

[illegible]

Donations Accepted Edition No. 616

Above, from left: Mummy Pizzas are easy: Top halved English muffins with red sauce, and several crisscrossing string cheese peels before adding in two black-olive eyes. Below: Now out of a hot oven, the cheese melts and browns, and the "pizza" is ready to eat.



– **Maureen Jennison**



A pan of Pizza Mummies, hot out of the oven and ready to be eaten for dinner



Sandy Smith, who welcomes all to Adventist Health Howard Memorial, smiles with the Halloween Hedgehog pumpkin she made that is displayed at the hospital's front desk.

Read the rest of
Judge
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Willits Fronter Days Christmas Program

To the Editor:

The holiday season is upon us, and we are thrilled to announce that Willits Frontier Days will be continuing the Willits Christmas Program this year, previously managed by Willits Rotary. We will maintain the existing structure of the program, with referrals continuing through the Willits School District. The Willits Wild Bunch will also oversee the Toy Run, operating as usual. For inquiries regarding the Toy Run, please reach out to Rich Venturi at willitswildbunch@gmail.com.

For over 25 years, our community has united to support less fortunate children in Willits by providing essential items such as rain gear, winter coats, shoes, sleepwear, blankets, and other holiday gifts.

A few years ago the Willits Frontier Days Jrs. added the stocking program which ensured all children receive a Christmas stocking (items for stockings are fundraised and funded by the Willits Frontier Days Jrs.).

Individuals wishing to help a specific child can choose a card from display trees located throughout the town, which detail the child's clothing and shoe sizes along with their wish list. If you are unable to fulfill the card, we encourage you to just donate a toy or clothing item in one of the drop-off bins. This helps us ensure that each child receives both necessary and desired gifts.

While selecting a single child is a popular option among supporters, some have expressed interest in adopting an entire family. This year we will be located in the old Remco building. Thank you, Bruce and James, for letting us use the space.

If you or your group would like to adopt a family, please contact me, Marcy Barry, one of the coordinators for the Willits Frontier Days Christmas Program, and I can assist you in identifying a suitable family. You can reach me at barrysibunch@yahoo.com or by phone at 707-272-5395. You may also contact Hailey Riley at 707-272-1088. If we are unable to answer, please leave a message, and we will return your call promptly.

To ensure we meet the needs of families before our usual referral process begins in late November, we encourage you to reach out as soon as possible to discuss adopting a family.

We would like to thank the Willits community for making sure this program continuous. Happy Holidays.

Marcy Barry for the Willits Frontier Days Christmas Crew

Trail Trek thank you

To the Editor:

Celebration of Life - Trail Trek 2025: A day and a half of intense on-site preparation, which included afternoon to late-evening hikes, setting flags and snack prep, led up to the day of the event. Day-of support included pre-dawn traffic cones, signs, hydration tables set-up with family and friends, and registration and start-finish line set-up.

The September 27 Celebration of Life - Trail Trek 5k and half-marathon day was a great success, with 70 participants, about 20 of whom were the Ukiah Cross Country team athletes. From same-day registration and refreshment table set-up, hydration station attendants and course monitors, and sweeps, the day would not have gone nearly as smoothly, efficiently, and successfully as it did without all of the hands-on help I received from family, friends, North Coast Striders, and Willits Area Cyclists. Thank you, too, to WAC for making time to clear and reinforce trails that needed it, and to those who helped with post-race cleanup and picking up pins and flags off the trails.

Thanks to Safeway for the gift card, helping with post-race refreshments, Starbucks for the coffee and hot chocolate (definitely took the chill off the pre-race morning), and Brooktrails Township Community Services District for their ever-accommodating and supportive management and staff, and for the use of facilities and equipment. Community and local business support is crucial for the success of events like these. Of course, there wouldn't be an event without the participants. The top two finishers for the 5k were UHS Cross Country athletes; the Half-Marathon first place went to a UHS Cross Country athlete, and second place went to a 13-year-old. Astounding!

The best part of the event is seeing everyone show up stoked and ready to participate in the common goal of being a community, connecting with family, friends, and nature. Thank you all for participating and making what is an emotionally turbulent time, filled with love and joy. Thank you to all who made donations on behalf of loved ones, helping support local youth and running, as well as the Mendocino County Cancer Resource Center, supporting families and individuals living with cancer.

This is the last year that I will be directing this race, but I hope, with the support of WAC, BTCSD, and the Brooktrails Recreation and Greenbelt Committee, to create official 5k and Half-Marathon maps and signage throughout the district to commemorate the spirit of the event, to be available year-round.

If I have forgotten anyone, I am sorry. Know that I appreciate you!

If you are interested in finding out how you can support our local trail network, reach out to Willits Area Cyclists (memberships, volunteering, donations, and contact info at: https://wacrails.wixsite.com/ride). If you are

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Late October / November 2025

By Supervisor John Haschak

Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations, aka FIRO, had a ribbon cutting event on October 22 at Lake Mendocino. FIRO enables water managers to use the latest technology and weather forecasts in the Lake Mendocino watershed to guide their decisions. This is the first time in the U.S. that this approach has been used. This will allow for 20% more storage, which is the equivalent amount of water for approximately 22,000 homes for a year. Another step towards greater water security, and it starts here.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the Potter Valley Project and heard from the public at the October 21 BoS meeting. With PG&E's application to decommission (remove) the Scott and Van Arsdale dams, no one can compel PG&E to divert water to the Russian River.

There is a coalition of stakeholders in both the Eel River and Russian River watersheds working to ensure sufficient water for both basins. The coalition is working to ensure continued diversions and greater water storage capacity in the Russian River basin.

It is one of those cases where everybody is conceding something while working together for the best outcome. Without this collaboration, PG&E will pull out, and both sides will be in a worse position. The FIRO project is one piece of the puzzle in making a sustainable and reliable water future.

With the federal government shutdown, CEO Darcie Antle reported that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program / SNAP funding will be cut off for 16,000 Mendocino County residents. This is happening in the richest country in the world!

Senator McGuire was able to get \$50 million from Proposition 4 funds for the Great Redwood Trail. \$41 million will be for the completion of the project, \$650,000 to complete the master plan, \$3 million for environmental restoration in the Eel River Canyon, and \$5 million for the preservation of tribal cultural resources along the GRT. This will be a huge boost to the GRT project.

Election time is here. I hope that everyone gets out and votes, either by mail or in person on November 4.

There will be a Talk with the Supervisor on November 13 at 10 am at Brickhouse Coffee. You can always contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-972-4214.

Mendocino County welcomes Glen Stephens as new Air Pollution Control Officer

Submitted by Mendocino County Executive Office

October 27 – Mendocino County is pleased to announce the appointment of Glen Stephens as the new Air Pollution Control Officer for the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District, effective October 27, 2025.

APCO Stephens brings more than 30 years of experience in air quality management and environmental protection. He has served as Air Pollution Control Officer for the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District since 2012, overseeing district operations, regulatory programs, and grant initiatives to meet state and federal air quality standards.

"It's an honor to join Mendocino County,

and I look forward to serving its residents and communities," Stephens said.

Before that, Stephens worked as an Air Quality Engineer for the Eastern Kern, San Joaquin Valley, and Kern County Air Pollution Control Districts, where he specialized in permitting, compliance, and rule development. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from San Jose State University and is a California Licensed Professional Engineer.

"We're excited to welcome Glen to Mendocino County," said CEO Darcie Antle. "His technical expertise and leadership will be a tremendous asset in advancing our air quality goals."

Have something to say?

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor about local issues. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com REMEMBER: Deadline is end of day Monday for each week's Thursday edition.



Fall Festival

Adorable performances, fun games, and a spooky Enchanted Path at Sherwood Elementary School annual fundraiser

It was billed as the Sherwood Elementary School Fall Festival, but it was really all about Halloween. Ghouls, goblins, purple dragons, princesses, witches, vampires, aliens, and of course, some K-Pop Demon Hunters frolicked around the grounds of this tiny remote campus. The little creatures' parents brought along a variety of lasagnas and a couple of pastas for dinner, along with some creative spooky treats for dessert. Hot apple cider was a welcome drink on this cold evening for the al fresco dining get-together.

It was difficult to discern which of the adults were teachers and which were parents, as everyone pitched in to create an atmosphere of fun and fellowship. The event was put on by FOSSI (Friends of the Sherwood School, Inc.) which is the fundraising and support organization of mostly parents who are part of the Sherwood Elementary School family, many of whom have either been students or who currently have students at the facility. All seem to enjoy being part of the success of the school. All had great words to say about the education that the kindergarten through fifth grade institution affords their children. Looking at the classrooms, it was easy to see the creativity in the projects and assignments.

Although she has been a teacher for several years, this is the first year that Annapurna Steffen, who came dressed as a yellow crayon, has taken on the role of principal, and she very much enjoys her role.

"I officially stepped into the role of principal at the start of the school year," said Steffen. "This is going to be a fun party tonight. It's a cool night but the classrooms are heated. We have our lasagna dinner fundraiser, and then we have performances that are going to be in Miss Hall's room. Then, we're going to do carnival games, a spooky path, and just general fun. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year."

One tall, ominous, but amiable vampire, Ray Elmore, the president of FOSSI, came with his whole family sporting a vampire theme. "I'm the president of FOSSI, for the last four years," explained Elmore. "We're the fundraisers for the school and we do a lot of the grassroots fundraising to pay for trips, art supplies, all the things that the teachers need. We enjoy it. We had a booth in town for the Harvest Festival. We had a dunk tank with Tom Allman and Harry

So. We do raffles. We do walk-a-thons. We do penny wars. We have a Spring Festival. We do a plant sale. We go go go for the school."

They raised money through the donated lasagna dinners, desserts, and drinks. There was also a raffle with some generously donated prizes.

After dinner, the school, which began in a little red schoolhouse and has since grown to include three more classroom buildings, treated the diners and families to way-too-cute song performances by kindergarten and first grade, second and third grades, and fourth and fifth grades. The parental paparazzi took videos as the kids made their way through some very entertaining songs, accompanied by Nancy New on the guitar, who has had kids and grandkids attending the school.

The youngest children, in a brilliantly colored and creative set of costumes, sang: "Goblins are spooky, but they are not mean. Goblins dance on Halloween." The next two grades sang: "One pitch black, very dark night, Brian let his mother turn out the light. I looked out my window and what did I see? A vampire and alien up in my tree. But the vampire and alien didn't frighten me." And the fourth and fifth-grade classes sang, "The Cat Came Back" and "This Is Halloween" from the "Nightmare Before Christmas."

Once the performances were over, it was time for the kids to go to the carnival, where they purchased tickets to play games and win prizes. There was a Wheel of Fortune, a Black Hole ball-rolling game, a large pachinko game, a game where they turned over tiles and tried to match the pictures, and a lollipop game where they could win if they pulled one out with a red tip on the end.

Outside, behind the buildings, the spooky Enchanted Path was full of scary lighted ghosts, tombstones, ominous sounds, and a flying monkey.

Halloween is a time when adults can act like kids and kids can be anyone they want to be. Underneath it all was the knowledge that this remote school past Third Gate has managed to create a place where kids can come, be a part of an extended family, and receive a quality K-5 education.

More information about Sherwood Elementary School, located at 32600 Sherwood Road, can be found at www.willitsunified.com/o/sherwood or by calling 707-984-6769.



At top, from left: This group of vampires proves that a family that slays together stays together. Annapurna Steffen, the second and third-grade teacher, became the principal this year at Sherwood Elementary School. After the aliens have invaded, they latch on to unsuspecting youngsters. Above, from left: A young zombie visits the Sherwood Elementary School Fall Festival. Some K-Pop Demon Hunters pose for a photo with a witch. Fun games keep the kids busy at the Sherwood Elementary School Fall Festival. Below, left: Shauna Martin of The Munchery works at the dessert booth, selling spooky confections. Below, right: This family dressed as characters from the movie, "Labyrinth."



Above: The fourth and fifth-grade classes combine to sing "The Cat Came Back" and "This Is Halloween" from the "Nightmare Before Christmas." At left: The kids try to pull out a sucker with a red tip on the end of the stick to win prizes.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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

Volume 13, Number 616

3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633 / 707-972-7047
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The system that eased into the Little Lake Valley last Friday evening yielded two days of good rainfall. Weekend totals across the valley ranged from 1 to 2 inches, with an overall average of 1.45". This brought the October month-to-date average to 2.63", more than either of the last two Octobers. With no measurable precipitation forecast through Saturday, we've likely received our October 2025 total.

– Tim Hanna, Willits Rain Box

Willits Weekly

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

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Annual Bake Sale and Bazaar

at the Willits United Methodist Church

286 School Street, Willits

(across from the Little Lake Grange)

Saturday, November 15

from 10 am to 2 pm

(All monies received are used to make Christmas Joy in our community)

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Willits Weekly's

Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Advanced



HOW TO

SUDOKU

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

HALLOWEEN

WORD SEARCH

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

BONE	GOBLIN	NIGHT	SPIDER
BOO	GRAVE	OCTOBER	SPOOKY
CANDY	HALLOWEEN	PUMPKINS	TREAT
CAT	HAUNTED	SCARE	TRICK
COSTUME	MONSTER	SCREAM	VAMPIRE
DRACULA	MOON	SKELETON	WITCH

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13			14			15		
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49					50				51	52	53	54
56					57				58			
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

CLUES ACROSS

- El __, Texas town
- Rocker's tool
- A lot
- Traveling by ground
- Spelling competition
- Two-toed sloth
- Small perfumed bag
- 'Much __ about nothing'
- Tough-skinned mollusk
- Removes from record
- It warms the planet
- Leafy green
- Quality of arriving favorably
- Living thing
- 'Six of Crows' author Bardugo
- Got around a rule
- Resin from burned substance
- Iraq seaport
- Religious leaders
- Fugitives are on it
- Samson's influencer
- Italian city
- A quality of lacking interest
- Predatory tropical fishes

- Nobel physician Isodor

- Luck
- Stationary part of a motor or generator
- Orthopedic professional group (abbr.)
- One point south of due east
- It follows 79
- Paper currency
- Anger
- Spanish seaport
- Sleep in a rough place
- Famous museum
- Selfs

CLUES DOWN

- Bullfighting maneuver
- From a distance
- Soul and calypso song
- Expressions of delight
- Lower in esteem
- Inner region of an organ
- Flowers
- A bog
- Remove a fastening
- Membranes
- Enormous
- One who abstains

- from drink
- Malayan wild ox
- Type of student
- Rejecting all moral principles
- Sino-Soviet block
- Egyptian unit of weight
- Wrong
- Make a mistake
- Indicates location
- Boxing's 'GOAT'
- Where wrestlers compete
- Timid
- Disney town
- Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- Male parent
- Remove for good
- Simple shoes
- Flowers
- Hindi courtesy title for a man
- Not pleased
- 'Atlas Shrugged' author
- CIA officer and writer
- Hoodlum
- __ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
- Woolen rugs

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

October 6 to October 12

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **91 incidents** in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

October 6

2:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Walnut Street.

5:21 pm: ALVAREZ, Malisha Dawn (53) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of South Main Street and West Highway 20. She was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of providing false identification to an officer.

6:20 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:27 pm: ADDISON, Randall Lowell (39) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol.

October 7

9:59 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.

10:39 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Main Street.

10:44 am: MORELAND, Blake Gregory (40) of San Francisco was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of petty theft and possession of drug paraphernalia.

1:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Boscastle Avenue.

4:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 600 block of East Hill Road and issued a citation.

October 8

2:21 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:53 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

1:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:40 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

October 9

7:20 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street.

6:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Bush Street.

6:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:27 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:34 pm: DEWITT Jr., Kenneth Joseph (44) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole.

October 10

1:34 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:07 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of School Street and issued a warning.

12:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of School Street.

3:42 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

October 11

3:29 pm: TUCKER, Andy Blake (54) of Covelo was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance with two or more prior convictions, and on misdemeanor charges of contempt of court (disobeying a court order), possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting an officer, and violation of probation.

5:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of School Street.

10:30 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

October 12

8:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Madrone Street.

The rest of Letters

From page 2

interested in finding out how you can support the local and youth running community through volunteering, donations, and memberships, check out North Coast Striders (<https://northcoaststriders.com/>).

Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

The Willits Friends of the Library, aka FOWL, would like to thank the many community members who helped make our recent book sale possible and successful: Leigh Austin, Diane Carter, Kelley Case Brackett and WHS Ag Bio class, Anthony Clifton, Katheen Ferri-Taylor, Ann Hammond, Two Trees Jeske, Anne Marie Maas, Lisa Mey, Denny, Charlie and Eva Pinon, Emily Rose Smith, and Bernadette Willoughby. Thank you to all the shoppers and all our members as well!

Proceeds from book sales, donations, and memberships are used by FOWL to supplement the library's programming, materials, special events and supplies funding. For more information, please contact us through the library.

Over the years, libraries have expanded what they do, and continue to be a valuable community resource. We urge everyone to visit the Willits Library or to look at the website to learn about its many varied offerings!

Friends of the Willits Library Board of Directors

Senior frustrated with Safeway phone app

To the Editor:

As a long time city resident (45 years) and

Ruby Gamble, Willits



Above, from left: Jose "Chewy" and Maria worked hard for years to make their dream of a Mexican market a reality. After a couple of years of passersby seeing this sign, the market is finally ready for business. Quesos of several varieties can be found at Jalos Market. At left: Jalos Market is well lit and full of Mexican foods, snacks, hot sauces, meats and more. Below, left: Maria Fierro tends to customers on opening day at Jalos Market. Below, right: Maria's youngest daughter, Viviana, will probably work at the market someday. Further below, left: There are several kinds of Mexican meats like this pulpa negra. Further below, right: Mexican breads are for sale at Jalos Market. At bottom, left: A variety of fresh fruits and vegetables are in stock. At bottom, right: Vanessa and her friend, Annie, take advantage of the free tamales served by Delilah at the opening.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Jalos Market

New store stocked with Mexican goods and ingredients opens on Main Street

After three years of remodeling and preparing, Jalos Market is finally open for business. Produce, meats, Mexican breads, spices, sauces, and more fill the shelves and cold cases. This family-run market is the newest venture from the Fierro family, which also owns two Mexican restaurants in Willits.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

When Maria Fierro came to this country from Sinaloa, Mexico, she began to work at her uncles' restaurant, Taqueria Jalos in Ukiah. "That's where I met my husband," recounted Fierro. "I started working there when I was 15. We've been married 21 years. I fell in love with what I do. I started as a waitress. I liked being social, talking to people. I could be here 24 hours."

Since that time, Fierro and her husband, Jose "Chewy," opened Taqueria Jalos in Willits, at the corner of Main Street and Highway 20. They then took over Maria's Mexican Restaurant and renamed it Taqueria Maria, in the strip mall across from the Evergreen Village shopping center. Finally, their dream of owning a mercado has come to fruition, opening at 1569 South Main Street, next to Mendo Made Salon and NAPA Auto Parts.

Walking into this shop is reminiscent of the many mercados in East Los Angeles and Mexico itself. Many colorful piñatas hang from the ceiling, waiting for the perfect festive occasion to be filled with candies and other treats. Fierro said that when she was a little girl, they were too poor for candy, so the piñatas were filled with peanuts and oranges.

There are many items that cannot be found in other markets in the area, certain cuts of meat that are indigenous to Mexico, hot sauces, pottery, Mexican breads and coffees, medicines, and much more. They also have sugar cane which can be ground up for a sweet drink or chewed for a treat.

Creating Jalos Market has been a dream, several years in the making. Many Willits residents have seen the sign up for a

couple of years while Fierro and her family worked to rebuild and to outfit the store.

"Three years ago, we started with this place," said Fierro. "It was a struggle trying to manage both of the other places. Sometimes I wanted to give up, thinking it was too much, but we always wanted to have this little Mexican store. My daughters help a lot with Taqueria Jalos, Jackie and Vanessa. Elizabeth helps out, too. They began helping us when the COVID started. They weren't going to school, so we started taking them, little by little, to help around, and they seem to be liking it."

Her daughters, Jackie and Vanessa, work at Taqueria Jalos and their sister, Elizabeth, will probably work at the new market. There is another sister, Viviana, who is still too young to work.

When the couple took over Taqueria Maria about seven years ago, their vision was to make it a market. "But we were seeing that it was easier to be a restaurant than a market," said Fierro. "We decided to keep it running as a taqueria and go from there. As the years passed, people were asking for more products, a bigger store, this and that. Parking-lot wise, this was a good location for a market."

Jalos Market has a butcher who can custom cut beef and pork for the customers. In the future, they would like to have a bakery in the back, if their Mexican breads take off. There are also many goods that they are trying to procure for the market, so their offerings will change over time.

With three businesses in town, the Fierros have ingrained themselves into the business ethos of Willits and will probably continue to grow. Many of the local Hispanic community have been waiting expectantly for this market to open and will most likely create a successful new venture, but it is not just for the Latinos, the fresh vegetables and fruits and the unique products that cannot be found anywhere else in town should draw in many of the non-Latino population as well.

HELP WANTED

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

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



At left: One can find a variety of hot sauces to go with their favorite Mexican cuisine. Below, left: Jackie Reynoso takes an order at Taqueria Jalos. Below, right: Colorful Mexican pottery is available to purchase.



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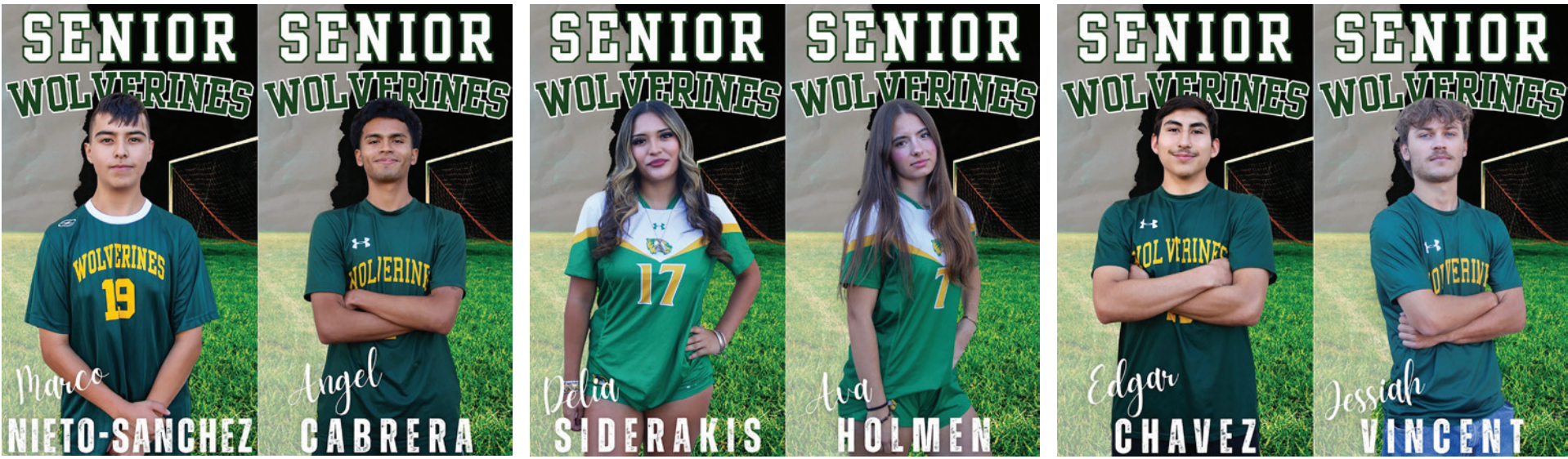
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Pg. 6 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 **Willits Weekly | October 30, 2025** **Willits Weekly | October 30, 2025** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 **Pg. 7**



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LEGAL NOTICES

WW572
CITY OF WILLITS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Willits City Council, at its regular meeting on **November 12th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**, will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

PROJECT:
Amendment to Willits Municipal Code Title 17 – Zoning, adding Chapter 17.87, "Mobile Vendors," to establish regulations for mobile and sidewalk vending.

REQUEST:
Consideration of a draft ordinance amending Title 17 of the Willits Municipal Code to add Chapter 17.87, "Mobile Vendors," to update and modernize regulations for mobile vending activities. The proposed ordinance establishes permitting procedures, identifies allowable vending locations, sets operational standards, and aligns local regulations with State law, including Senate Bill 946 (SB 946) governing sidewalk vending.

LOCATION:
Citywide – Ordinance applies to all areas within the City limits of Willits.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:
The proposed ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b) (3), the "common sense" exemption, as it can be seen with certainty that the adoption of the ordinance will not have a significant effect on the environment.

MEETING LOCATION:
Council Chambers at City Hall located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Prior to the meeting, electronic copies of the staff report and agenda will be available on the City's website at <http://ca-willits.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/City-Council-1>.

- Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Swetha Hiranya Venuturupalli at svenuturupalli@cityofwillits.org, or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, November 11th, 2025. All public comments received will be provided to the Council in advance of the meeting.
- Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
Publication Date: October 30, 2025

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Club of Willits

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WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW567
Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0434

The following person or persons are doing business as Beautifying Mendocino, 5365 N. State St, Ukiah CA 95482.

Registered owner: Maria Consuelo Ponce Ribotta, 5365 N. State St, Ukiah CA 95482.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/8/2025.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on 10/8/2025.

/s/ Maria Ponce

Publication Dates: October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 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

LEGAL NOTICES

WW563
Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0419

The following person or persons are doing business as Wags Dog B&B, 1680 Ten Mile Creek Road, Laytonville, CA 95454. Mailing address: 44911 Hwy 101, PMB 157, Laytonville, CA 95454.

Registered owner: Taylor Joyce Wagner, 1680 Ten Mile Creek Road, Laytonville CA 95454.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/25/2025.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on 9/29/2025.

/s/ Taylor Wagner

Publication Dates: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

The rest of **Search** *From page 1*

manager. "Having watched and worked with probably half a dozen city managers over my career here, I'm beginning to question if that's a viable format for local city management."

Instead of hiring a city manager from outside the area, Burton suggested that the city could be run by a "strong" mayor, someone who lives in Willits, elected by the city's residents. "It would be a four year job and then you'd run again. You'd get graded by the community for your work," Burton said. "It is a form of government that was once used in Willits and is still used today in some cities. I think it bears introducing if people haven't thought about it. We are at that point, and I'm interested in having that discussion."

Neither councilmembers Larry Stranske nor Matthew Alaniz offered any reply. Gerry Gonzalez was not at the meeting. The only response was from Mayor Tom Allman, who said: "As for now, we are looking for a city manager."

One long-time local resident, Nicole Caldwell, questioned the decision to hire an outside consultant: "If I see this correctly, we are again outsourcing something that I believe we could have done in house. We do have a human resource person. She does hire the people working for the city." Caldwell added that the city's 2025-2026

budget deficit "doesn't look good, so I have a hard time understanding why we outsource something that we can do in house."

Consultant Muchmore told Willits Weekly that her job will be to assist city staff in the recruitment process, and that her list of steps is "just an example of what a search could be."

Mayor Allman ended the discussion by pointing out that that the presentation was not an action item: "We would like to have a recruitment package put together and return it to the council for an agendized public discussion."

Willits Weekly was unable to determine if the Muchmore consultant fee is included in the 2025-2026 budget, or if it will increase the \$2 million projected deficit. We did not receive a response from Willits Finance Director Manuel Orozco in time for this report.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

Do you need food?
Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. 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) 459-3333

For Rent
Studio, walking distance to Safeway. \$800 a month plus deposit. Utilities included in Rent. Call Laura or leave a message: 459-4062.

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

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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers – starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tlp>

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

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two weeks.

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budget deficit “doesn’t look good, so I have a hard time understanding why we outsource something that we can do in house.”

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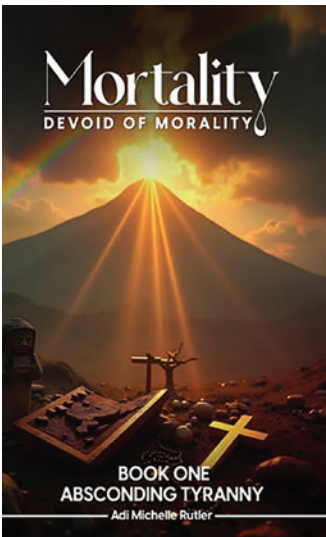
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In the meantime, the city is hiring another interim city manager, Robert Richardson, to replace Rod Wilbur, starting November 12. Richardson is a retired city manager formerly for the cities of Grass Valley and Auburn, and will be working fulltime until the city hires a permanent city manager, but not to exceed 960 hours (about six months) due to state retirement laws.

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Below: This year's group of Willits High School students who helped get the FOWL Book Sale ready to open on October 16.



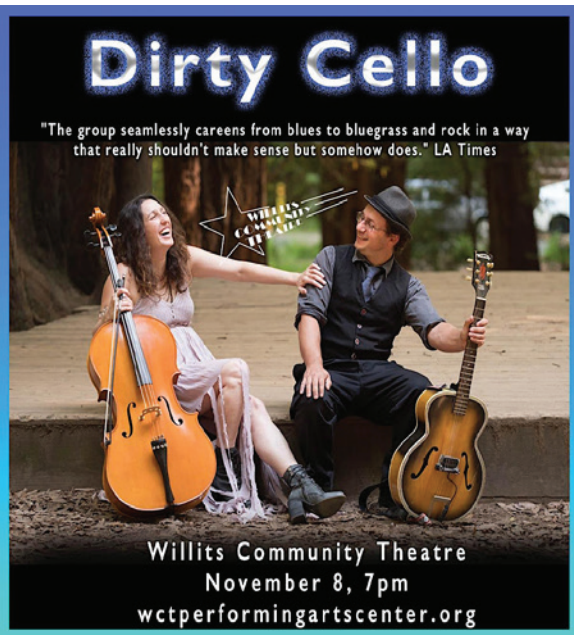
Willits author releases Christian dystopian novel

Local Willits author Adi Michelle Rutler has released "Mortality Devoid of Morality," a Christian dystopian novel about the cost of a faithless world. "The story confronts what becomes of a people when the faithful are targeted for genocide: A world once led by faith now teeters on the edge of ruin. 'Mortality Devoid of Morality' is a dystopian story set in a time when religion is outlawed, morality is distorted, and hope is a rare rebellion."

"Faith is not lost all at once," says author Rutler. "it is forgotten piece by piece. God allows his children to walk away, but he waits for our return, and our way back begins with remembering. If we forget our past, ignore the present, and do not protect the future we forget the truth."

"'Mortality Devoid of Morality' is a warning and a call to remembrance. It calls readers to answer a faithless age with courage, discipline, and honesty."

Visit <https://adimichellerutler.com/> to learn more or for options to order.



Local zombie action/thriller featured at Noyo Theater on Halloween night

The "Noyo Nightmares" Horror Film Festival wraps up on Halloween Night, with an 8 pm showing of "Wrecker," a feature-length zombie action/thriller film by local director Bryan Brooks. Free small popcorn for customers who come in costume!

"I'm a filmmaker that lives here in Willits," Brooks said. "I wrote and produced 'Wrecker' myself, and used every local actor I could find. Chances are, you probably know half the cast. I filmed in and around town, built sets inside my house, used the Brooktrails Lodge (before they closed), and shot a scene in a real, actual torture dungeon that's out in the forest past Orr Hot Springs."

Interested in learning more? Director Brooks is set to do a Q&A about "Wreckers" at the Halloween showing. Watch the trailer for "Wrecker" on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/QIGQWz1Hgms> Visit <https://www.noyotheater.com/> for more information about Willits' local movie theater, 57 East Commercial Street.

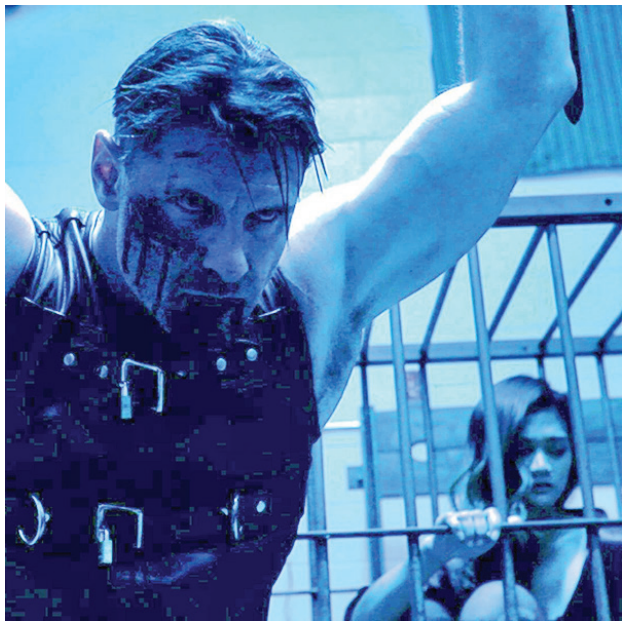
WHS students helped set up Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale

Willits High School Students from Kelley Case Brackett's Ag Bio class worked diligently helping to set up books for the recent Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale. Their energy and spirit moving boxes of books and setting them up was a great community service and much appreciated!

– Submitted by FOWL



At left: A photo snapped during the filming of "Wrecker." Below: Writer and Director Bryan Brooks – with sledgehammer – also stars in "Wrecker." At bottom: A scene from "Wrecker," a local film directed by Bryan Brooks.



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NC Financial Group 2022 awarded Gold in categories Accounting Firm, Financial Advisor (over \$1M in 2021), and Tax Prep. The Best of Local and Northern California awards are presented by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are featured and make up the official Best of Local and Northern California awards. The award winners are announced in each category. Winners are awarded a certificate of achievement and a plaque. The award winners are also eligible to receive a cash prize. The award winners are also eligible to receive a cash prize. The award winners are also eligible to receive a cash prize.

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The rest of Judge

From page 1

as a Deputy County Counsel at the Lake County Counsel's Office in 2006. Scott worked as an Associate at Schneider Wallace Cottrell Konecky from 2004 to 2006.

Scott received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Cindee F. Mayfield. Scott is a Democrat.

Governor Newsom's other October 22 judicial appointments include: one in Fresno County; three in Los Angeles County, one in Orange County, two in Riverside County, one in San Francisco County, one in San Mateo County, one in Solano County, and one in Tulare County.



New Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Charlotte Scott.

The rest of Election

From page 1

the Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street will be open 7 am to 8 pm.

After Election Day, provisional ballots will be checked for proper registration, and if everything checks out, your ballot will be counted as usual.

Drop boxes are also available at the Mendocino County Administration Building, 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah; at the City of Ukiah, 300 Seminary Avenue; at the City of Fort Bragg, near front door, 416 North Franklin Street; at the Mendocino County Fairgrounds Office, 14400 Highway 128, Boonville; at the City of Point Arena, 431 School Street; and at the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, 3000 Shanel Road,

For any questions, please call the Election /

County Clerk's Office at 707 234-6819.

For more general information, visit the Elections Office page online at www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections

You'll find a link there to Ballottrax, which allows you to track the status of your mail-in ballot: <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/> to track your ballot

To follow election results, go to the Elections Office page, and click "Election Results" and the Current Election Results page will open. In Mendocino County, the first set of election results is generally posted not long after the polls close at 8 pm – these results are ballots that were counted before Election Day.

Ecology Action's online Biointensive gardening workshop starts November 15

Submitted by Ecology Action

Ecology Action's Introductory GROW BIOINTENSIVE® 4-Saturdays Workshop is coming up, and we wanted to make sure to invite you! Join us for four full Saturday classes on November 15 and 22, December 6 and 13, 2025 and learn to grow abundant fruits, vegetables, and grains – and healthy soil, too.

Guerrilla gardener Ron Finley said, "Growing your own food is like printing your own money," and we couldn't agree more. As food prices continue to rise (even outpacing inflation) planting a garden is a smart move. And using the efficient, productive, low-cost GROW BIOINTENSIVE Sustainable Mini-Farming method will help make the most of your time, energy, money, and garden space. Compared with conventional gardening, GB can use up to 67% less water; 50-100% less purchased fertilizer; 98% less energy, and grow 2 to 6 times more food per unit of land, while building more fertile soil – up to 6x faster than in nature!

Eight essential elements (based on traditional farming methods used by the long-lived Mayan and Ancient Chinese civilizations) are what make GB so successful and sustainable: 1. Double-dug raised beds for healthy roots and soil organisms; 2. Composting to provide healthy inexpensive fertilizer; 3. Intensive planting to maximize efficiency and conserve water; 4. Companion planting to promote synergy between plants; 5. Carbon farming to grow fertilizer while growing food; 6. Calorie farming to grow as much nutritious food as possible; 7. Open pollinated seeds to encourage farmer independence and food security; and 8. A whole-system method to create a healthy, productive, and sustainable farm.

You will learn about all this and more in our exciting online course on growing food and fertile soil sustainably. taught by Ecology Action founder John Jeavons, author of the best-selling "How to Grow More Vegetables (And Fruits, Nuts, Berries, Grains, and Other Crops) Than You Ever Thought Possible on Less Land with Less Water Than You Can Imagine" (600,000+ copies sold), and Certified Master GB Teacher Matt Drewno.

This workshop is a place to learn everything you need to know to plan your own biointensive garden for the coming season, and to meet like-minded people interested in sustainable living. Each class covers a range of topics, from seed starting, compost making, and growing bed preparation, to planting, harvesting, and seed storage. And that's just the beginning! Some workshop participants continue on to take an internship with us, and some even become certified GB teachers with demonstration gardens and classes of their own.

Millions of people around the world are already using GB to save money and grow their own food. Don't miss this opportunity to learn this simple yet powerful method, from the comfort of your home.

Register online at growbiointensive.org/workshop.html and get ready to start a new, sustainable and abundant chapter in your life. Everyone with an internet connection can participate. Cost is \$380 per person and includes a digital workshop manual. Other required publications need to be purchased if you do not already own them. Registration closes November 7, 2025. We hope to see your smiling faces this fall!

Or contact: Ecology Action, 5798 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 95490-9730; 707) 459-0150; www.growbiointensive.org; contact@growbiointensive.org

Ecology Action is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, established in 1971. Our mission is to teach people worldwide to better feed themselves while building and preserving the soil and conserving resources. You can read an article about our work here: www.pri.org/stories/2016-08-24/small-farmers-around-world-learn-how-they-can-grow-far-more-food.

You're Invited!

Willits Community Services & Food Bank's
36th Annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner
November 27, 2025
11:00am – 3:00pm*
*Or until we run out, whichever comes first.

Held at the Willits Senior Center
1501 Baechtel Road, Willits

All are welcome to sit down and join us for a meal in gratitude and celebration of our Willits Community.

There is no charge for this event. Anyone may dine for free. Donations are gladly accepted and will benefit WCS & Food Bank.

We give special thanks to the following organizations for making this event possible:
Sherwood Valley Casino, Willits Senior Center, and Little Lake Grange

This community effort requires many volunteers working hard behind the scenes, in the kitchen, and on the floor. We thank all our friends, neighbors, local businesses and organizations for your help. Together we are making a difference. Thank You!

OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th
10AM TO 4PM
The Jesse Pittman Training Center
17501 N Hwy 101, Willits

Are you a high school or college student curious about a career with CAL FIRE?

Come explore your future with CAL FIRE at our open house. Discover career opportunities, meet our team, and get guidance on starting your CAL FIRE journey.

What to Expect:

- Meet CAL FIRE team members from a variety of different fields
- Explore CAL FIRE vehicles and gear up close – fire trucks, crew busses, a helicopter, and more
- Learn about exciting career paths - Fire & Emergency Response | Forestry & Resource Management | Administration & Support | Technology & Communications | Public Safety & Education
- Meet with Personnel to learn about CAL FIRE's excellent employee benefits
- Get hands on support setting up your CalCareers account

RSVP not required but is appreciated! Erin.Bozzo@fire.ca.gov or scan here



Above: Hot Buttered Rum returns to Little Lake Grange on Saturday, November 1.

Hot Buttered Rum returns to Little Lake Grange this Saturday

Submitted by School of Adaptive Agriculture

Progressive bluegrass band Hot Buttered Rum returns to Little Lake Grange this Saturday, November 1, in a benefit concert for the School of Adaptive Agriculture. That day is the first of the traditional Days of the Dead, time to remember our Ancestors. And this year’s event will honor all those, living and dead, who have fed our community with local food – farmers and gardeners, the founders of the organic food movement, and advocates of biodynamic and biointensive farming and gardening, as well as chefs, cooks, and our many wonderful small food businesses.

The event is New Orleans-themed. Starting at 4:30 pm local brass musicians and others will begin gathering at Northspur Brewing Company for a 5:30 pm Second Line procession to open the doors of the Grange. They’ll be playing “When the Saints Come Marching In” as they arrive by way of Shanachie Pub at 6 pm. A New Orleans-inspired dinner will be ready for the hungry, prepared by Dawn Wiley and friends. Open bar with beer by Northspur and wine from the Frey Vineyards and Bonterra Organic Estates, and a fabulous Silent Auction will greet the crowd. The music starts at 7 pm with Indiana Slim and the Kingsnakes. Hot Buttered Rum goes onstage after 8 pm and will keep the place lively the rest of the evening.

Proceeds go to the School of Adaptive Agriculture which since 2014 has provided immersive training in small farm agriculture to aspiring farmers, featuring many of our local farms. The school recently launched a Farm Incubator Program, giving aspiring farmers the opportunity to farm a bit of land at Ridgewood Ranch with help and mentoring from our staff.

We’ve hosted several Artists in Residence, thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Mendocino. We have been part of the coordination of Mendocino County’s own annual small farm conference, the Farmers Convergence. And we’ve run lots of workshops on topics ranging from herbal medicine to farm labor management. All thanks to the generosity of our community.

Tickets \$30 advance (at J.D. Redhouse, Flying Dog Pizza, Mendocino Book Company) and online at Eventbrite; \$35 at the door. Kids 12-18: \$20.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Gorgeous Cerise

Little Cerise has the cutest bold stripes and bright green eyes. She is looking for a quiet home with someone who is ready to show her that people aren’t that scary. Cerise would also be happy living as a working cat, trading room and board for all natural pest control!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



Playful Rihanna

Rihanna came to the shelter from a hoarding situation, and was very thin. She lived with several other dogs. Rihanna can be shy when she first meets new people, but warms up once she feels comfortable. When Rihanna was in the meet-and-greet room, we found out that she LOVES to play with toys! Rihanna does walk on leash and likes to be right next to her person. With some time and lots of love, we think Rihanna will bloom into a wonderful companion.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am

to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

Joyful Bosworth

Meet Bosworth, a sweet and vibrant boy who is still full of life and love. He has a heart of gold and absolutely adores being around people. Every time he sees someone he loves, he does a little happy dance that will melt your heart. Bosworth deserves to spend his golden years in a warm, loving home where he can truly feel cherished.

We’re hoping to find a family who will give Bosworth the soft landing he so deserves. He has so much love to give, and all he needs is someone to share it with. If you have room in your heart and home, Bosworth is ready to fill it with joy, loyalty, and his special brand of happiness. Let’s show him what it’s like to live in a place full of love and warmth. He truly deserves it.

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



More **state-of-the-art** robotic surgeries. Faster recovery times.



The unmatched precision of da Vinci 5 robotic technology

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Learn more at
AdventistHealth.org/MendoRobotics

