Rodriguez kicked the first ball, and Wade Hosford carried out and held the American flag for the ceremonies.

Players range in age from 4 to 12 and above, and play in different groups depending on age and skill level. There's even a playgroup for 3-year-olds that meets weekly just for fun. Kids aged 4 to 9 play on Saturdays and practice for one or two weeknights. Kids aged 10 and 11 play in the interleague travel division with games in Willits, Ukiah and Lakeport, and they practice two to three nights a week.

"Players age 12 and up have games generally on Saturday, but on occasion may have a Sunday game," explains the Willits Youth Soccer website. "This is a competitive travel division. Games may take place in Willits, Ukiah, Lakeport, Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Petaluma, or Napa. This age division often plays into the month of November. Tournaments are an option for any team and coach who agrees to enter, and will be supported by the league."

This year, there are 15 teams, sponsored by: Brad Beck "All Things Trees"; Rachel Linebaugh Realty; Tall Tree Engineering; Smith Towing & Automotive; Little Lake Health Center; two teams by Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot; Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic; two teams by Ace Copy and Shipping; the Savings



Photos provided by Saprina Rodriguez

Bank of Mendocino County; Sparetime Supply; Steve's Landscaping and Associates; Ranch Life Jerky; and NCWSA.

Games are scheduled for September 23, September 30, October 7, October 14, and October 21. See the schedule details on the Willits Youth Soccer Facebook page.

Willits Youth Soccer began in 1982 with a small group of about 10 people who wanted to have local soccer available in Willits. The program has since grown and now includes about 200 kids in the program, and no one is turned away for financial complications.

"About 10 percent of the kids who play, do so on scholarship," said Rodriguez. "Our program is 100 percent volunteer-run and a non-profit. We are so appreciative to all of our volunteers and sponsors who help make the season happen for our players every year. We've seen an astronomical amount of kids come through and enjoy the program, and we hope to continue that tradition for years to come."

Like many local organizations, Willits Youth Soccer is also very in need of a new batch of volunteers who want to see the program continue, and their presence will allow some of the long-term members a chance to step back and pass the torch to a new generation.

To get involved, log on to: willitsyouthsoccer.net, email Willitsyouthsoccer@gmail.com or call (707) 354-2539 for more information.

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At top: Opening day for Willits Youth Soccer had players and families all over the field. Above, from left: Cash Potter focuses on the ball. Players on the "All Things Trees" team proudly show off the team's banner. It was big hugs from Celeste Potter for players Jamison and Bailey Bobst.

Roofing applications available to fit any roofing need.
 Office: (707) 462-4514
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 Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties
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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

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

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 265 Margie Drive
 Willits, CA 95490
 ALL ARE WELCOME
 Sacramento 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 Bandanadan
 Mass times:
 Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
 Saturday-5:30 p.m.
 Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
 10:30 a.m. - Spanish
 Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
 Or by appointment at 707-459-2252
<https://stanthonywillits.org/>
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
 We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

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 - 7:00 p.m.
 399 W. Mendocino Ave.
 All are welcome!

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

Willits Giant Yard Sale

261 Franklin Ave.

Bring a wagon to carry all the treasure you will find! Multiple units participating.

Sept. 30, 2023 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
2nd Annual
HALLOWEEN GALA
Oct 28th | 7 - 11pm
An eerie evening for all 21+

Bar Bites Live Music
Costume Contest Silent Auction

Save the date

Official Calendar Sponsor

HEART OF THE REDWOODS

Willits
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Est. 1926

MAKING WILLITS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY

Serving the community since 1926

<https://willits.org/>

299 East Commercial Street
Willits, California 95490

Please feel free to visit our office for brochures, maps and additional information about the area

(707) 459-7910

Thursday, September 21

Monthly Food Distribution Pop-Up: Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program offers free food for all in Mendocino County. Our pop-ups feature fresh produce, meat protein, dairy, eggs, pantry staples, and kid's bags. Every third Thursday through 2023.

Willits Farmers Market

The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

"LoKoYoKol" at Shanachie: Songwriter/performer from the Northwest coast of California, aka Kent Stephenson, with thumb pickin' rhythmic acoustic guitar and vocals. Thursday, September 21 at 7 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Friday, September 22

Library Fall Book Sale: The annual Fall Book Sale at the Willits Branch Library Conference Room starts Friday, September 22, from 10 am to 5 pm, and continues Saturday, September 23 from 10 am to 5 pm; and Sunday, September 24 from 10 am to 3 pm. On Sunday, all books only \$3 a bag! Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library, Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street; 707-459-5908.

Willits Pumpkin Patch Grand Opening: J&J Pumpkins opens their Pumpkin Patch on Friday, September 22, from 10 am to 8 pm, at 19606 Walker Road "We are so excited to bring such a fun and positive experience to our community. There will be fun activities and food for kiddos of all ages to enjoy. We can't wait to welcome you all to our patch." Info: (707) 354-8187

Printmaking Demo at the Museum: As part of the "ImPRESSED" exhibit, this demo by artist Solange Roberdeau is of "suminagashi" (which translates to "floating ink"), the ancient Japanese tradition of ink water marbling. This one-hour demo will introduce museum visitors to the beauty of this direct and non-toxic craft and give individuals a chance to make their own small print on paper to take home! Friday, September 22 from 6 to 7:30 pm. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

What's Happening Around Town

FOOD POP-UP
Willits
1250 Blosser Lane, Willits CA

Noon to 1pm
 August 17
 September 21
 October 19
 November 16
 December 21

Free food for all!

Order ahead: 707-459-9424

Senior Center BBQ Chicken Dinner for 2: Willits Senior Center fundraiser offers a BBQ Chicken Dinner for 2, to pick up, on Friday, September 22, from 5 to 6 pm. Dinner for 2 is \$35, includes 1/2 chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, cornbread with honey butter, and peach cobbler. Thanks to the Willits Lions Club for providing and BBQing the chicken. Friday, September 22 from 5 to 6 pm. Pre-sale tickets only; Visit or call the center, 1501 Baechtel Road, 707-459-6826.

Retirement Party for Mail Carrier Tim Porter: The public is welcome to attend a retirement celebration potluck for longtime Willits Post Office city carrier Tim Porter. Sunday, September 24 from 3 to 7 pm at the Rec Grove Park. Come share stories and memories to celebrate Tim's retirement. Questions: 459-5255

DRIVE THROUGH
\$10.00 Pizzas
1/2 Chicken
Coleslaw
Sweet Bread
Cinnamon Rolls
Cup of Dessert
Fresh Coffee

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

PRE SALE TICKETS ONLY
ON SALE AT THE
SENIOR CENTER
1501 BAECHEL ROAD - WILLITS
707-459-6826

Blue Luke at Shanachie: "Blue Luke" Andrews is a prodigy guitarist, born and raised in Dos Rios, Mendocino County. "Imagine a band that takes the soul of the blues, the groove of the funk, the grit of rock & roll and the rich harmonies of jazz to create exactly what you've always wanted to hear." Friday, September 22 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, September 23

Library Fall Book Sale: The annual Fall Book Sale at the Willits Branch Library Conference Room continues on Saturday, September 23, from 10 am to 5 pm; and Sunday, September 24, from 10 am to 3 pm. Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library, Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street; 707-459-5908.

Sunday, September 24

Grange Pancake Breakfast: "Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast, Sunday, September 24, from 8 to 11 am. All you can eat pancakes. Choose our Sourdough Wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, or Gluten-free. With Beeler's Quality Bacon; Organic Local Farm Coffee or Tea. \$10; \$9 for seniors; \$5 for children under 10. Extra sides of Organic Fruit, Amish Organic Maple Syrup, Fresh-Made Fruit Syrup, Extra Beeler's Bacon can also be purchased for \$1 or \$2. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of Main Street).



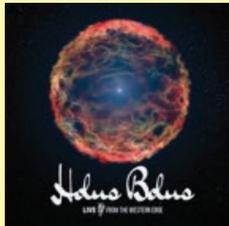
Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

Holus Bolus at Shanachie: Thursday, September 28 at 7 pm. "Holus Bolus or "All At Once" out of Crescent City is multi-instrumentalist Tom Boylan ... a modern take on a one-man band." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Thursday, September 28

"Rocks or Meteors?" at the Library: Join us for "A Touch of Mendocino County: Rocks or Meteors?" on Thursday, September 28, from 11 am to noon. Local expert Gary Mason of Beautiful Earth and Amazing Minerals (Fort Bragg) comes to the Willits Branch Library to teach us all about the wonderful world of meteorites. Part of the monthly "A Touch of Mendocino County" series which takes place on the last Thursday of the month in the Willits Branch Library meeting room. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Seating is limited. Info: visit www.mendolibrary.org or call the Willits Library at 707-459-5908.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.



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Friday, September 29

"Made in Mendocino, Art Quilts" at WCA: Last chance this weekend to see the diverse and creative work of 20 talented art quilters at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Each piece has been carefully selected to demonstrate the diverse range of quilters' artistic visions and technical mastery, showcasing the vibrant diversity within the local community." Free admission. Galleries open Friday-Sunday, 11 am

Library announces the start of a book discussion group on the last Friday of every month, from 1 to 2 pm, starting Friday, September 29. All adults welcome. Join us for lively conversation and discuss books, authors, genres, and more. In the meeting room, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or call the library at 707-459-5908.

'The Odd Couple' (female version) at WCT: written by Neil Simon and directed by Maria Monti, continues at Willits Community Theatre through October 1. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2 pm. Starring Sarah France, Meg Gardner, Gretchen Anderson, Tiffany Leigh-Logan, Lisa Wilcox, Blare Elliott, Jeff Shipp, and Bhavy Ducharme. Tickets, \$20, at www.wctperformingartscenter.org/ or at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).



Sunday, October 1

'The Odd Couple' (female version) at WCT: written by Neil Simon and directed by Maria Monti, at Willits Community Theatre. Closing matinee today, Sunday, October 1, at 2 pm. Tickets, \$20, at www.wctperformingartscenter.org/ or at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Saturday, September 30

Paws and Tales at the Library: Animal-themed story time with special guest, Casey the therapy dog, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Saturday, September 30, 11 to 11:30 am. Happening every last Saturday of the month. All ages welcome. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Harvest Moon Celebration: The Willits Chamber of Commerce and local merchants invite the public to the perfect start to the fall season, the annual Harvest Moon Celebration, on Saturday, September 30, 2 to 7 pm in downtown Willits. Free to attend: features Aerial Silks, Kids Zone & Bounce House, curated vendor booths, store specials, and more. Live music by Soul Circus Band from 3 to 6 pm. Food Court features shave ice and gelato, street food trucks, tacos & BBQ booths, and many more. Main Street will be closed from Wood Street to Commercial Street to allow for the festivities.

Harvest Moon Celebration: Saturday, September 30, 2 to 7 pm in downtown Willits. Free to attend: features Aerial Silks, Kids Zone & Bounce House, curated vendor booths, store specials, and more. Live music by Soul Circus Band from 3 to 6 pm. Food Court features shave ice and gelato, street food trucks, tacos & BBQ booths, and many more. Main Street will be closed from Wood Street to Commercial Street to allow for the festivities.

Oktoberfest in the Redwoods

October 7
Willits Rotary presents Oktoberfest in the Redwoods & The John Cross Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday, October 7. Golf from 9 am to 1 pm at the Brooktrails Golf Course, and Festival from 1 to 5 pm at Brooktrails Old Redwood Grove. \$25 admission includes 2 food and drink tickets. A benefit for the Willits Senior Center and Rotary's Student Debt Assistance Program. Live music, games, artisan booths, Quarter Auction, Silent Auction, beer & wine, brats and pretzels. Free shuttle from Willits High School. Festival info: Ann Alumbaugh at 707-841-1315; Golf info: Jeff Yokum at 707-391-8066.

Willits Art Party at the Rec Grove

October 1
Submitted by Willits Arts Party
Join the Willits Arts Party for a free, all-ages celebration of the arts at Recreation Grove, on Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 11 am to 5 pm. Artists will show and sell their work; musicians and dancers will perform; artists will present live art demos, and local civic and non-profits will share activities, information, and opportunities. Food carts and to top off the day a late afternoon boogie featuring North Coast dance band Mama Grows Funk!
For more information and vendor applications go to www.willitsartsparty.org, email willitsartsparty@gmail.com, or call 707 813 4048.

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyothatrec.com

**Starts Friday, Sept. 29:
THE CREATOR**

THE NUN 2

(R) 1 hr 50 mins
Fri.: 5:00 & 7:30pm
Sat.: 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30pm
Sun.: 1:30, 4:00 & 6:30pm

Mon.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 6:30pm

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 3

(PG13) 1 hr 31 mins
Fri.: 5:45 & 8:00pm
Sat.: 3:30, 5:45 & 8:00pm
Sun.: 2:30, 4:45 & 7:00pm

Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 7:00pm

THE EQUALIZER 3

(R) 1 hr 49 mins
Fri.: 5:15 & 7:45pm
Sat.: 2:45, 5:15 & 7:45pm
Sun.: 1:45, 4:15 & 6:45pm

Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 6:45pm

OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

Movie Times for Sept. 22 thru Sept. 28 Masks Optional Tigtwad Tuesday Title for Sept. 26 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'The Nun II'

The Story: Most recent supernatural horror flick in the Conjuring Universe. The year: 1956.

The situation: A priest in the south of France is burned alive in his own church. Sister Irene (Taissa Farmiga) is a young nun who battled beings from Hell in "The Nun." Irene is ordered by her church superiors to investigate the fiery murder.

The archdiocese believes that the murderer is not a human, but is the fallen angel called "the Demon Nun," come back to our world in search of some unknown thing, a thing well-hidden that must be very very important. In movie plot terminology it's called a "MacGuffin" or a "Because." I won't tell you what it is; that's called a "spoiler."

My Thoughts: Demons and demonic possession, jump scares, and cockroaches animate the Conjuring Universe. When a good-looking and kind young man suddenly transforms into a cruel, red-eyed maniac and wants to kill the little girl whom he befriended just days before, the audience shudders. Screams. It's "Run little girl. Run from the Devil."

Especially when he calls the little girl's name and says, "I won't hurt you." So creepy. That's a tiny taste of how this flick punches the audience right in the gut. That's where terror abides. Oh yeah, and much of the action takes place in an ancient Gothic boarding school for girls.

Parents: Gross and bloody killings. But there's courage under fire, also the power of Faith to overcome Evil. Regardless, I wouldn't have let my kids see the flick.

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

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



Round Valley Indian Tribes
California Indian Days 2023
"Honoring Our Seven Tribes"

Announcing, Colonel Nicole Mann
Parade: Saturday, September 23rd 11:00 A.M.
Speaking at Hidden Oaks Amphitheater, 2:00 P.M.

Come and celebrate our Tribal Member, Commander of NASA's SpaceX Crew 5.

Dream Big!

Indian Days in Round Valley

September 21-24

Round Valley Indian Tribes present the 2023 California Indian Days, Thursday, September 21 to Sunday, September 24 at Hidden Oaks Park Rodeo Grounds, 76699 Covelo Road in Covelo. Native and non-native community members are invited to join in on this celebration of culture and community. Festivities include traditional food, cultural dances, downtown parade on Saturday, live music, contests, mud bogging, softball tournament, Western play day, art, and kids carnival. Free camping is provided. NASA Astronaut Nicole Mann (Wailaki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes) is featured guest in the parade and at 2 pm at Hidden Oak Amphitheater. Info: call the Round Valley Indian Tribes at 707-983-6126. Visit www.rvito.org for updated schedule information.

Ongoing Events

'Made in Mendocino, Art Quilts' at WCA: Last chance this weekend to see the diverse and creative work of 20 talented art quilters at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Each piece has been carefully selected to demonstrate the diverse range of quilters' artistic visions and technical mastery, showcasing the vibrant diversity within the local community." Free admission. Galleries open Friday-Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every week on Mondays, 6:30 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 7pm. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Sack lunches served at the City Park (or across the street in case of rain) every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to be assured a lunch! Provided by various churches and community organizations.

Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: "Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Game starts at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need!" Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.
Info: www.mendolibrary.org

Story Time: Tuesday through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children's area of the library."

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. "We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a cup of joe."

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

Willits Walk and Talk: Join the Willits Branch Library staff for a 20- to 30-minute walk around the neighborhood. Come enjoy a little bit of exercise as well as some pleasant conversation. All ages are welcome. Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am; meet at the front entrance to the library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or call the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

Writer's Block Group: Wednesdays, from 11 am to noon. "Open to young-adult and adult writers to share their ideas and writings in an environment of supportive and creative suggestions and feedback." Willits Library meeting room.

Games at the Library: First and third Fridays of the month, 4 to 5:30 pm. "Calling all board, card and tabletop role-playing game players! All ages and player levels welcome. Bring your own games to add to the fun!"

Sit-N-Sew: second Saturdays, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and have fun.

Open Source Design, Artistic Expression, and Engineering Club: Every Saturday except the third Saturday of the month, 11 am to noon. "Open to everyone with an interest in open source and everyone who wants to develop their creative and engineering skills."

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



Above, left: These artists show the intensity of their concentration as they begin their paintings. Above, right: Sandy Strong prepares the color acrylic palettes for the attendees. Below: Fourteen eager attendees gather around the still-life subject in the middle of the group. At bottom, left: Instructor Laura Corbin shows one of her paintings in order to demonstrate technique. At bottom, right: This artist is busy creating her interpretation of the sunflower subject matter.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Paint and Sip

Laura Corbin offers painting class with snacks and wine as a fundraiser for Willits Center for the Arts

There was a lot of painting going on in the classroom of the Willits Art Center's Paint and Sip event, and a bit of sipping, and some snacking, but mostly learning and experimenting. Art instructor Laura Corbin offered the class as a way for the art center to raise money for their operating expenses.

Fourteen participants paid \$50 each for the evening of donated instruction, a box of snacks (from Lisa Kvasnicka of Scoops Ice Cream, Deli & Catering), wine, art materials, and several fun hours of replicating paintings of sunflowers (some from Van Gogh and some from Corbin). Some of the artists chose to paint from the vase of various sunflowers in the middle of the circle of attendees.

Each artist station was equipped with a mini-easel, a small canvas, and a set of hints and instructions from Corbin, outlining the basic methods of applying paint to canvas to create the desired vision. The notes also provided a guide to mixing colors. Each artist was given a paper-plate palette with several bright acrylic colors that could be combined to create every shade imaginable.

"We're raising money for the art center and we're having fun," explained Corbin. "Art is fun. Besides that, we're going to do these Van Gogh knockoffs that are selling for millions, then we'll really raise some money for the art center. I taught art in high school for many years and I liked to have certain parameters. We have a theme and the artists can go where they want with it."

"I've actually never done a paint and sip," Corbin admitted, "but I'm going to encourage people to sip and get loose. The only thing I'm hoping for is that everybody has a sunflower somewhere on it. We have a couple different kinds of sunflowers in the vase. I started out thinking that I wanted to do a vase and flowers, something cheerful for the summer."

Corbin had the artists begin by outlining their ideas on the canvas in order to end up with everything on the page that they were imagining. She showed them how to begin to apply the colors and gave them hints about proper brush use.

"Van Gogh did something like 11 or 12 existing versions of sunflowers," said Corbin. "He painted some of them because

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



At far left: Christyna Lynette Merfalen Patterson begins by painting in the yellow sunflower leaves. At left: Scoops Ice Cream, Deli & Catering prepared and donated these snack boxes with a variety of fruit, crackers, cheese and nuts. Above: After an hour and a half, the group proudly shows off their progress.

Wiggly Brandy

Who is this stunning, breathtaking, exquisite, captivating gal you may ask? Well, I am here to introduce you! Brandy, who is just a little over a year old came to us as a transfer from Mendocino County Animal Care & Control a few weeks ago. This beauty has become a favorite around here given her leash etiquette, her friendliness, and her bubbly personality.



Brandy is ready to start taking on adventures with her people and is waiting for you to come visit her so she can wiggle her pretty little self into your heart.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to come 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.



Lula the Guardian

Lula is a little go-getter and a protector. She is hyper-vigilant and aware of what's going on around her at all times. She is an active, dog-social girl who

longs to have her own people again, but she will be best with active, dog-savvy adults who will work with her and keep her learning - she will be a sponge for new lessons, and learning tricks, etc.

Lula is a natural-born protector and should not be left to feel she is in charge of the family, but part of the family, just not the leader. She is affectionate and sweet-natured with her people. She will listen to commands and is responsive. She is great on-leash, and needs exercise and adventures with adults.

To learn more about Lula or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 707-459-4900.

Lively Jake

This lovely guy came into the shelter with three siblings, but now it's just him and his brother, Finn, left to find their forever homes. Jake is super sweet and active, and boy does he like to play with toys.



Jake is available for adoption at the Fish Out of Water pet store in Willits.

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 our feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinanimalshelter.com.

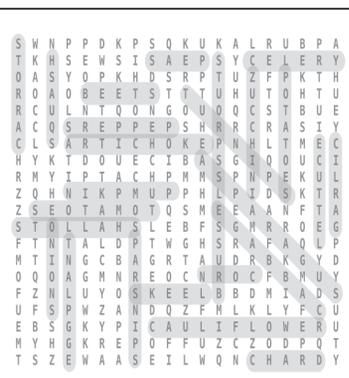
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Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Bookmobile Driver**
\$38,563 - \$46,862
- Community Health Services Specialist I**
\$19.73 - \$22.85 Hourly
- Community Health Worker II**
\$18.48 - \$22.47 Hourly
- Corrections Deputy**
\$54,184 - \$65,873
- Deputy Probation Officer I/II**
\$51,937 - \$69,617
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II**
\$62,628 - \$87,214
- Eligibility Specialist II**
\$47,132 - \$57,324
- Juvenile Corrections Officer**
\$50,710 - \$61,630
- Registered Veterinary Technician**
\$52,832 - \$64,230
- Screener**
\$39,748 - \$48,318
- Senior Program Manager - Family & Children's Services**
\$92,705 - \$112,694
- Senior Program Specialist**
\$61,880 - \$75,233
- Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C**
\$70,387 - \$99,028
- Supervising Juvenile Corrections Officer**
\$61,734 - \$75,046
- Veteran's Services Representative**
\$46,384 - \$56,368

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
EOE

Read the rest of **Paint** From page 8

his friend, Gauguin, was going to come and live with him in Arles. They weren't the best of roommates, but good friends nonetheless. Van Gogh painted some sunflowers to go in his friend's room. Then he did a field of sunflowers.

"The class will be using acrylic paint. It dries quickly. One of the things I teach about painting," said Corbin, "is it doesn't all come out from one edge to the other like you're rolling out wall paper. It builds up in layers. You want to do all the fun dots in the middle of the sunflower, where the seeds are, you want to have a solid color underneath. You build things up in layers."

It was now time for the attendees to get to work. Some were already accomplished artists, having skills in oil and watercolor painting, although few seemed to have previously worked with acrylics. Some were new to the world of painting but took to it with a wine-lubricated zeal, producing satisfying visions of the still-life scene. By the end of the evening, all had had a really good time, had enjoyed a sense of fellowship with their fellow artists, and had some quick-drying art to take home.

The Willits Center for the Arts is always active with projects, lectures and classes. Some of the offerings include a regular qigong and tai chi class on Saturdays, 11 am to 12 pm, a life-drawing class on Thursdays from 1 to 4 pm, ceramics classes with Sofia Alaoui and Nancy New, an African dance class the second Tuesday of each month, and Photography Club meetings the second Saturday of each month, among others. Curator Gary Martin offers an art lecture on the second Fridays of each month at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming special events are a master class: "Painting with Paper with Sandy Oppenheimer," September 22 and 23, a kids / family mixed-media monthly workshop, and the Draw 'til You Drop Art Marathon on October 14.

In addition, the WCA has received a grant from the Upstate California Creative Corps, to fund a series of

CLASSIFIEDS

30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

Art Vendors Wanted
Call for Art Vendors for the Willits Arts Party on Sunday October 1st at Recreation Grove. More Info at: <https://www.willitsartsparty.org/home> or email willitsartsparty@gmail.com. You Make the Party!

Bake an Apple Pie
Win an engraved Rolling Pin. Not JUST Cowboy Poetry, Apple Pie Throwdown, and Art in the Garden at Emandal, Saturday, October 14 www.emandal.com

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearbhall@gmail.com

Counseling / Psychotherapy
Accepting new MediCal clients, Divora Stern LCSW, sliding scale available. PHONE SESSIONS only: 707-354-9911. No need for computer / travel, just call. 22-year private practice, CBT, energy psychology, and alternative modalities.

Firewood for sale
One true cord of 16-inch firewood. Fir starting at \$250 and up, plus delivery. Call Dave at 707-459-2868.

For Rent
New, lovely 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath apartments. Kitchen includes all appliances, granite countertops and lots of cabinets... also a spacious pantry. Large Bedrooms with big closets. Laminate and vinyl floors. \$1800/mo (707) 489-1080

For Rent
Willits Center for the Arts Great Room is available for rent for meetings and special events. Room holds 175 people. Contact Sasha at 707-459-1726 or manager@willitscenterforthearts.org

Indoor Yard Sale
Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, October 14** from 8 am to 4 pm

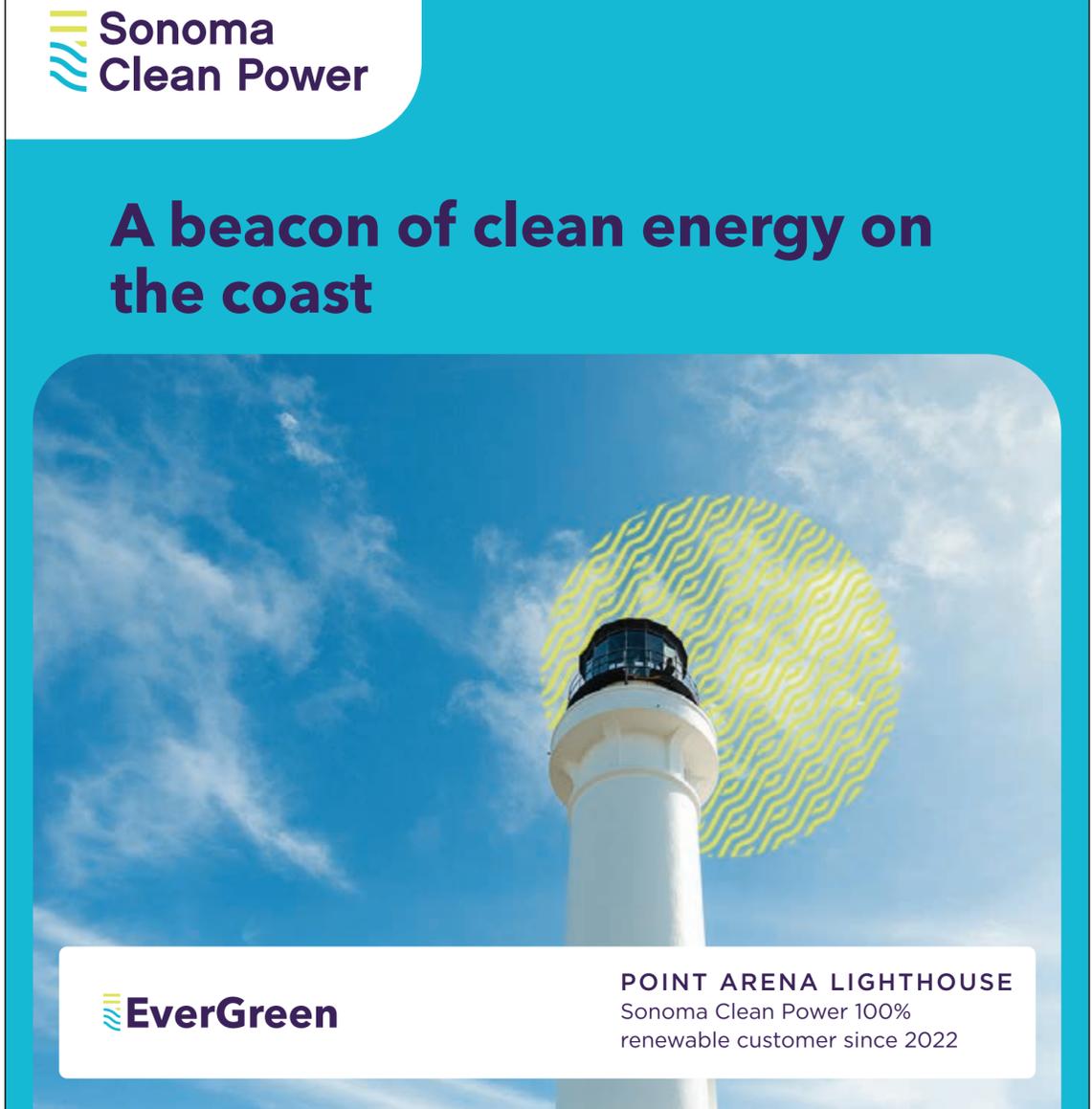
John Ford Ranch Beef
John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049. (Prices change effective 6/25/23)

Office For Rent
Office for Rent - 140 sq ft. Waiting room, central heat/AC. Off street parking. Utilities included. \$210/mo. 707-354-2473

Personal Assistant Available
Personal assistant available in Brooktrails/Willits. Transportation, medical appointments, shopping, and other help you might need. French, English, Spanish speaking. Part-time. Leave voicemail for Yannick: 707-738-9645

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/lp>

School board reporter?
Willits Weekly needs help reporting local news. Interested in the local school board? Meets 2nd Thursdays, 5 pm at Willits City Hall, but can be reported from video posted of the meeting, too. Other news opportunities available. Experience in news reporting a plus, but not a requirement. Pls. send letter of interest or resume to willitsweekly@gmail.com.



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Willits Frontier Days members including, from left: Danielle Barry, Elena Arkelian, Hazel Cooke, Lisa Arkelian, Catie Spackman, Rylee DeMarta, Hailey Riley. Not pictured: Jaden Doak, Aria Sizemore, Brian Spackman, and Macy Harbour.

Winners announced for the 2023 Willits Frontier Days Juniors Barrel and Pole Series

Submitted by Willits Frontier Days Juniors

The Willits Frontier Days Juniors are proud to announce the winners of our six-part barrel and pole series. Events were held on July 19, July 26, August 9, August 16, August 23, and August 30, and scores were tallied together, with the overall winners taking home big prizes.

In the barrel series, the saddle winner was Stella Aleman, and buckle winners included Josie Keithly for 1D; Nicolette Keithly in 2D; Alexis Yanez in 3D; Pamela Ivcevic in 4D; and Briar Grieve in 5D.

In the poles series, the saddle winner was Josie Keithly, and buckle winners included Josie Keithly in 1D; Danielle Barry in 2D; and Rylee DeMarta in 3D.

The WFD Juniors want to express their appreciation for everyone who showed up and participated in the events, and for the sponsors for helping provide great prizes for the winners, and a great space to hold the event.

"Our sponsors mean so much to us and make this series possible," said Willits Frontier Days Juniors member Hailey Riley. "Make sure to support them whenever

possible, they deserve it! Thank you Willits Frontier Days for letting the Juniors group use the arena, thank you to all the Juniors members for setting up and running all the events."

Thanks was also extended to Tina Rockwell who ran the program and handled paperwork; Sadie DeMarta who was the announcer; Genevieve Magnan who handled the timing; Kelley Brackett who filled in and helped where it was needed; Fred Barry who prepared the arena and ran the tractor; and to Marcy Barry who was in charge of setting up the event and making sure things ran smoothly.

Additional sponsors included: Saddle sponsors: 101 Trailer and RV Supply, Willits Roundtree Glass, Boles HVAC, and Paul Riley Drywall. Buckle sponsors: 101 Trailer and RV Supply, Adjuster 707, Mikayla Black, Paul and Diana Hosford, Harbour Quality Redwood, Body Works Gym, Tori Minton, and Dr. Steigerwald.

We appreciate everyone's support and help so much, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.



Salvador Andrade displays his paintings at the 2022 Willits Arts Party.

Free Willits Art Party at the Rec Grove, October 1

Submitted by Willits Arts Party

Join the Willits Arts Party for a free, all-ages celebration of the arts at Recreation Grove, on Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 11 am to 5 pm. Art vendors will show and sell their work, and musicians and dancers will perform throughout the day on the Rec Grove stage.

Artists will present live art demos, and local civic and non-profits will share activities, information, and opportunities.

Diverse food carts will provide tasty foods

and refreshments, and we'll top off the day with a late afternoon boogie featuring North Coast dance band Mama Grows Funk!

Enjoy a fun community day under the shade of the tall oaks at Willits Recreation Grove, in the heart of Mendocino County.

For more information and vendor applications go to www.willitsartsparty.org, email willitsartsparty@gmail.com, or call 707 813 4048.

The rest of Brooktrails

From page 1

Director Cavallari provided an update on the Peacock Drive sinkhole that she had reported on earlier this year, in March. She noted that there has been no progress made to repair the sinkhole, and that it has continued to grow significantly. It now presents a hazardous road condition at the spot. She noted that Peacock Drive is a main connecting road for the area and with the rainy season beginning soon, the houses that are located above the sinkhole could be threatened.

Responding to her concerns, General Manager Alaniz said that she would look into the situation and get a Brooktrails crew to assess the deteriorated road, and follow up with the county regarding it.

The general manager then gave her report: She began: "The LIHWAP [Low Income Housing Water Assistance Program] has been extended, and so far just under \$21,000 has been received to help customers who have difficulty paying their water bills. The water supply is at 70%, and the water quality is very good.

Great progress is being made with the Primrose Lift Station, Alaniz said. The PG&E panel will soon tie into the grid and that is when the pumps will be able to be tested. The mechanical lift, an important piece that aids in giving the crew access to maintain the pump, is finished and is now in place. "We are 2.5 years into the project," she said, "and we are well below the \$750,000 amount that was always thrown around as the number to replace the Primrose Lift Station. We have been incrementally spending our capital money to get the project underway. The Clarifier 2 concrete pad is nearly complete. All should be done and online by spring."

Alaniz reported that the Brooktrails Fire squad vehicle that was hoped would be delivered in early July was expected to arrive on Friday last week. There are three full-time employees as well as three new volunteers that have all been working smoothly together, she said.

"It certainly seems that when morale is high we attract more volunteers. We've received two CAL FIRE off-season volunteers and one young man who has been working for the California Conservation Corps. Also, the fire department is expecting its first tax payment with the new assessment that received over 69% voter support from the community. We hope to see the first payment in December."

Alaniz said office staff has "worked diligently to tidy up our books, and our new deputy finance officer has been doing great work with our new system, and we're hoping to have our annual financial reports done by December this year."

Director Horrick responded with a "Wow, that would be a first! Good job!"

Alaniz continued, "Our Community Center improvements have been well underway. We've had a committed staff person do good, deep cleaning, and it is now rented out for an upcoming wedding this month."

The Brooktrails board then addressed the Consent Calendar and voted to approve the August 23 to September 12, 2023 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$350,200.06. Of note was the annual payment of \$208,000 that was made on the debt service for the wastewater treatment plant. "That payment is a good thing," Alaniz said, "because it was \$250,000 before the refinancing."

Next up was "Consideration of Resolution 2023-10 Opposing Initiative 21-0042A1." Alaniz said she hoped board members had been able to read and go through materials that had been provided by the California Special Districts Association, and stated: "The CSDA is asking for special district members like us, who would agree with the association's opinion that we should adopt a resolution opposing this initiative."

Continuing, she said, "Most importantly, the issue that I think is most important for our community to understand is that the property tax-related fees and charges assessed with an engineers' report, and the 50% plus 1 vote, like the election that we just held, is at risk if this passes.

"This is going to be going to the general election to the voters," Alaniz continued "so education and outreach is probably going to be a really important part of this. It is potentially an undemocratic initiative. It takes away the power of the majority of local electors and puts it in the hands of a two-thirds majority of the statewide electorate."

After more discussion about changes that what is being called the "Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act" ballot initiative might bring, the Brooktrails board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2023-10 Opposing Initiative 21-0042A1.

The rest of Council

From page 1

State Highway 20, is generally under Caltrans' jurisdiction, despite the "relinquishment" of the north part of Main Street to the City of Willits after the bypass opened in 2016.

Councilmembers asked whether it was known when Caltrans might be back with some basic maintenance of that area, including repainting sidewalk crossings that need work, and Duley said he'd find out.

Councilmembers agreed to draft a new letter, since they weren't under the gun to get it done, and approve it at a future meeting.

"I just wanted to add," said Mayor Greta Kanne, "that I think while this feels like a win for our community especially in light of all the opposition that was voiced both in person at our last meeting and online, I do think it's important for us to remember that we have a significant rate of collisions at the south end of town.

"We have high speed, we have many business owners who are concerned about access to their driveways," she continued, "so something at some point needs to be done at the south end, and while it's a state highway we have to find a way to work with Caltrans to find a solution that fits our community and their needs, so yes it's a win, but it's also kind of a loss because now we're at the bottom of the list with them, so I just hope that at some point we can all come together to find a solution that works for Willits and Caltrans."



At right: NASA Astronaut Col. Nicole Mann (Wailaki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes) and Commander of NASA's SpaceX Crew 5 visits Round Valley this weekend for Indian Days.

The rest of NASA

From page 1

day, art, and kids carnival. Free camping is provided.

Indian Days will take place at Hidden Oak Park rodeo grounds and amphitheater, 76699 Covelo Road in Covelo. For vendor, parade, and other information, contact the Round Valley Indian Tribes at 707-983-6126. Visit www.rvit.org for updated schedule information.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 21
California Indian Days Pageant at Hidden Oaks Park Amphitheater. Texas Hold 'em Tournament.

Friday, September 22
Softball Tournament
Mud Bogging (off-road motorsport racing)
Carnival

Saturday, September 23
Parade in downtown Covelo, cultural dances to follow at Hidden Oaks Park.

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. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, September 21: Pork Loin, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll
Friday, September 22: Beef Stroganoff, Veggies, Roll
Monday, September 25: Beer Battered Cod Pilaf, Veggies, Roll
Tuesday, September 26: Spaghetti, Veggies, Garlic Bread
Wednesday, September 27: Chicken Burrito, wet w/Green Sauce
Thursday, September 28: Beef Chow Mein
Friday, September 29: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Roll, Cranberry
Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am. Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday.

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

The rest of Pumpkins

From page 1

the patch will be open from 10 am to 8 pm, and on Sundays from 10 am to 7 pm.

Along with picking the perfect pumpkin, attendees will also have the chance to navigate the corn maze created from 16,000 seeds of corn; flop about in the corn kernel pit; bounce in the bounce houses; climb the fire wall; take hay rides; get their face painted; take fun photos with fall-themed props; participate in family games; enjoy the petting zoo; and get something great to eat from a rotating selection of food vendors.

The family planted 8,000 pumpkin seeds of 15 different varieties on the 7 acre parcel, with each vine able to produce two to four pumpkins on each rotating plant.

"So that's what, like, a possible 32,000 pumpkins?!" laughed Alex Garcia, looking out over the field at the green vines just starting to die back and reveal orange, white and variegated gourds dotted along the rows. "We certainly made quite an undertaking for ourselves, but the feedback has been so overwhelmingly positive. We have had great support from many friends and local businesses too, to help make this project a reality."

Garcia mentioned that Willits Power and Hardware provided all of the temporary power needed on the once horse-filled field. They also provided the electronic traffic-notifying message board and trailer that will direct people to the patch, and also provided the bounce houses.

"We also want to mention our appreciation to East Side Ranch for providing all the hay bales; to J.D. Redhouse who was able to offer below-cost pricing on all of the bags of corn for the corn pit; to Silva Septic for providing of porta potties; to Jordan Eads for helping with logo design and event promotion; to Matthew Harbour who provided the redwood for the photo wall; the local farms who helped provide animals for the petting zoo; and to Ojeda Transport who has helped with the entire process of prepping the fields and the overall logistics," said Garcia.

The vendors coming to give even more to do at the patch are another element the Garcia family wanted to ensure was present at their patch.

"We wanted to bring in all the vendors so we could bring even more of the community together, keep money local, and our community strong!" said Garcia.

Vendors will be rotating, with some on the scene for one weekend, others for a few weekends. Vendors will include: Smoking G's and Big D's BBQ; The Munchery; Sugar Mamma; Our Lil' Country Kitchen; Dynamite Kettle Corn and Lemonade; Rock and Rolled Ice Cream; Fairall's Foods; Slam Dunk Pizza; Craft House Baking; The Cheesecakeery; and even their daughter's own business: Enchanted Snow Cones! Cochran BBQ will be on site the entire run, offering meals to event-goers all six weekends.

Classes from local elementary schools will also get to enjoy time at the patch with field trips planned for all classes of Brookside School and Laytonville Elementary School already. Adventist Health will also be providing gift certificates for their Willits, Ukiah and Fort Bragg employees to attend the patch.

General admission to the patch is \$6 and includes access to the petting zoo, photo areas, and family games. Hay rides are an additional \$5; entrance to the corn maze is \$3; and admission into the bounce houses is \$6. An all-activities bundle is also available for \$18. Little's aged 2 and under will be admitted for free.

Pumpkins are available for purchase based on size: mini are \$3; small are \$7; medium are \$12; large are \$18; and extra-large are \$20. Decorative pumpkins are also available, as well, small are \$5; medium are \$10 and large are \$15.

The patch is located at 19606 Walker Road, and more information can be found on the J&J Pumpkins Facebook page, by emailing jumpkinsllc@gmail.com, or by calling (707) 354-8187.



Photos by Annie Evarts

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

Above, from left: Little Lake firefighter Harry So presents Deputy Chief Thomen with a custom "firefighter flag" while Nancy Stipe looks on. Deputy Chief John Thomen and his wife, Tracy Thomen, pose together with the framed proclamation commending his 40 years of fire service. Aaron Branscomb, president of the Little Lake Firefighters Association, speaks about Thomen's impact on him as a colleague and mentor.

of the Little Lake crew stood up Tuesday and praised Thomen for his skill as an engineer, his hands-on leadership style, and his exceptional character. Thomen has held just about every position possible throughout his long career, and his experience shows.

Board chair Madrigal gave a brief speech commending Thomen for just how much money he's managed to save the community of Willits. Madrigal remarked: "We don't send things out to get fixed. John's out fixing a roof, or he's overhauling an engine, he's doing all that. Most fire departments send all that stuff out. He believes in trying to save money. He comes from the old school, and I really appreciate that."

Michelle Schnitzius, administrative assistant for Little Lake Fire, described Thomen as, "a jack of all trades, AND a master of all trades." Along with his aptitude for fixing pretty much anything, Schnitzius shared that Thomen is also a talented metal worker and welder. She said if he's not able to find parts for the engines, he just simply makes them, and that he's done quite a bit of custom work for the fire engines over the years.

As the ceremony continued, what became very evident was just how much admiration the entire department has for Thomen. Aaron Branscomb, president of the Firefighters Association, who first met Thomen in 1996, said reverently: "John is no desk chief. He's always doing something, and always has his hands in something." Branscomb thanked Thomen on behalf of the entire department for "always having our back."

Deputy Chief Thomen is one of the few strike team leaders in Mendocino County. Strike teams deploy in groups of five en-

gines. The strike leader is the point person for the team. On a fire, the strike team leader, among other things, makes sure all the engines know what to do. Oftentimes, these teams can be gone for two weeks or more depending on the situation.

It's no secret that fire service requires a great deal of sacrifice on the part of the firefighter's family, which was made clear by how all who thanked Thomen for his 40 years, made sure to also thank his wife, Tracy, and his children.

Thomen himself was the last to speak. He undoubtedly loves his job, and said of his time with the fire service, "I enjoy being here, I enjoy serving the community, I enjoy the fire fighters that I work with, and the other surrounding departments, so it just doesn't seem like 40 years."

Willits is a community nestled in a tinder box for a good portion of the year. Knowing we have committed firefighters like Deputy Chief John Thomen goes a long way in conserving a sense of safety and protection for the city, and fortunately, he's not planning on retiring any time soon.

Report on August fires

You might think the board meeting would conclude after speeches and cake and photos, but the Little Lake team got right back to business following the celebration. First and foremost, Deputy Chief Thomen would like everyone to remember that we are still in the height of fire season, and there is still a statewide burn ban in effect. Some of the more recent fire events in the community really drive that point home.

Though calls were down for the month

of August, Little Lake firefighters were kept very busy. There was a vegetation fire on August 11 around Skunk Hollow, along the railroad tracks. Fortunately, it was kept relatively small, but it was human-caused and is being investigated as arson.

About two weeks later on August 24, a fire occurred on Highway 20 by the old KOA campground, which prompted a full wildland dispatch, including aircraft. The fire head was cut off quickly by firefighters and wasn't pushed forward by western winds, though it could have easily gotten out of hand. Little Lake Fire sent two engines and three chief officers with quick attack units, along with one water tender auto aid from Brooktrails. CAL FIRE staff and equipment also responded.

That same day, Little Lake was dispatched to a vehicle fire 3 miles down Muir Mill Road. Brooktrails Fire Department and CAL FIRE also sent aid. The vehicle was reportedly about 5 feet away from dry grass, but fortunately it was later in the day and Little Lake's quick attack trucks promptly put it out.

An 11.5 acre fire started at the Golden Rule Ranch on August 27. Little Lake Fire, Brooktrails Fire Department, Redwood Valley Fire, Ukiah Fire Authority, Ridgewood Fire, and CAL FIRE all responded. Thomen said local fire districts all pitching in to help is how these fires are kept small. It's likely that a vehicle tow chain was the cause.

A residential fire occurred on August 29 at 1750 South Main Street. Fire Marshal Eric Alvarez and Training Chief Jeff Donaldson were the first to respond. Alvarez explained that a corner of a mobile home trailer was

burning, and he was able to knock it out fast with a quick attack truck.

Alvarez then went into the mobile home to search for anyone left in the structure, but everyone had evacuated. Firefighters pulled the siding off the building and were able to put the rest of the fire out. Alvarez said there was a heavy fuel load in the home, but fortunately, no one was hurt. He attributes this to good timing. If it had happened during early morning hours, it very well could have been fatal for the folks living inside. Brooktrails Fire and Ridgewood Fire also responded.

Lastly and notably, a second fire happened near the first in the Skunk Hollow area. It started in a pile of debris and caught a power pole on fire. The wiring on the pole melted. PGE shut off the power, but the fire spread into a redwood log. Because it was later in the day and the humidity was higher, the fire didn't move too much, but all said and done, it took about five hours to get it out. This second fire is also under investigation for arson.

The month of August saw a total of 47 calls. There were 15 fire calls, 22 rescue or emergency medical calls, three calls for service, and seven false alarms.

Deputy Chief Thomen closed the meeting by thanking all the Little Lake firefighters that work to keep the district safe. He emphasized the importance of the volunteers in the department, and said without them, there wouldn't be a department. Thomen encourages everyone in the community to take some time to thank our local firefighters whenever possible.

Willits Furniture Center

IS CLOSING

AND EVERYTHING

MUST GO!

Starts tomorrow.

Friday, September 15th.

Ends?

When there is nothing left.

All inventory is priced to move!

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Thank you for 55 great years!