# Willits Online & Print organizations staff nee A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits Thursday, October 2, 2025 Donations Accepted Edition No. 612

# WCC approves response

to grand jury report

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporte willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Willits City Council unanimously approved the city's response to the June 20, 2025 grand jury report titled, "Healing the Toxic Culture in the City of Willits Workplace," at its September 24 meeting.

Mayor Tom Allman had appointed an ad committee of Councilmember Gerry Gonzalez and Councilmember Matthew Alaniz to draft responses, and the full council approved the drafts after a brief discussion.

The first finding in the Grand Jury report, F1, stated: "The Grand Jury found the existence of a toxic and intimidating workplace culture at the City of Willits (excluding the Police Department). This has prompted highly qualified, dedicated workers to leave City Employment."

In their response WCC states: "The Willits City Council agrees that the Grand Jury found the existence of a toxic and workplace intimidating

Read the rest of Response

Over on Page 11

# New director at Willits Food Bank

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

Wendy Willits local Copperfield the is new director of Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Copperfield's involvement with WCS goes back to the time the late Jim Marill was WCS director. "I'd had a behindthe-scenes role as being the Facebook person, Copperfield said, "and when Jim passed, I was the only other person who had access."

Copperfield's husband, Kevin Copperfield, had previously been on the WCS board of directors, and in July 2024, Wendy Copperfield started attending the WCS board meetings. "They had a new director, Kim Tippit, and they had just moved over to the new space. I'd been wanting to update things and offered to be a kind of friend of the board, involved in helping behind the scenes and with community connections."

WCS first formally hired Copperfield in March 2025 to work in the office, as administrative assistant to the director.

Read more of Director

Over on Page 4







Above, from left: Cora Saxton and Tracey McNamara sell raffle tickets for the Cornhole board sets at the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County's Kritter Karnival. Vin De Paws was made exclusively for the benefit of HSIMC with only 142 cases produced. Becca Edwards, HSIMC Lifesaving Programs manager, holds one of the several donation boxes set out around the event. Below: Working on their community service for St Mary's school, Lyla Esteve, Penelope Reuser, and Jaclyn McGrath hold Gouda, an English Angora bunny, who was a part of the petting zoo, with other rabbits, goats, chickens and a guinea pig, which was set up at the Kritter Karnival.





Above, from left: The

kitchen squad smile at the

taco station including, from left: Nancy Paxton, Nan Gaithersburg-Kilker, Mary

Miller, and Christine Schmidt. (Not pictured: Kevin

Mooreland.) Tom Allman and

Stewart Handte chat before

Allman loaded into the dunk

tank. CCC members helped with parking and helping at

the various booths, including

from left: M. Bailey, A. Spray

and A. Samis Salaam.

Below, from left: Just

Moynahan pushes the

making sure it works, Erin

button, dunking husband,

Emerson Brende, into the

almost as excited for the

bounce house as she was

for face painting. Ukiah 4-H's

Michele Scatena smiles with

her goat Appolo. At bottom,

from left: There were dozens

of items available to bid on

at the silent auction tables,

including everything from

certificates, and more. Tacos

were free to event attendees,

plate. Calayan Knight offered

free 10 minute massages at

her booth at the Karnival.

and many enjoyed a tasty

gift baskets, to strollers,

to a metal detector, to

tank. Maggie Jennison was





# Kritter Kai

# Fundraiser for Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County raises over \$7,000 for non-profit

"It was a really fun time at this year's Kritter Karnival," said Teresa King, president of the

Maureen Jennison Graphics & Photographress

willitsweekly@gmail.com

board of directors for the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County. "This is my fourth year doing the event,

and this year, we decided to combine it with our volunteer appreciation event and made one great big party."

Volunteers, and the public, were welcome to attend the Karnival, which was sponsored by BAS Roofing, and held at the HSIMC center in Redwood Valley on Sunday, September 27, to enjoy free carnival games, food, music and more.

The Ukiah 4-H helped put on a petting zoo where goats, rabbits, a guinea pig and some chickens were available to snuggle, feed and pet. Volunteer Stacey Rohrbaugh spearheaded creating several carnival games including Tootsie-Pop Ring Toss, Bean Bag Tic-Tac-Toe, Water Cannon Knock Down, and more. Rohrbaugh also

created the two sets of custom Cornhole game boards which were raffled off during a special drawing.

DJ Ken Steely donated his time on the mic, emceeing the event and providing music; Jaime Wilkes was serving drinks, including a special wine that was made exclusively for the benefit of the HSIMC, Paws De Vin the "Purrfect White Wine" by Cesar Toxqui Cellars, and a silent auction offered all sorts of goodies collected by volunteer Pien Ris-Yarbrough that people could bid on to help raise funds for the shelter.

A bounce house also delighted the young attendees, as did face painting by Hailey Caborn, and adults delighted in the free 10-minute massages being offered by Calayan Knight.

The dunk tank surely delighted the dunkers more than the dunkees, but was a big hit none the less. The chance to bid

Read the rest of Over on page 9 Karnival











# WCC passes budget

with \$2.4 million deficit

B.B. Kamoroff willitsweekly@gmail.com

The City of Willits finally has a budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026 that started July 1, 2025, but it is nothing to cheer about. It confirms what the city council first found out only three months ago: The city's general fund is running out of money, not bringing in enough income to pay the bills.

A steady drop in the city's general fund - a deficit of \$2.4 million a year - has been going on for two years, but the city council was never made aware of the growing problem until Willits Finance Director Mauel Orozco sprung the bad news at the June 11 city council meeting.

Prior to that meeting, Orozco had been assuring the council - who were concerned about the long delay in getting financial reports that the city's finances were "still healthy, we have healthy balances." Longtime council member Gerry Gonzalez said: "I was on that council. We'd ask, 'Do we have money?' The reply was always 'Yes, we have

Read the rest of Budget

Over on Page 11

# **Brooktrails** establishes reserve fund

for firefighters' workers comp

Barbara O'Reardon willitsweekly@gmail.com

directors were in attendance for the September 23 meeting of the Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board. General Manager Tamara Alaniz was out of town attending a Water Reuse Association Conference, but was attending the board meeting via zoom. There in-person in her stead to assist the was Brooktrails board staffer Alyse LaFortune. District Counsel Chris Neary (out sick) was also in attendance via zoom.

First up on the agenda for the evening: the Consent Calendar "Review and Approval of Accounts Payable Report and Authorization to Issue Checks on September 24, 2025."

There were several questions posed by the board regarding the way and the format that the Accounts Payable report is now set up. The GM explained the codes for

Read the rest of Brooktrails

Over on Page 11

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

### Yes on Proposition 50

To the Editor:

I am a Democrat. I have always regarded Republicans and the Republican party (not always the same thing) as a respected set of colleagues and citizens, who obviously loved our country as I do, had respect for me and my party, and an honorable view of the customs and practices that keep our democratic ship afloat.

Even though it now seems that the GOP has completely rejected any idea of bipartisan agreement, unless it includes complete capitulation of liberal values, I still wish for bipartisan compromise. I would like a balanced Legislature, with room for debate and compromise. A healthy democracy requires it.

The state legislature of Texas has passed, unilaterally, in a non-census year, and at the command of the current president, legislation that redistricts Texas and gifts the GOP with five replacement Republican seats in the House. This move will disenfranchise and remove representational power from thousands of Texas voters, mostly blacks and ethnically Hispanic.

California's response to this is to propose legislation that would redistrict California and create five replacement Democratic seats

This is a proportional response to an outrageous overreach by Texas and by the President. It is temporary, and in 2030, California will go back to having district boundaries decided by our gold-standard Independent Commission. It also calls for ALL states to adopt an Independent Commission to decide their district boundaries.

And unlike Texas, California's redistricting will not be based solely on partisan considerations. Racial and ethnic balancing will remain untouched. All other district lines within California remain the same. And finally, the key point: it will be placed on the coming November 4 ballot, to be decided by California's voters, not by politicians.

Proposition 50 is endorsed by the Mendocino County Democratic Party.

I highly recommend that we all vote Yes on Proposition 50.

Submitted by WCA

achievements across millennia.

The Rules: LETTERS

Volume 13, Number 612

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Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com.

Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters

encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address

and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. Deadline is end of day Monday for each

Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be

published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

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Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographress /

to the editor from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To

Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and

Tekla Broz, chair of Mendocino County Democratic Central Committee, Covelo

of Chinese art, exploring one of the world's oldest and most influential artistic traditions.

fresh insights for long-time art enthusiasts and an inspiring introduction for newcomers.

10 at 6:30 pm. Admission is free, and all are welcome. More info:www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Art Talks: 'A Journey Through Chinese Art'

The Willits Center for the Arts is proud to announce the next installment of "Art Talks," a free community lecture

From ancient ritual bronzes and the grandeur of the Terracotta Army to the elegance of Song Dynasty landscape

painting and the refined brushwork of calligraphy, Chinese art reveals a rich interplay of history, philosophy, and

cultural expression. The lecture will guide listeners through the centuries, highlighting how artistic practices reflected

changes in politics, religion, and daily life, while also showing the enduring themes that connect China's artistic

"Chinese art offers us a profound window into the evolution of one of the world's most enduring civilizations," said

Art Talks provides a unique opportunity for the Willits community to experience the depth and beauty of world art

traditions in an accessible and engaging setting. With its focus on Chinese art, this event promises to offer both

The presentation will take place at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, on Friday, October

Gary Martin, M.A., lecturer for the series. "By looking at these works, we not only see remarkable beauty but also

encounter the ideas, values, and philosophies that have shaped Chinese culture for thousands of years

series that brings art history to life. This month's presentation will take audiences on a journey through the timeline

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

# October 2025

By Supervisor John Haschak

The Board of Supervisors held a workshop on healthcare in Mendocino County on September 10. With 42,000 recipients of MediCal, the implications of cuts to Medicaid (which funds MediCal to a large extent) and other provisions of H.R. 1 are significant.

There is a real concern that people will lose their MediCal coverage or Affordable Care Act coverage. This could lead to untreated conditions increasing. homelessness up, overdose rates up, suicide rates up. Decreases in school-based mental health services and healthy foods for school programs will affect our schools.

There were warnings of the effects of increased numbers of uninsured people and the adverse impact on ambulance services, increased 911 calls, reduction of ambulance payments, etc.

Overall in the county, 600 health care jobs are projected to be lost due to these cuts. The County of Mendocino's share of certain programs will go up too. SNAP funding brings in \$3.2 million each month to the county and the county will have an increased share of the costs, which will be \$600,000. While in other programs, the county is already paying penalties for insufficient administrative allocations. One example of this is that the county pays \$10,000 a month in penalties for In Home Support Services.

Collaboration amongst the healthcare providers, clinics, and hospitals was a positive. There is a need for everyone to be advocating for support for rural healthcare at all levels of government.

If you want more information, you can watch the meeting on YouTube https://www.mendocinocounty. gov/Home/Components/News/News/7413/ or listen to the meeting in the KZYX archives.

Finally, the new Willits Library roof is in place.

There will be a Talk with the Supervisor on October 9 at 10 am in Brickhouse Coffee. You can always contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-972-4214.

Senior Center menu

for the week

dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am

to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12

Thursday, October 2: Battered Pollock, Rice Pilaf,

Friday, October 3: Sausage Breakfast Burrito w/Fruit

Monday, October 6: Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed

Tuesday, October 7: Chicken & Dumplings w/Biscuit

Wednesday, October 8: Pepperoni Pizza Pasta,

Thursday, October 9: Japanese Chicken w/White

Friday, October 10: French Dip w/Loaded Mashed

Activities: Bingo on Friday nights, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on

Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through

Friday. To sign up call Joliana at 459-6826, who can

help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the

day before needed to schedule home meal delivery.

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to

schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping,

banking, doctors' appointments. Senior Center Thrift

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

class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501

Veggies, Roll

Potatoes, Veggies, Roll

Garlic Bread, Veggies

Delivered throughout Willits.

Shop: 459-2176

Rice, Veggies

Potatoes

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor

# Opinion: Why Willits needs a full music program across the district

By Addison Alvarado

Music in schools is not only a way to foster creativity and expression, but also offers important benefits to students academically, socially, and cognitively. The arts play a key role in building community, social, and emotional expression, and they encourage students to get involved in school.

Beyond these benefits, music education enhances understanding - culturally, emotionally, expressively - and is being integrated in other fields, often used as a tool to support core subjects and learning. Some schools have robust music programs, while others. like Willits at present, lack access to these programs. Advocacy groups and legislative measures aim to address and close this gap.

After receiving comments in the August and September school board meetings about the lack of music in Willits Unified School District schools, WUSD Superintendent John Baker released a statement to the community, published in the last edition of Willits Weekly. He acknowledges music's importance in schools, expressing his concern about the lack of artistic expression at Willits High School.

It was noted that there is a lack of student interest and insufficient marketing of the program towards students. Superintendent Baker explains: "Based on the learning of the history of promoting programs as a new superintendent, it seems that outreach has been limited. It is my goal to develop a promotion system for the next school year, however we are already hearing from the students and board members that there are, even though the number is small, students interested in music."

Are these future efforts enough? WUSD currently has no elementary music programs, and interest at the middle school is high, but there are no ways for students to engage in a complete music program. The negatives of this are reduced student potential, increased inequality, and loss to the community. Students' academic, cognitive, and emotional growth are limited, facing disproportionate effects in urban and low-income districts, further deepening existing educational inequities. Furthermore, a wellrounded education, including the arts, enriches school communities, with its absence representing significant losses for all.

The Hechinger Report educational journal supports this, stating: "Decades of research show that participating in music and arts education during and after school benefits young people. Public belief in the power of music has never been stronger. Yet much work remains to be done to leverage music and arts education for overall student achievement and wellbeing." Students benefit from having access to music in their schools, and state legislation like Proposition 28: The Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act is a resource that should be

Passed in 2022, the proposition establishes a minimum source of annual funding. Create California summarizes the proposition as "a Statewide Permanent Funding Source for Arts Education; all PreK to 12th grade public schools receive ongoing funding (i.e., allocated annually)," and with the phrase "Funds music, increases access to arts education."

These funds can be used for educational support. hiring, training, supplies, materials, and arts educational partnership programs. These resources available can not only aid WUSD in building a robust music program, but also improve school life for students. With an easily accessible music program, students will develop and utilize teamwork, discipline, confidence, self-respect, and cultural understanding, as well as other social-emotional and academic skills in partnership with cognitive enhancement. Students are in vital need of creative expression and support.

In summary, music education is far more than an extracurricular activity - it is a fundamental component of a well-rounded education that supports students' academic, social, and emotional development.

As new funding opportunities become available and awareness grows, districts like WUSD must prioritize equitable access to music programs. By investing in the arts, we not only enrich the lives of students but also strengthen school communities and student engagement. The time to act is now, ensuring every student has the chance to experience the transformative power of music.

Addison Alvarado is Willits Weekly's school board reporter.

# Sources cited:

https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-after-thepandemic-young-people-need-music-educationmore-than-ever-before/

https://createca.org/prop-28-what-we-know-so-far/

# More information on music education:

https://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/ prop28artsandmusicedfunding.asp

https://www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/thepower-of-music-education/#:~:text=Research%20 shows%20that%20music%20training%20 boosts%20IQ%2C%20focus%20and%20 persistence.&text=The%20value%20of%20 incorporating%20music,cognitive%20function%20 and%20academic%20performance.

# Sloane Viola, CCC chief deputy director, cuts the ribbo with help from a couple of corps members.

**CCC Grand Opening** 

Ribbon cutting ceremony officially opens new California

Conservation Corps Mendocino Center in Willits

Mendocino County than the Corps." said to get the paid training, leadership skills, and life

"There are few organizations that better it brings to this community and to the corps

members who come from all around the state

State Senate President pro Tempore Mike

Willits Mayor Tom Allman presented the

CCC with a proclamation. "I know you've heard

great proclamations from our congressmen,"

said Allman. "You heard a senator and an

assemblyman, but you haven't lived until you

have had a small-town mayor give a proclamation.

So, check this off your bucket list. The California

Conservation Corps has established a presence

in our community. They are dedicated to

protecting and enhancing California's natural

resources and communities while empowering

further education in their chosen fields.

around the 12 buildings that make up the center,

including the administration building, education

building, multi-purpose building, recreation

building, storage building, and seven dormitories,

all designed to fit into the local environment in

color and design. There are recreation courts, an

amphitheater, a huge solar array, and many other

amenities, which create an environment in which

to work and learn.

experiences that open new doors for them."

but it changes lives every day."





Above, left: Dan Millsap, deputy director of capital outlay, spearheaded the design and construction of the Mendocino Center facility. Above, right: Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren discusses the CCC facility with Willits Mayor Tom Allman. Below. left: State Senator Mike McGuire, with his usual ebullience, welcomes the CCC to their new quarters. Below, right: Sloane Viola, CCC chief deputy director, acts as MC for the ceremonies, introducing speakers and videos about the corps. At bottom, left: Jesse, a corps member, speaks about how the program has benefitted him and others. At bottom, right: John Button, a past corps member, is now in charge of the Mendocino











Above: The culinary program created a colorful and tastv meal for the attendees in the Multi-Purpose Building. At left: Architecture that echoes the aesthetic of the area is inherent in all of the CCC Mendocino Center's



#### McGuire spoke as well. "As the longest running conservation corps in California history, when it was time to upgrade the facilities, the state was proud to answer the call," said McGuire. "This residential center is going to help recruit young adults from every corner of the Golden State. That means more boots on the ground where we need them most, to work on trails, restore watersheds, create firebreaks, improve state parks throughout the North Coast. Investing in the Conservation Corps is investing in the future of our entire state. The work that the corps members do doesn't always make the headlines,



buildings. Below: Some of the corps members, not currently on assignment outside the facility, are there to help attendees find their way. At bottom: Third District Supervisor John Haschak sits with some of the presenters at the opening ceremonies.



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#### young people through hard work and education. "We're excited to have so many here to Two of the corps members told the attendees celebrate this special occasion as we officially what the CCC has meant to them, how they have mark the opening of the new residential center, benefitted from the program. Jesse said that he said Button. "Over the last couple months, our knew he wanted to get into a field of forestry or corps members and staff have worked very hard fire service, but didn't want to go to college. He

to transition from our location in Ukiah, where we spent the better part of 30 years, serving our

represent the self-determination and grit of

Assembly Member Chris Rogers. "Since 1976,

the California Conservation Corps has trained

more than 125,000 members of our community

to give back, to make a difference locally, and to

help build this state. They have put in more than

provides a pathway for young California residents,

18 to 25, or 29 if they have been in the military, to

find their passion and direction, while getting paid

during the process. There are several "trails" they

can follow within the program, including culinary,

wildland firefighting, forestry, finishing their high

After several years of planning and building,

the Mendocino Residential Center in Willits is

finished and is being populated by 80 to 100 of

these young persons, who are both personable

and directed. They are here to learn and to assist

The invitation-only grand opening last Friday

was a grand affair, with many of the political

figures from the county in attendance and several

who spoke to the crowd. First up was John

Button, district director of the Mendocino Center.

the community through volunteering.

Mathew Caine

school diploma, and more.

84 million hours in sweat

California

equity and elbow grease."

Conservation

Sloane Viola, the CCC chief deputy director, took over the proceedings, explaining some of the history of the Corps in Mendocino County and introducing the other speakers. "The opening of the CCC Mendocino Center," said Viola, "is a huge part of the strategic plan to assure that through commitment to service, all of California's young adults can set out on a clear and defined path to stable, purpose-driven careers and education. In the CCC, we're doing that in five areas we call our 'trails.' We have 'creating a corps for all,' 'making sure there's access for all,' 'developing career pathways that are dynamic and relevant, 'building tomorrow's corps today,' and 'simply making the CCC an even better force.'

"This new location perfectly walks all these trails," said Viola. "We can't wait to see the benefit

For more info about the CCC, visit https://ccc.





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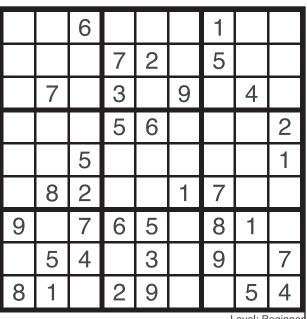
learn more about volunteering: 459-6826.

Willits Weekly | October 2, 2025 Willits Weekly | October 2, 2025

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku. Word Search & Crossword



# WORD SEARCH **POPCORN** K A U X R D I F M K S B M M L Y N W X

T N S K X G A Y N D N O I S S E C N O R S L E N R E K I I A H L R X K K A U MAIZE SEASONING **BOWL ENJOY** 

**MICROWAVE** 

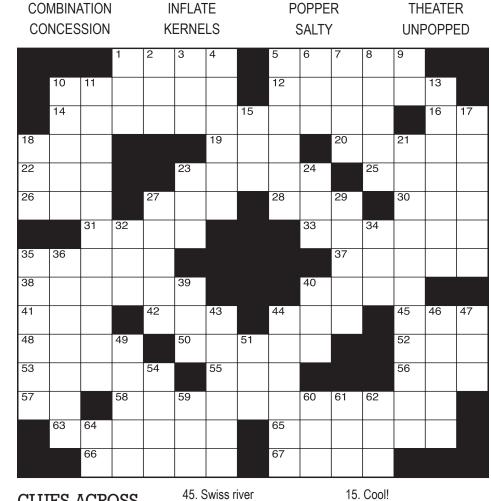
**MOVIE** 

**POPCORN** 

**EXPLODE** 

FAIR

**FIBER** 



48. A banana has one

52. Relative biological

55. Journalist Tarbell

56. One-time tech leader

57. Incidentally (abbr.)

58. Intestinal bacterium

65. Accompanies nook

**CLUES DOWN** 

4. Where rockers work

5. Becomes less intense

spinal cord

67. Highly excited

3. Writing utensil

7. Type of catfish

9. Atomic #50

8. 'Horsetown, U.S.A.'

11. Brings back to life

13. Humorous critiques

10. The Muse of lyric poetry

6. Consume

66. Vogue

1. Witch

2. Utilize

63. Loose sheats around the

effectiveness (abbr.)

50. Afrikaans

53. Agave

# **CLUES ACROSS**

**BUTTER** 

CARAMEL

**CARNIVAL** 

- 1. Native American people of CA
- 5. Long periods of time (Brit.)
- 10. Classroom tool 12. Rods
- 14. One who renews 16. They start the alphabet 18. Periodical (slang)
- 19. Smooth singer Cole 20. Dorsal sclerites in insects
- 22. One from Utah 23. The world of the dead
- 25. Singer Redding 26. Mafia head
- 27. Wrongly 28. Unhappy 30. Anger
- 31. Dark olive black 33. Places to sit and eat 35. Made a mistake
- 37. Damp 38. Banned fuel type 40. Actor Damon 41. What thespians do
- 42. A polite address for a woman 44. Disallow

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!

# HOW TO SUDOKU

a warning. 4:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued

**Summary of Active Investigations** 

and Arrests

1:31 am: Officers conducted a stop in the

11:43 am: Officers conducted a stop in

4:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued

the 100 block of North Main Street and

800 block of South Main Street and issued

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**POLICE LOG** 

September 15 to September 21

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police near the intersection of South Main Street

issued a citation.

September 18

10:58 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

12:53 am: Officer conducted a stop in the

1100 block of South Main Street and issued

1:32 am: Officers conducted a stop near

the intersection of Walnut Street and South

11:42 am: Officers initiated a theft

investigation in the 100 block of East

2:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft

investigation in the 800 block of South Main

5:42 pm: BEAN JR., Leland Cheyenne

(48) of Willits was contacted in the 100

block of East Oak Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole and

on misdemeanor charges of possession of

8:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop near

9:30 pm: AYERS, Kyl Matthew (24) of

Willits was contacted in the 1400 block

of South Main Street. He was arrested

on felony charges of possession of a

controlled substance, and on misdemeanor

charges of being under the influence of a

controlled substance, possession of drug

paraphernalia, and violation of a court

9:10 am: Officers responded to a report

of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of

2:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

2:48 pm: Officers responded to a report

of an unwanted subject in the 100 block

of East Commercial Street and issued a

9:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

10:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

the 1400 block of South Main Street and

8:02 pm: Officers responded to a report

10:21 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

11:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

the 700 block of Central Street and issued

5:47 pm: Officers responded to a report

9:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

9:14 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

10:21 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

the 200 block of South Main Street and

the 1300 block of South Main Street and

of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of

the 1700 block of South Main Street and

of vandalism in the 100 block of North Main

the 1500 block of South Main Street and

700 block of South Main Street and issued

the intersection of Blosser Lane and Robert

Drive and issued a warning.

September 19

South Main Street.

issued a warning.

issued a warning.

issued a citation

September 21

South Main Street.

Main Street and issued a warning.

the 1700 block of South Main Street and

Department reported **91 incidents** in this and California Street and issued a warning.

4:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of Shell Lane and issued a

8:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of Central Street and issued a a controlled substance.

### September 16

7-day period.

September 15

1:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1100 block of South

5:36 pm: KUBAS, Michael Dennis (46) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Baechtel Road and South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of carrying a concealed dirk or dagger, possession of a controlled substance with two or more prior convictions, and failure to appear, and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol), violation of probation, and failure to appear.

the intersection of Walnut Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.

9:33 pm: Officers conducted a stop near

11:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Lenore Avenue and issued a citation.

### September 17

SNACK

SODA

TASTY

5:59 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 600 block of South Main Street and issued

8:38 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

5:17 pm: TUCKER, Andy Blake (54) of Covelo was contacted near the September 20 intersection of Shell Lane and Highway 101. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of trespassing, possession of drug paraphernalia, and violation of probation.

6:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Valley Street and South Lenore Avenue and issued a

800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning. a citation. 10:40 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Coast Street and

West San Francisco Avenue and issued a

#### 10:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop issued a citation More of From page 1 Director

It's a tough time for food banks, with federal cuts to USDA-based programs meaning WCS is getting less food from the government to distribute. "We don't receive funding from the USDA, we receive goods, and now we receive less of those goods.... And also any grants that might have been out there that will no longer available," Copperfield said.

9:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued

WCS distributes food two days a week - on Wednesdays and Fridays - but recipients can receive food only once a week. "The average number of households that we distribute to on a weekly basis is around 500," she said. "They come one time a week – they have two opportunities, but can only receive once."

Numbers served increased dramatically in 2024. "We hit a high mark probably about a year ago," she said, "and so the amount at that point of people that were coming in had risen, in one year's time, over 2024, to triple of what we would see before. Since then the rise has been a little lower, but it's steady, and demand has not dropped since then."

Copperfield said she has been encouraged by the way Willits has responded, and gives a heart-felt "thank you" to all who've donated and helped. "The community has been really stepping up to help with donations," she said, mentioning the food donation bins set up at multiple locations around town. "They've been collecting the donations for us, and bringing it to us so that's been really nice.

Also, she said: "Local gardeners and farms have been donating produce, and that's really been helping, and there's been a couple fundraising events, where people have donated funds to us as well. So, the Read the rest of community has really been stepping

Over on page 11 Director

OBITUARY

# Cristina Balthrop

Cristina Balthrop, a beloved member of the Willits community, passed suddenly on Sunday, September 21. Born October 16, 1973, in Dallas, Texas, Cristina grew up in Utah, and Midland, Texas, before moving to Austin, and earning her degree at the University of Texas. She met her husband, Tyler, and after having their first child, they

Cristina was an elementary school teacher for 28 years, and she spent 13 years teaching fourth grade at Willits Elementary Charter School. Being in Mrs. B's class was a rite of passage for all the students at WECS, as she was known for her high academic standards, fun creative activities, and student leadership projects. Cristina changed the lives of thousands of students, and took pride in seeing them grow into strong, compassionate, intelligent adults. As lead teacher, she inspired her colleagues and served as a mentor to many other educators.

Cristina was the brightest light, had the greatest smile, and she would make everyone feel like a cherished friend. She loved music and danced like nobody was watching. She loved her family, and was incredibly proud of her three beautiful children. She was very supportive and openminded, embracing people's differences and celebrating their unique qualities. She was instantly loved by everyone she met, and had a very

dear, close-knit group of friends whom she considered family. She will be sorely missed and never forgotten.

relocated to Willits in 2010.

Cristina was preceded in death by her beloved father, Gary Gipson. She is survived by her husband of 20 years, Tyler Balthrop, her amazing children, Oscar, Cori, and Kadie, her loving mother, Sylvia Zizumbo Mora Gipson, and her brother

Her Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, October 4 at Anker-Lucier in Willits from 2 to 4 pm. After the service, we will gather at Northspur Brewing Co. to share memories and food.

Donations can be made at www.mealtrain.com/trains/vd1d6z

Memories from students and families can be shared at msbmemories@willitsk5charter

Memories from the Willits community can be shared at CristinaBforever@gmail.com

OBITUARY |

# **Clifford Pierce**

Clifford Bernard Pierce, lovingly known as "Pops," passed away on September 23, 2025, at the age of 80. Born in Massachusetts on March 28, 1945, moved to Willits in 1979, where he laid down roots and built a legacy of love, generosity, and strength.

He leaves behind his children Judy, Cliff, Lisa, Gina, Patty, and Mike, and his beloved grandchildren Sarah, Michelle, Britney, Justin, Dane, Samantha, Jade, Tanner, Chandler,

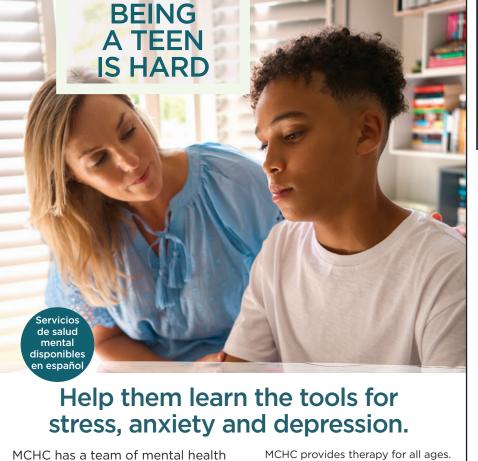
Eric, Owen, Fern, Dustin, Waylon, Angel, Heaven, and Star.

To me, he wasn't just a grandfather, he was my nero. He was our rock, our guide, and our saving grace. Pops stood by us hrough every high and low. He was the one man who showed up every ime. He fixes everything that was broken with his love and two hardworking hands, as all of us grandchildren would say, papa can fix it. He taught us to work hard, to stand tall, and to never

let anyone else define our worth. His lessons and weren't just words, they were wisdom to our ears, he was someone that inspired us to be better and showed us how to have

Pops was a good man. He was the one who helped everyone, whether you were family, friend or stranger he was there. He laid his legacy not only in the hearts of those who loved him, but through the woody small town he called home. To us, Pops was home, he was our peace, he was our safe place that we all could run to. I will forever and always miss his compassion, resilience, and miss the hero he was. He was our everything, growing up we looked up to him, and we forever will.

From his childhood to where he ended up, Pops built something meaningful for himself, his kids, and his grandkids. Hearing his journey and the strength it took is what keeps me pushing forward, I'm the woman I am today because of him, and I will forever be grateful for the life and love he gave me. I will cherish every memory I have with Poppy, I will always and forever love and miss you - Britney.



specialists helping people in Lake and Mendocino Counties. Find the right therapist who can be your partner in mental health!

Contact MCHC's Behavioral Health for an appointment. (707) 466-7388



# WILLITS FAMILY DENTISTRY ८ **IMPLANTS** 707-459-2163 12 W. Valley St / Willits, CA 95490

Open Monday-Friday Accepting new patients of all ages.

# **OPEN HOUSE**

1751 Hearst-Willits Road | Sunday, October 5, 12:00 to 2:00



# 15+/- Acres Willits Valley Ranch Property

Lovely location with a 2 bedroom 1 bath home and a detached garage. All level valley land with fenced pastures. There are dog kennels, and a barn. Great valley property for horses and livestock. Well water. Close to town. \$669,900.



information or an appointment to view please call: Randy and Ruth Weston 707-459-4961 • 707-489-3333 CalBRE: 00990817 ruthweston@pacific.net 557 South Main Street • Willits

# **HELP WANTED**



# CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO) Benefits, Salary: \$98K - \$110K

Sherwood Valley Casino is seeking a strategic and detail-oriented Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to lead our financial operations and safeguard the integrity of our assets. This executive role is responsible for driving financial performance, maintaining robust internal controls, and ensuring full compliance with regulatory standards. The CFO will play a key role in shaping the financial future of the casino while upholding transparency, accountability, and operational excellence.

# **GENERAL MANAGER (GM)**

Benefits, Salary: \$95K-\$115K

Sherwood Valley Casino is seeking a skilled and driven General Manager to lead our gaming operations with excellence and integrity. This role is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the casino's daily activities, supervising gaming operations, and providing regular updates on business performance.

Contact the HR Dept at HR@svrcasino.com or 707-459-7335



Willits Weekly | October 2, 2025 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

17. Worst

18. Wet dirt

21. Useful

23. Hebrew unit of liquid

capacity 24. High schoolers' test

27. Internet device

32. A place to rest

34. Chat responder

35. A way to move on

36. What consumers

39. Digital audiotape

40. More (Spanish)

44. White (Spanish)

46. Church building

47. Georgia rockers

54. Make by braiding

59. Local area network

61. Indigenous person

62. Liquefied natural gas

of Thailand

64. Distance to top

60. Unit of work

51. 'Much \_\_ about nothing'

49. Surgeon's tool

43. Disfigured

are given

29. City in India

up to help, and we really need them

# Agape **Bible Church**

290 S. Lenore Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Where love is first and the Bible is central. Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. - Worship dult Sunday School 8:30 a.m Info? 707-459-1905 www.agapebiblechurch.com

### **Amazing Grace** Assembly of God Church 803 Coast Street P.O. Box 489, Willits

Worship Service - 5:00 p.m. Pastor Kris Strickland EVERYBODY IS WELCOME Church

of Christ What must we do to be saved? Acts 2:37 1095 S. Main St., Willits

(next to Super 8) (707) 459-5023 Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service-6-7:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study-7-8:00 p.m.

### The Church of **Jesus Christ of** Latter-day Saints 265 Margie Drive

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

### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedo • A University for Soul

•Spiritual Living Courses Spiritual Discussions ECK Light & Sound Services More information? Call 530-224-8703 www.eckankar.org

### **Grace Community** Church

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

#### St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church 61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490

Father Aaron Bandanadam Mass times: 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 appointmet at 707-459-2252

https://stanthonywillits.org/ saintanthonywillits@gmail.com We welcome All Walks of Faith St. Francis

### **Episcopal Church** North Main Street, Willits 707-272-0177

Sunday Service - 10 a.m. In-person and on Zoom Call for information. ALL ARE WELCOME The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

### St. John Lutheran Church Sunday Service

10:00 a.m. (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive acebook.com/stjohnswillits ALL ARE WELCOME

#### Willits Seventh-Day **Adventist Church** 707-459-5714 Friendly, open worship

Saturdays Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:45 a.m. Zoom Transmission Available. Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m. 399 W. Mendocino Ave. All are welcome!

### **Willits United Methodist Church** Labyrinth and Peace Garden

A place to find comfort where all are welcome Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild Sunday Worship at 10:30 am 286 School St. (at Pine) 707-459-2855 wumc@outlook.com www.willitsumc.org

Facebook: facebook willits umc

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



Market:

Thursday, October 2

Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at

City Park, for the freshest local

produce, meat, farm fresh eggs,

hot and cold food from local

businesses, plus live music, the

new edition of Willits Weekly, and

more. First Thursday of the month,

October 2, Meet the Library at

the Farmers Market, 3 to 4:30

pm, with library card signups,

information about library services

and events, and an activity for the

Virtual Author Talk at the

Library: 'Nuestra America:

Friday, October 3

week's project: Slime!

welcome. Join us at the picnic tables.

Food Not Bombs in Rec Grove Park: Food Not

Bombs Willits presents a free meal, zines and supplies

every first and third Friday around 5 pm. Everyone is

'Spooktacular' S.T.E.M. Science at the Library:

Open to kids aged 9 to 14, every Friday in October

from 3:30 to 5 pm at the Willits Branch Library. This

Dance Hall Benefit at the Methodist Church:

Fundraiser for the Willits Shelter Action Group featuring

kids to enjoy.

Branch Library.

Willits Farmers

DJ Mike Tobin, plus snacks, raffles and dance lessons! \$4 General, \$2 for youths and free for Seniors. Friday, October 3 from 6 to 9 pm at the United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, Willits.

Skate Night at Harwood Hall: Roller skate for \$1 from 6 to 8pm on Friday, October 3 at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.

Cliff Porter Collective at Shanachie: Friday, October 3 from 8 to 11 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Mrs. Roper Town Stroll: Dress up as your best Mrs. Roper to stroll the town! Friday, October 3 at 6 pm at Northspur Brewing Co., Willits

Wolf Tree at Northspur Brewing Co: Acoustic Americana every first Friday of the month, this month on October 3 from 6 to 8 pm at Northspur Brewing

### Saturday, October 4 Willits Harvest Moon Carnivale: Nith live music, games, pie eating contest, food, vendors, and more this free, family-friendly event will be held from 4 to 9pm on HARVEST MOON Saturday, October 4, with shops CARNIVALE and restaurants open late on Main, Commercial and Humboldt

OCTOBER 4TH, 2025 I 4PM - 9PM

Nuestra Alianza Exhibit opens at WCA: Enjoy food and beverages as you explore this exhibit by Nuestra Alianza, featuring Day of the Dead

inspiring stories of the Latino contribution to the United altars and other seasonal Mexican art States,' Thursday, October 2 at 11 am at the Willits and crafts on Saturday, October 4 from 6 to 8 pm at Willits Center for the Arts.

Decater Pumpkin Patch opens in Covelo: Get your pumpkins, jams, butters, zucchini and pumpkin bread and more, beginning Saturday, October

4 and each weekend through October. Located at the south end of the valley on Covelo Road, State Route 162. More info: 707-349-7754.

# Sunday, October 5

Mendocino Camerata at WCA: Diverse, a capella choral music along with seasonal refreshments at Willits Center for the Arts on Sunday, October 5. Doors open at 3:30 pm, concert begins at 4 pm. Advanced

tickets \$12 or \$15 at the door. Tickets and more info: willitscenterforthearts.org.

# Tuesday, October 7

Eckankar Meeting at the Library: Join us for a spiritual discussion on Dreams and Soul Travel, Tuesday, October 7 from 11am to noon at the Willits Branch Library. More info call Joy, 707-367-3777. (This program is neither sponsored by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.)

# Wednesday, October 8

Learn & Share Family History at the Library: Learn how to track down your ancestors for your family tree and similar topics every second Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

History Makers Family Programs at the Museum: Make Fall crafts every Wednesday in October from 2 to 4:30 pm. This week: A hand-traced family tree! Free admission on Wednesdays with a valid Mendo County library card.

# Thursday, October 9

NUESTRA ALIANZA

Photos dia

Willits Farmers Market: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at City Park with vendors

along State Street for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches

your dollars. Bit and a Bite at the Museum: Join us for light refreshments and learn about our

Doors open at 6:00pm

Dancing 7:00pm to 10:00pm

benefits to double

Woven World exhibit and the natural resources of Mendocino County, Thursday, October 9 at 12:30

Fire Forum at CCC District Headquarters: Free event to provide ips on home fire resiliency, insurance guidance and an opportunity to ask questions of the experts, plus prizes and

Avenues to Wellness

presentation

Makers Market where

handmade goods from

talented local artisans

with original artwork,

crafts, ceramics, jewelry,

floral arrangements, gift

sets, specialty food items

and more on Saturday,

October 4 from 10 am

to 4 pm at Medium Art

Center's new location,

110 South School Street,

Willits Weekly | October 2, 2025

purchase

you can

Music &

Dance

free slices from Flying Dog Pizza, Thursday, October 9 Cosmic Family Band from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the new California Conservation Corps facility, 600 East Hill Road, Willits.

Trivia Night at The Munchery: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 6 pm at The Munchery, 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

# Friday, October 10

MUSEUM

History Makens

'Spooktacular' S.T.E.M. Science at the Library: Open to kids aged 9 to 14, every Friday in October from 3:30 to 5 pm at the Willits Branch Library. This week's project: Skittle Art!

Art Talk with Gary Martin at WCA: Chinese Art and its historical and cultural significance, Friday, October 10 at 6:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts.

Skate Night at Harwood Hall: Roller skate for \$1 from 6 to 8pm on Friday, October 10. Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.

## Saturday, October 11

FORUM THURS, OCTOBER 9 5:38 PM - 7:38 PM

FREE PIZZA FROM FLYING DOG

the first branch?

PLUS FOOD AND FAIR

· O&A with the speaker

Poet Devreaux Baker at WCT: Donation-based poetry reading by the first Poet Laureate of Mendocino County on Saturday, October 11 at 7 pm with an open reading

Willits Photography Club at WCA: Open to all skill levels and meets Saturday, October 11, from 10 am to noon in the classroom at Willits Center for the Arts.

> Summer Commercial Street.

to follow at Willits Community Theatre.

**Fundraising Dinner at** the Grange: Includes either a lamb chop served with seasonal sides or mushroom ravioli with sage cream sauce, dessert and one beer or wine ticket, plus a silent and live auction, Saturday, October 11 from 5 to 9 pm at the Little Lake Grange. Tickets \$75, purchased online at foundation. mendocino.edu or at Mendo College, 372 East

It's All Relative:

Learning and Sharing Your Family History

Willits Branch Library

2nd Wednesday of each month,

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Trying to trace your family tree and can't get past

This program will introduce you to the best methods

relatives/ancestors, with emphasis on using on-line

At other sessions, we will have an open forum,

where people can share old family tales, family

Come and join us! Who knows? Perhaps you'll add

for tracking down the hard-to-find

recipes, favorite heirlooms, etc.

a few new leaves to the ol' family tree.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

MENDOCINO Gibrary 300 E Commercial St Willes, California 05490 | 707-459-5008

(Enter through back door).

# 50% of Wizard of Oz ticket sales donated to Willits Food Bank

Shanachie: Saturday, October

11 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Sunday, October 12

Color Run Fundraiser at the

High School: All welcome to

participate or just enjoy the

fun and music! Same-day

registration is \$20 Check-in

begins at 12:30 pm, run begins

at 2 pm on Sunday, October 12

**Noyo Theater** 

WILLITS FOOD BANK

VIZARD

0

FUNDRAISER

THIERES NO BLAGE MISE MOVIE

at the Willits High School track.

MENDO **FOOD POP-UP** 

> 1250 Blosser Lane, Willits CA Every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 10am-11:30am



# TOWN-WIDE ONGOING **EVENTS**

Drop-In Life Drawing Group at WCA: Every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm at Willits Center for the Arts. Cost is based on sliding scale. More info: Margaret 707-459-

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Saturdays at 1 pm, sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations, and families at Bud Snider City Park on East Commercial. Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch! Willits Food Bank Donations: Our Willits Food Bank is in dire need of non-perishable food and toiletries! There are donation bins at: Brickhouse Coffee, Mendo Mill, Willits Branch Library, the Senior Center and Little

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

Lunch to Live Music at Brickhouse Coffee: every Wednesday from noon to 2 pm featuring various artists. Corner of Main and Commercial Streets, Willits. Open Mic Night at Inner Earth Tea House: Fridays from 5 to 8 pm. Bring your songs, poems, stand-up comedy, instruments, etc. to this family-friendly event. \$12 and includes unlimited tea. 48 East San Francisco

Pickleball: Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 5 pm and Saturdays at 9 am at the Willits High School tennis courts. Free to play and all levels welcome. Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every

Monday at 6 pm at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866 Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Friday at 7 pm, at St. Francis of the Redwoods on the corner

of Main and Commercial Streets. Info: Bill Bruneau:

Literacy Volunteers of Willits: We teach adults to read! Free personal tutoring at the library.

Call or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@gmail.com or 707-456-7729. Mobile Showers Available in Willits: Mobile shower

THE LOST BUS

is in Willits every Monday and Tuesday from 2:30 to

**MOVIES** 

# **'One Battle** After

COLUMN | AT THE

Another<sup>2</sup> The Story: Non-stop suspense and action satire featuring

violent Good Guys (self-important political activists with guns) vs in-thegovernment Bad

Dan Essman

Guys (self-important racist soldiers and cops). When I write "guys" I very much mean

male and female—with an on-going, and kind-offunny, and very specific emphasis on the genitals (like I said: a satire). Druggie booze-sodden Bob (Leonardo DiCaprio) has a much-loved teen daughter Willa (Chase Infiniti—her real name) who is targeted by a vicious steroidal soldier Steven J. Lockjaw (Sean Penn). And by "targeted" I mean "for

My Thoughts: The writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson credits Thomas Pynchon's satirical (maybe Humboldt County) novel Vineland as an inspiration for his screenplay. He did not have to do that, but P.T. Anderson did give credit because he has respect and he has class! I watched the flick twice on opening day on Friday. What hit me on second viewing is that in "One Battle after Another" Anderson turned a short story into an epic finely-detailed novella. I realized on my second viewing that the emotional focus of this drama is Bob's sense of failure in his commitment to social change. But even more painful to him than his failed activism, is Bob's lost and hopeless love for Willa's nympho maniacal mother Perfidia (Teyana Taylor). Bob has turned to alcohol and drugs because he has a broken heart. But finally: he is remade and redeemed by his unconditional and fatherly love for Willa, his most-willful and kind-hearted daughter.

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

4:30 pm, behind St. Francis Church at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Toiletries, towels and washcloths provided. Those with disabilities may need to bring a helper. Sack dinners are served from 4:30 to 5:30 by Willits Daily Bread.

Inland Valley Women's Chorus: Every Thursday (except holidays) from 6 to 7:30 pm to sing songs of peace, joy, social justice and healing. No audition or experience required. Carpooling available from Willits. Holy Trinity Church, Mary & Martha Room, 640 South Orchard Avenue, Ukiah. More info: Madge Strong,

# Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Tommy G will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub. Bring any instrument and

Bluegrass String Jam: An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm, with all Bluegrass musicians

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Every Wednesday-Enter your name in the lottery from 3 to 7 pm to choose your 20-minute time slot, with performances beginning

# **Ongoing Events** at the Willits Library

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

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 pm, in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe." **LEGO Club:** Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. "Bring your

Tech Help: Saturdays from 11 am to noon, come get computer help and your technical questions answered! **Spinning and Knitting:** Saturdays at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning, 1 to 2

bring the kids for a story followed by play time in the Children's Area.



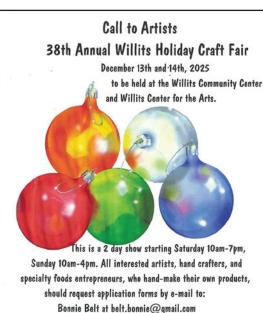
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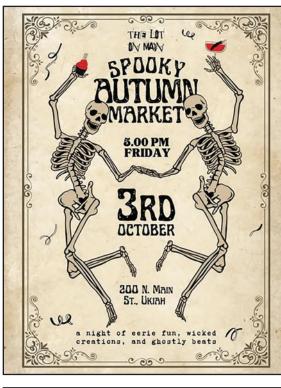
MONDAYS & TUESDAYS











THEXAS HOLD THAT

Initial Buy-In includes Dinner & 1 Drink Ticket tional Dinner and Drink Tickets available for purch

KTURIDAYY (8.6HR. III PH, 202

**POKER AT 5:00 • DINNER AT 7:00** 

A BENEFIT FOR THE HUMANE SOCIETY

FOR INLAND MENDOCINO COUNTY

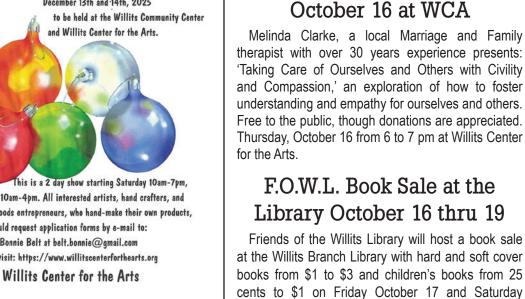


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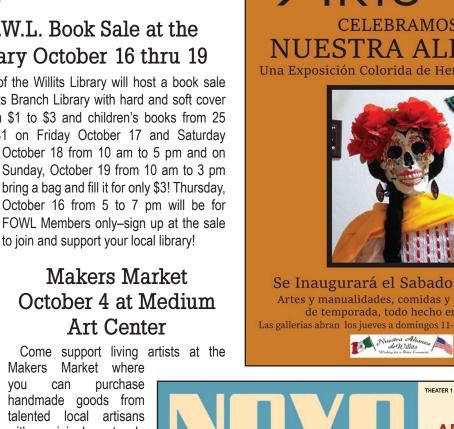
PAWS

















Mid week promotions: Wednesday -

Matinee prices to all shows all day.





## (R) 2hr 9min Fri: 4:00, 7:00 Sat - Sun: 4:00, 7:00

Wed - Thur 4:00, 7:00 Closed Monday/Tuesday

HE LOST BUS

Sat - Sun: 1: 15, 4:15, 7:15 Wed - Thur 4:15, 7:15

4:15, 7:15

Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.

**Parents:** This is absolutely a movie for adults. No

# Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

explore your creativity!"

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info:

imagination and start building."

pm; Knitting, 2 to 4:30 pm. Story and Playtime: Fridays from 11 am to noon,

Below, left: Joe Rego, left, Angel Hernandez and Reece Christensen, right, who is also the Willits High JV Football Head Coach, at the Essential Fleet Services booth. Below, right: Lytle's Beauty College also represented at the fair with their booth. At right: Officers Chris Dendy and Jamie Cary speak with attendees at the Willits Police Department booth. At far right, top: Judy Fisch, Peter Kotowski, Laura Wiecek at the Willits Center for the Arts booth. At far right, below: Natalie Spackman sits at the North Bay Construction Corps booth.























# **Cool Jobs and Cold Treats Career Fair**

**Event connects Willits students** with local employment opportunities

The Den of Direction at Willits High School hosted the Cool Jobs and Cold Treats Career Fair, bringing together 37 participants from a wide range of industries and organizations. Students had the chance to meet with real estate agents, health professionals, military recruiters, trade unions, and local businesses, along with community organizations seeking volunteers.

The event created a welcoming space for students to ask questions, learn about different career paths, and explore opportunities available after graduation. Many also signed up for community service opportunities, giving them a chance to gain real-world experience while contributing to

With popsicles in hand, students engaged in meaningful conversations with professionals eager to share their industry expertise and personal career journeys. The fair not only helped students envision their future, but also highlighted the strong community partnerships supporting Willits Unified School District's mission to prepare students for life after high school.

The Den of Direction plans to continue providing events like this that connect students with resources, mentors, and pathways toward success. If you are interested in learning more, email christinalawrence@willitsunified.com.

- Submitted by Den of Direction









At top: The American

School booth, Above,

Career Training Lineman

MILGARE





Claim Your Fall Savings in 3 easy steps

Purchase qualifying products Buy V400 Tuscany® Series, V300 Trinsic™ Series, or V250 Style Line® Series windows and/or patio doors from September 29 to December 8, 2025.



Visit milgard.com/promo-registration · Use promo code FALL2025 · Have your Sales Order Number ready NOTE: Your electronic gift card will be sent to the

email address used during registration.





24 Monroe St. Willits, CA 95490 (707) 459-6163 Mon.-Fri.: 8 am-5 pm





# LEGAL NOTICES LEGAL NOTICES

WW557

2025-F0392

**Fictitious Business** 

Name Statement

The following person or

persons are doing business

as KIP Consulting, 16300

Bluejay Lane, Willits, CA

Registered owner: Brianna

Adams, 16300 Bluejay Lane,

This business is conducted by

The registrant commenced to

fictitious business name listed

transact business under the

above on August 11, 2025.

FBN statement filed with the

Recorder on September 10,

September 18, 25, October 2,

Mendocino County Clerk-

/s/ Brianna Adams

Publication Dates:

95490; 707-472-9094

Willits, CA 95490.

an individual

**Fictitious Business** Name Statement

2025-F0346

The following person or persons are doing business as Bell Glen Resort, 70400 Highway 101, Leggett, CA 95585. Mailing address: 30600 Highway 20, Fort Bragg, CA 95437;

Registered owner: Lyndia Pyeatt, 30600 Highway 20, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; This business is conducted by

an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed

above on N/A

9. 2025

WW558

2025-F0376

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on August 8, 2025. /s/ Lyndia Pyeatt Publication Dates: September 18, 25, October 2,

**Fictitious Business** 

Name Statement

persons are doing business as

Mattress By Appointment, 1720

South Main Street, Suite G,

Registered owner: Y over OK

This business is conducted by

The registrant commenced to

transact business under the

above on August 25, 2025.

Mendocino County Clerk-

/s/ Jeff Yokum, President

FBN statement filed with the

Recorder on August 27, 2025.

Publication Dates: September

fictitious business name listed

LLC, 1490 Baechtel Road,

The following person or

Willits, CA 95490.

Willits CA 95490.

a corporation.

9, 2025 Willits Weekly can run legal notices including

fictitious business name statements,

foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more.

Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@ gmail.com

# The rest of Karnival

18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025

From page 1

to dunk Tom Allman raised some \$500 for the first dunk, and then some additional funds were raised with more subsequent dunks, with Allman noting on his Facebook page recounting the experience: "Well, thank you for all vour support! I was dunked 9 times, and we raised about \$550! Whoo hoo for the Humane Society (huge thanks to Joe and Ronda)"

Everyone was excited to enjoy the taco lunch – this year offered free of charge to all attendees.

"We figured that because this was an appreciation event, we wanted to give free food out to everyone who came. said King. "The event was donor-sponsored, and we were able to offer beef, chicken and pork tacos alongside beans, grilled veggies and all kinds of condiments. There were several volunteer-donated salads available, too."

Attendees were encouraged to sign their name and trace their hand with paint chalk pens on the giant mural sign titled "Every Paw Needs a Helping Hand," which was also made by Rohrbaugh and will hang at the center, after being finished with a hopefully weather-proofing sealant. Volunteers who attended were also welcome to pick up a potted succulent start to take home as a special

HSIMC fundraising chair, Kelsey Radmilovic takes a turn in the dunk tank.

THIRD HOLD LAP

Photo by Teresa King

D P K H N H I A A D E O Y U A U A P

RETTUBIGMEAWMSCHO

PNFKGEESYMRPOFFJD

T A A X N L B N C I B G O N V P R N R O C P O P I A B C M D P I J T

V V F O Z A B M S P A E X A S Y M

K P M G I I N T B M E S L J V W Y

A E Y X P N U N C L Y L T Y E O C F

OPNXKBMZPMCNASVD

V Y A D T W R V N Y N D W Z Y 1

Y T O K P H K D U F F K C R N X N N E E F A F J O T D O O C C A L E K S U G B I P L K O P J G J O P R E T A E H T

# appreciation gift.

WW562

**CITY OF WILLITS** 

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND

PROPOSED ORDINANCE SUMMARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council

of the City of Willits will consider the second reading

and possible adoption of the following ordinance at its

regular meeting on Wednesday, October 8th, 2025,

at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, located at 111

An Ordinance of the City of Willits to modify

Chapter 2.40- AIRPORT, of the Willits Municipal

Code by the addition of section 2.40.040

regarding "Regulations for use and Conduct-

Generally," and by modifying section 2.40.130

The City of Willits was ordered by the Director of the

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to modify the

City's existing ordinance at chapter 2.40 of the WMC

to codify and enforce airport rules and regulations

and address unauthorized access to the property for

non-aeronautical activities. To maintain compliance

and continue grant fund eligibility, the City has put

forth these changes in order to fulfill its obligations

to the federal controlling agency in response to the

The proposed ordinance changes and additions will

more clearly define the rules and conduct for the use of

Willits Municipal Airport O28 and make unauthorized

and trespassing on Airport property punishable by law

Environmental Review: The proposed ordinance is not

a project under the California Environmental Quality

Act (CEQA) per State CEQA Guidelines Section

15378, because it involves administrative activities of

the City that will not result in direct or indirect physical

Copies of the proposed ordinance and all related

materials are available for public review at City Hall

For additional information, contact Airport Operations

for O28 - Kenan OShea: koshea@cityofwillits.org.

and potentially warrant citation as a misdemeanor.

Director's determination.

changes to the environment.

during regular business hours.

/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk

Publication Date: October 2, 2025

regarding "Violations - Penalties."

E Commercial St. Willits, California:

The event raised about \$7,000 through donations, the auction and drink sales, but with a cost to run the center of about \$2,000 per day, it will cover almost four days' worth of operating expenses.

"It's a lot of work, and a lot of cost to run the shelter," explained King. "But it's important work. We don't receive any funds from any city, state, federal or other entity. We operate completely on donations, grants and fundraising."

If you are interested in donating to the shelter, you can og onto their website at https://mendohumanesociety.com/ and click on the donate link. You can also mail donations direct to 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, CA 95470 or drop them off at the same address during business hours: Wednesday to Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Tax forms are also available.

While monetary donations are always appreciated, King noted they also love physical donations like any cat or dog food, crates, toys, harnesses, leashes and even cleaning

"Every day, the crates and pens and bedding are all washed and sanitized," said

King. "We do a lot of bedding changes and a lot of laundry. Bleach, soap and cleaning supplies are always a welcome donation."

There's another event on the horizon to help fundraise for the HSIMC: The Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament on Saturday, October 11 at the Sparetime Supply property located at 300 East Commercial Street in Willits. Poker will be at 5 pm and dinner at 7 pm.

For more information: 707-485-0123 or info@hsimc.org

6

# **CLASSIFIEDS**

Lunch Program Every Saturday at 1 pm sack lunches are served by local churches. community organizations. families at Snider Park on East Commercial. . Come at

Help Wanted Wanted Office Secretary: Mail, Messages Banking, Quickbooks, Reconcile Accounts Statements and Billing Experience. 16-20 Hours/Month, Competitive Pay. Little Lake Grange 707-459-9716. Resumes to willits grange@gmail.com or drop off at 291 School

Raise Your Spiritual IQ

- Dreams and Soul Trav-

el Explorations." Day-

dreams, Night Dreams,

Travel - all are steps in

the pursuit of heaven.

Join a spiritual discus-

sion, Tuesday, October

7. 11 am. to 12 noon: A

FREE community ser-

vice sponsored by Eck-

ankar in California and

Nevada. Information?

Call Joy (707) 367-

3777. (This program is

neither sponsored by

nor affiliated with the

Mendocino County Li-

**RV/Trailer Space** 

for Rent

Space for RV's and

Trailers – starts at \$500

per month, includes

water & garbage. Close

to Safeway in Willits.

Call Tony (707) 972-

4696. See at http://

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Clean, cute, and private

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experience. Love to

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Shop

Willits!

and

Tattoo

Downtown

Appointments

www.oaknvine.net/tp

brary.)

Contemplation,

#### Do you need food?

Willits Food Bank 344 Railroad Avenue, Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 11 am to 4:30 pm. New Client Choice model where you select your own items. Bring shopping bags, Bring an I.D. Info: (707) 459-

For Rent For Rent: 2 bed remodeled, \$1500

For Rent

kitchens. coverings window \$1800.00/mo. 707-489-

# Free Food for All Pop-Up

Food Mendocino Network presents food pop-ups with free food for all on first Thursdays of the month; this month, on Thursday, October 2, 10 to 11:30 am. 1250 Blosser Lane, Willits. Info: Rachelle@ mendofood.org or 707-615-6654

### for Sale 3-year-old trees

Plums. Dogwood, Japanese

Yard Sale at 208 Bonnie Lane, Willits. Saturday, October





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

Personal and

Commercial orders

**EASTSIDE RANCH** 

available Contact Melissa at

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



Y R L A V I N R A C O T W F O O W C X U I N W K S Z Z V F L W KXGAYNDNOISSECNOC S L E N R E K I I A H L R X K K A U

9 6 3 4 6 5 8 2 9 8 6 5 8 4 6 5 3 8

8 6

4

9

Brown Bag

and Bud 1 pm to be assured a

#### 'Raise Your Spiritual IQ'

CA 95490.

1.5 bath TH with fenced yard, newly Dep. Commercial Units Available Starting at \$1100 + Dep. Lincoln Realty 707-459-4599.

Spacious 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Close to town and Howard Hospital, Newer well-appointed Laminate floors throughout and

For Sale

Firewood, Fir, 1/2 cord delivered \$150.00. Call 707-354-4394.

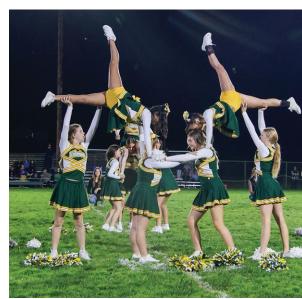
# Trees in Pots

pots. Ready to plant. \$2-\$5 each. Apples, Crabapples, Peaches, Corneliar Cherries. Ornamentals Pistache, Cherry, Bradford Pear Privet and more! 459-0155

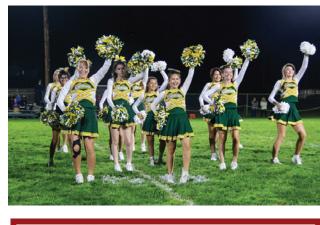
Yard Sale

4 and Sunday, October 5, 9 am to 2 pm.















**NO THRONES** 

Main Street, peacefully and joyfully, to City Park A core principle behind all No Kings and Willits Indivisible events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should no be brought to events.





Above, from left: Corey Rockey, athlete of the week for week #3. Senior Rickey Ramirez was named athlete of the week for his outstanding performance on the field with many solo tackles, timely runs, catches, and the touchdown of the night. Cheerleaders performing a well put together stunt during halftime. WHS record for most touchdowns in a game match-up Quarterback Kailer Collicott from 2013 and Quarterback Corey Rockey from 2025 WHS Varsity Football. At left: Varsity cheerleaders during their Healdsburg vs. WHS halftime

COMMUNITY SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### Photos by Ava Dockins

# Wolverines football triumphs over Healdsburg

# cheerleaders put on entertaining halftime show

Wolverines QB matches school record for most touchdowns in a game

Willits hosted Healdsburg in their third week of the season, blowing past the Greyhounds with a domineering 69-34 victory. The community loved this game! While there were multiple outstanding players, the performance by senior QB Corey Rockey left it all on the field, leading the game, rushing 91 yards with 6 rushing touchdowns and one passing touchdown. Rockey matched the WHS record back over

Sheri Dockins

25 years of most touchdowns in a game, with alumni QB Kailer Collicott who made seven rushing touchdowns in one game.

"It was great to put on a show for our hometown on senior night and see a big crowd for Friday night football," said alumni QB Kailer Collicott. "The best part was getting to watch the fourth quarter from the sidelines and watch my brothers from the O-line get to run touchdowns, too. I couldn't have done any of it if wasn't for my teammates and coaches. It's great to see kids still putting in the hard work, trying to make a name for themselves on, and hopefully off, the field as well."

The Healdsburg game was reminiscent of what went down back in 2013 for Collicott on homecoming night against Lower Lake High. They absolutely dominated with a high score of 70-0. Collicott, who was the QB in all previous years, had a switch up his senior year due to injuries and was put in the slot to play running back. He made zero qualms of slowing down his mindset to go for it, with no mercy as a leader. Collicott and Rockey have similar mindsets when it comes to sports and life, which makes this story all the more interesting.

Coach Matt Moratti had just begun his coaching career. coaching with Head Coach Nat Collicott at the time. "The two performances were very similar," said Moratti. "They are both quarterbacks that stepped up for an injured running back. They both took on the responsibility for their team, and did something remarkable. It's rare to ever see someone get seven touchdowns in a game, and I was lucky enough to see it twice, even though it was a decade

For a small town, Willits has some talented athletes that accomplish many amazing feats in sports. Congratulations, Kailer and Corey, for your legacy in WHS football, and motivating other athletes to work hard to reach their goals.

Rockey was named athlete of the week. "Tying the record was a pretty big accomplishment, but I feel like I could have broken it surrounded by such good coaches





and motivating teammates. Love to watch them all shine in high-scoring games," said Rockey.

### Varsity takes on a tough matchup in Middletown

In week four. Willits faced off with the Mustanas in Middletown. The Wolverines showed grit and determination, battling through many injuries. They played with toughness, depth and resilience, despite missing several key players. Willits opened the game with a dominant 18-play drive that ate up the entire first quarter, moving deep into Mustangs territory before a penalty stalled the momentum and a fourth-down pass fell incomplete

"Our offense was clicking most of the night, but we did not capitalize when we got into the red zone," said Head Coach Brandon Norbury. Wolverines continued to battle on both sides of the ball, with defense holding strong against a guick Mustang offense. "We had some great defensive stops and went into half time 6-0," Norbury said.

In the second half, a blocked punt turned into a safety, and Rockey followed with back-to-back completions to Isaac Silva and Rickey Ramirez for a 19-yard touchdown. Damian Reiter's extra point made it a 14-9 game, giving the Wolverines momentum. Middletown struck back with a long touchdown run and Willits once again moved the ball into scoring position before an interception in the end zone ended the comeback bid.

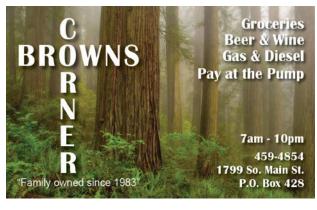
"Despite the tough loss, Willits outgained Middletown 270-210 in total yards and controlled possession much of the night," said Norbury. "We have to be disciplined, the small details matter. We can't afford to make any stupid penalties against a team like Middletown. We will build on this. Our time of possession, our offensive drives, and the way we competed, show that this team is on the rise. If we keep working, we'll finish games like this on top."

### WHS Cheerleading holding strong as a squad in support of our players

The Wolverines Cheerleading squad is keeping the crowd hyped to cheer on our team while displaying nearly flawless and super-entertaining halftime performances with unity and pride.

"Coaching this team has been an honor," said JV Head Coach Courtney Glass. "Despite hurdles and losing a few girls, I'm incredibly proud of their growth, spirit and performances. I also want to recognize our football players for their hard work. Together these athletes bring so much pride to our school."

Varsity Head Coach Tabatha Hulsey praised her girls as well: "At Middletown, JV and varsity teamed up to do a halftime show that made me very proud. They worked hard. Their routine was clean and everyone enjoyed it. I want to thank Courtney for allowing us to perform with them, and thank the girls for working so hard!"





The rest of From page 1

culture at the City of Willits (excluding the Police Department). However, it is unclear which highly qualified, dedicated workers are referenced in Finding F1 nor does the report indicate the time in which the referenced employees left their employment. As such, Willits City Council cannot comment on the reasons that such employees left their employment.'

with Grand Jury Finding F3."

agrees with Grand Jury Finding F4."

Manager by April 30 of each year."

records for those dates.

Recommendations and

Jury recommends the Willits City Council

direct its City Manager to demonstrate

compliance with the existing written

Personnel Policies and Procedures

Manual for the City of Willits, by July 31,

WCC response to Recommendation

R1: "The recommendation has not been

implemented but will in the future. The

City Manager in question and the Willits

City Council agreed to a Separation

Agreement in March 2025. All future City

Managers will be expected to comply

with existing written Personnel Policies

and Procedures for the City of Willits

at the time of hiring and as situations

warrant. The City Manager's ability to

follow the existing Personnel Policies

Recommendation R2: "The Grand

Jury recommends the Willits City Council

In Finding F5, the grand jury stated:

"The Grand Jury found that the Willits

City Council had not conducted annual

performance reviews of the Willits City

In Finding F2, the grand jury stated: "The Grand Jury found the Willits City Council failed to provide oversight of top management for compliance with personnel policies."

In their response, WCC states: "The Willits City Council respectfully disagrees with Grand Jury Finding 2. The F2 finding is a conclusion reached by the Grand Jury and based upon (1) its interpretation of Section 3.1 of the city's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, and (2) its determination that the City Council has not conducted annual performance reviews of the City Manager as required by its Manual of Procedures and Protocols.

"Section 3.1 of the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual is merely a statement of the City Council's limited role and involvement with the city's employees. Specifically, it is a statement that the City Council will not exercise any control directly over the city's personnel. Section 3.1 does not discuss a duty to provide oversight of top management. The council acknowledges it has a duty to provide oversight of the City Manager; Section 3.1. however, does not address that duty. Rather, that section is merely a statement that is consistent with Willits Municipal Code chapter 2.08.070, subdivision R which describes the broad and exclusive role of the City Manager to provide supervision and management of all subordinate city employees.

"Additionally, as explained in the Council's Response to Finding F5 below, the Grand Jury's conclusion that the Willits City Council failed to conduct annual performance reviews of the City Manager by April 30 of each year is

In Finding F3, the grand jury stated: "The Grand Jury found the City of Willits employees do not have an effective avenue for bringing complaints to the attention of top management. This is and Procedures will be part of their due to the failure to follow the Willits annual evaluation.' Personnel Policies and Procedures

In its response to Finding F3, WCC create a mechanism for compliance and states: "The Willits City Council agrees oversight to ensure all personnel policies

The rest of

Budget |

From page 1

The only thing keeping the city from going bankrupt has been the transfer of cash to the general fund from the Measure K fund, a special sales tax initiative approved by voters in 2020. Measure K brings in \$1.3 million in annual sales tax. But with over \$2 million a year being transferred from the Measure K reserves to the general fund, Measure K cannot continue to bail out the city indefinitely.

money, we're good, we're good.' That wasn't the case."

An outside financial consultant, Andy Heath based in Auburn, California, was hired by the city to present the 2025-2026 budget to the city council and explain the city's financial problems, which he articulated quite thoroughly. Financial Director Orozco also attended the meeting.

The city's biggest expense by far is payroll salaries and benefits. Consultant Heath said that, compared to other cities, the city has too many employees for its size. The city has 63 employees, and the number of employees has been steadily growing. The city has nine more employees

Heath urged to the city to reduce the number of employees, partly by not filling current vacant positions. If none were filled, it would reduce expenses by \$748,000, which would go a long way towards getting the city back in the black. Mayor Tom Allman stated that the assistant city manager position, just vacated by Cathy Moorhead, will definitely be eliminated. No other positions, vacant or currently filled, were mentioned.

Heath said the council should approve the budget immediately so the city would meet a state-mandated September 30 deadline. Heath's recommendations to end the deficit, other than payroll reduction, were not specific but definitely blunt: "Significant structural changes need to be made. Your city council needs to identify every option available to reduce expenditures, ways to use staff more efficiently, to do more with less."

Heath strongly urged the finance department to wrap up and close out the 2024-2025 fiscal year, which is still not completed. Without it, the city does not know the actual ending balances from last year, which are the balances on which the new budget is based. "It has to get done, it has to get done soon, it needs to be Priority Number 1. Number 1, Number 1."

The council voted to approve the new budget, 4 to 1, with Councilman Bruce Burton voting no. "I don't like the \$2.5 million deficit budget. We've asked repeatedly for changes to be made. We've asked staff to come back with budget reductions, and it's been ignored. We handed the budget back to staff to find savings, and they gave it back with even more than what we gave them."

are being followed, by January 1, 2026."

In Finding F4, the grand jury stated: WCC response to Recommendation "The Grand Jury found the City of Willits R2: "The recommendation has not been presently does not have a Director of implemented but will be in the future. Human Resources. Portions of the Willits A review of the existing role of our Personnel Policies and Procedures HR Department and of our Personnel Manual expressly contemplate such a Policies and Procedures Manual is position as employees are instructed to in order before we create such a seek help from the Director of Human mechanism. Decisions about how to best ensure all personnel policies are being followed will be made as soon as In its response to Finding F4, the WCC states: "The Willits City Council

> Recommendation R3: "The Grand Jury recommends the Willits City Council direct the Willits City Manager to restore and fill the position of Human Resources Director by January 1, 2026."

WCC response to Recommendation In its response to Finding F5, R3: "The recommendation requires further analysis. We are currently fiscally WCC states: "The Willits City Council unable to hire additional HR staff, and so respectfully disagrees wholly with the additional options are needed. Further Grand Jury Finding F5. Specifically, the analysis by the Willits City Council would Council conducted annual performance evaluations of the manager on the focus on ensuring that all employees have a safe work environment and that following dates: 2/9/2022, 2/8/2023, 3/13/2024, 4/10/2024. Additional there is a means for them to share HRrelated concerns about other staff and performance evaluations of the City their supervisors safely and without fear Manager were made on the following of work-place reprisals. All available dates: 1/22/25, 2/26/25, 3/12/25, solutions will be explored to better match 3/21/25. 3/28/25. These evaluations and the needs of employees. Decisions dates can be confirmed in the public about how to best provide the kind of support an HR Director would normally provide will require further analysis."

Recommendation R4: "The Grand The Grand Jury report also issued Jury recommends the Willits City four recommendations that the city Council conduct annual performance reviews of the Willits City Manager by Recommendation R1: "The Grand April of each year."

> WCC response to Recommendation R4: "The recommendation has been implemented. The Willits City Manager received performance evaluations annually from the Willits City Council before April 30th in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.'

> In conclusion, and before the vote to approve the WCC's response, Mayor Allman said: "First of all, I want to thank the grand jury. The grand jury spent a lot of hours based on City of Willits employee complaints. And the grand jury appeared to take this extremely seriously. But now we're in a situation where there are ... individuals that are discussed in the report, not by name, that apparently were the focus of some of the city employees talking to the grand jury. And those individuals don't work for the city anymore. And so we're in a situation where it's rectifying a situation which appears to be rectified . is a moot subject."

to keep doing that.

The rest of

"I wanted to bring that 'community' back into Willits Community Services and Food Bank," she said. "Part of what I'm focusing on is volunteerism, because volunteers are the basis of what helps keep WCS sustainable," especially volunteers who are available to work a specific time or date and time regularly. Those interested in finding out more about volunteering at WCS can call 1-707-459-3333, or email wendy@willitsfoodbank.com

Long term, Copperfield would like to bring back more of the "community services" WCS had provided in the past, but "right now," she said, "we're focusing on what we have in front of us. Because of the cuts, we are riding pretty close to the edge most the time, and we rely on community donations and grant funds. We don't have any form of income that we generate, no funding stream."

Asked what might be "one thing" she'd say to people who ask how they can best help, she said: "Volunteers are essential," with another "thank you!" - "but they don't keep the lights on. If everybody who could donated even \$5/month, online...

Visit www.willitsfoodbank.com to hit the "Support My Community" button to set up a one-time, monthly, or annual donation.

Checks can be mailed to Willits Community Services, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits CA 95490 Food and other donations, for example, bags, egg cartons, or personal hygiene products, may be dropped off at WCS during office hours: Tuesdays, 10 am to 3 pm, and Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Food distribution hours are Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 am to 4:30 pm, WCS is distributing food with the "Client Choice" shopping model these days. an innovation

Copperfield Services E thanks the director for Clients come inside and WILLITS select food rather than Food Bank being given pre-made bags. "That is really

said. Not only do clients appreciate the choice, it also means nobody is taking food they won't use. "It goes a long way toward stretching the food we have," she said. "That has been really key."

Copperfield invites the public to stop by the WCS booth at the Harvest Moon Carnivale this Saturday in downtown Willits, where they'll have raffle baskets and information about WCS, including volunteering.

Willits Community Services and Food Bank has been serving the community for nearly 40 years. with a mission of distributing food to anyone in need. For more info: info@willitsfoodbank.com or 1-707-

The rest of From page 1 Brooktrails

individual departmental purchases and that acquisitions are designated and broken up by fund rather than by vendor or item. Past reports were prepared using Excel spreadsheets, but now reports are being done in Caselle (government accounting software). To allay future confusion, Alaniz promised to find a way to modify the way that the report is formatted to provide better specifics and

The board chose to forego approving the report that evening. Director Ed Horrick suggested delaying approval of the report until the next meeting, October 14. All agreed that it would be best to wait until the report was prepared in a way to be better understood by everyone.

They then moved on to agenda Item: "Consideration of Resolution 2025-08 Amending Resolution 2020-08, the Reserves Policy." This District Reserves Policy has served the district well. In regard to the amendment, the proposed change is an extension of the reserve policy and will be entitled: "The Fire Department Workers' Compensation

Firefighting is very dangerous work, and injuries on the job are to be expected despite all caution and training to prevent them. When a California firefighter is on workers' compensation, the employer continues to pay their full-time salary, minus all payroll-related taxes for up to a minimum of one year. The district is still required to pay the payrollrelated taxes on behalf of the employee and benefits are still provided while they are out on workers' compensation. If a fire department employee is off work on a workers' compensation claim and cannot perform the work of the position, the district must bring in another employee to fill the third of the three full-time positions in the Brooktrails

Establishment of this fund creates a buffer for covering the extra operating costs in the Fire Department in case of workers' compensation injury. After a little bit of discussion, President Tina Tyler-O'Shea called for a roll call vote and the amendment received total board approval.

There were three audience members that took part in the Public Comments portion of the meeting. First up was Brooktrails resident Linda Hill who voiced concern about a trailer that has been parked on Lilac Drive for several months. The trailer is unoccupied and has been vandalized, and she hoped that the district staff would check into it.

She also expressed concern regarding a large bag of trash outside the water treatment facility, resting against the guard rail, that has been there for several months. Hill further rounded out her comments by suggesting staff continue to publicize the board meetings by placing the

sign nearby that alerts the public to an upcoming meeting

Caroline Mueller, Tuck Road resident, expressed strong concerns regarding an underground water leak near her residence that she is very concerned will become hazardous, slippery ice during the coming freezing winter months. The leaked water appears in several spots, leaking through the asphalt on her road, spilling onto Maize Drive as well as taking up a significant part of her front yard and in her driveway. She's aware that the leak originates further up the road from her residence.

She related how she has slipped in the watery mud once which resulted in minor bruising but she's mostly concerned about children and elderly family members slipping in the future. She's also concerned the water leakage pooled around her water main could freeze and break her pipe. She surmised that within the past six months since the leak developed thousands of gallons of water have been wasted, leaking down the road.

She was able to provide photos of the water in the road. Mueller was informed that Brooktrails staff has been out to check the leak three times and she was apprised of the fact that without extensive and costly excavation work staff will not be able to ascertain its source.

Mueller said, "It's my understanding that it's the responsibility of the township to maintain the water lines and fix things like this for the safety of the residents. We've discussed selling or renting our home in the coming months and we're now concerned that our property value is being affected and the leak is negatively impacting our ability to rent."

She implored the board to please be proactive in addressing her concern.

The last speaker, Jeanine Johnson, had spoken at the last board meeting about the love and admiration she feels for the beauty of Brooktrails and she especially expressed concerns about bear strewn trash scattered in several locations. She said, "This trash spoils everyone's enjoyment of the community. Johnson had promoted a successful cleanup effort that

took place a couple weeks ago that, interestingly, became a part of what was called "World Cleanup Day." She announced another Brooktrails Cleanup Day on Saturday, October 18 and hopes to have another great turnout. She also strongly recommended that all Brooktrails residents utilize bear-proof trash cans to help mitigate the amount of strewn trash throughout the area. Redwood Waste Solutions has the trash cans available for distribution to Brooktrails residents, and there are grant funds available that help make the cans affordable.

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# **ON NOVEMBER 4**



In response to Trump ordering Texas to break all rules and gerrymander its Congressional seats (disenfranchising millions of Texas voters), California's Prop. 50 will level the playing field, temporarily redrawing California's Congressional maps.

Prop. 50:

- Provides hope for a balanced Congress that will rein in Trump's abuses of power and attempts to suppress voting.
- Is fair & proportional; it complies with Fair Redistricting guidelines, as confirmed by Common Cause (which found Texas redistricting did NOT).\*
- It gives <u>power to the voters</u> to affirm or reject the new maps (TX did not).
- It is temporary; CA will revert to the Independent Commission to draw boundaries after the 2030 Census.
- It commits to <u>fair redistricting nationwide</u>. The GOP opponents hypocritically reject independent commissions.

Don't let Trump pack Congress the way he has packed the Courts. **Vote yes on Prop. 50 on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.** 

Footnote re: Common Cause Analysis:

<u>California Meets, Texas Fails to Meet Common Cause's Redistricting</u>
 <u>Fairness Criteria</u>

To volunteer contact mstrong827@outlook.com

Partial list of local endorsers:

Officials: State Senator Mike McGuire;
Assemblyperson Chris Rogers; County
Supervisor John Haschak;
Individuals: Tam Adams; Jerry Albright; Mary

& Tom Allen; Kim Bancroft; Bill Barksdale;
Maria Bates; Patricia Baumann; Kate Black;
Bob & Carlie Borba; Mary Burns; Jane
Camp; Cynthia N. Carni; Melinda Clarke;
Candice Clayton; Brian Corzilius; Sheri
Cronin; Marisela & Larry Desmond; Jed

& Carlin Diamond; Nori Dolan; Joe Dowling; David & Ellen Drell; Sherrie Ebyam; Deborah Frank; Fran Gardner; Catherine Glyer; Dr. John Glyer; Robin Goldner; Linda Grace; Karen Gridley; Alan Grossman; Norma Hanson; Helen Hauk; RJ Jergenson; Greg Kanne; Al & Donna Kerr; Leslie King; Jere Kirkpatrick; Marc Komer; Charlie Lacey; Dr. Monte Lieberfarb; Roz & Rick Lina; Freddie Long; Bonnie & Dave Madrigal; Ann & John Maglinte; Kate Marianchild; Christopher Martin; Dr. Angus Matheson; Suzanne & Dr. Mills Matheson; Linda Matz; Jane McCabe; Alice McCallister; Dennis Miller; Jeannie Morawski; Julie Muzzy; Ginger Myklebost; Olga & Noel O'Neill; Gordon Oslund; Sharon Paltin, M.D.; Krista Pickens; Martin & Saprina Rodriguez; Louis & Sally Rohlicek; Christy Kiki Salo; Gail & Ron Savarese; Deb Schwartz; Chuck and Jenny Senter; Omaya Sismore; Diane Smalley; Wally Stahle; Karen Stevenson; Madge Strong; David Swingle; Nina Torres; Anne & Monte Vander Horck; Carolyn Wadman; John & Anita Wagenet; Annie B. Waters; Joyce & Wayne Waters; Dobbe Wattenberg; Mara Welker; Brian Weller; Barbara Willens; Don Willis; Bernadette Willoughby; Wendy Wilmes

Prop. 50: a Temporary Change for an Extraordinary Situation

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

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