



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Hat's off

To the Editor:

Hat's off to our brilliant Chamber of Commerce for moving the car show downtown. It was fantastic! And I'm hoping the businesses that were open enjoyed the extra foot traffic.

Setting up the stage with the sound system added to the festive atmosphere. Total strangers were saying "hi" like it was a party. Way to go, Willits!

Debra Lesslie, Willits

legitimate businesses. They are the ones who deserve our support.

Please stop these staff members and the County Counsel from taking control of our cannabis ordinance. We do not accept this self-serving, thuggish treatment from them. If they want to "reinterpret" the ordinance, make them present their "reinterpretation" to the supervisors and the public. We live here, pay taxes, and have a say in what goes on in our community, especially regarding cannabis growing.

Joy Calonico and Burt Buchmann, Willits

## Thank you

To the Editor:

The Willits Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the volunteers that help make the 42nd annual Car and Bike Show a success. The event had 150 registered vehicles. This event would not have been possible without the support of our community and merchants.

We would also like to thank the City of Willits for partnering in this event.

A big shout-out to our major sponsors, METALfx, Adventist Health Howard Hospital, Granite Construction, Willits Power, and Savings Bank of Mendocino County. Thank you.

Willits Chamber of Commerce

## 'Reinterpreting' cannabis cultivation rule

To the Editor:

My husband and I read the opinion in Willits Weekly written by Ellen Drell and Kirk Lumpkin of the Willits Environmental Center regarding the county Cannabis Department and County Counsel "reinterpreting" sections of the cannabis ordinance to allow doubling of the size of cultivation areas.

We were shocked to hear about this and agree with Ellen Drell and Kirk Lumpkin completely.

Hired staff and the County Counsel have no right to bypass the supervisors or the public to "interpret" the ordinance to suit themselves, their needs or agendas.

Our community is barely starting to get the cannabis ordinance operating smoothly, and allowing these "insiders" to mess with it is unacceptable.

As long-term residents living in Willits, we do NOT support doubling the size of cultivation sites for any reason. We've had enough of violators of the law and the black market economy for nearly five decades.

In fact, we want more enforcement to prevent larger grows, and feel the community needs to support legally permitted growers and support their

Grateful Gleaners Coordinating Team

## Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment

Submitted by Mendocino County Executive Office

May 24 – At the May 21 Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting, a significant resolution was unanimously passed, the Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment, marking a crucial step in enhancing community emergency infrastructure.

The Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment is an annual property assessment that would provide funding to repair and maintain two emergency access routes in the Sherwood corridor benefiting the Brooktrails, Sylvandale, Spring Creek, and the Gates communities.

Board approval is the first step in implementing the assessment. Property owners within the designated benefit boundary will now vote on adopting the special benefit assessment. All property owners within the benefit boundary will receive an official ballot by mail by June 7, 2024. Ballots must be returned not later than July 23, by the end of the BOS public hearing that day.

Detailed voting instructions will be included with the ballot.

If approved by voters, the earliest that the special assessment will appear in the tax roll is fiscal year 2024/25. The proposed benefit assessment term is set at 20 years. The rate of the special benefit assessment is \$30.88 per developed parcel and \$1.39 per undeveloped parcel annually, subject to CPI increases annually.

The existing Sherwood Road corridor, a single road serving a large population in a high-risk fire area, poses significant safety risks during wildfires. The proposed Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment, a crucial funding source, aims to address this issue by providing alternative access routes. These routes are essential during an emergency, serving as dedicated access roads for first responders or alternative evacuation routes for residents.

Firco Road is an example of the importance of such alternate routes. It was effectively used during 2020's Oak Fire, allowing for a successful and safe evacuation of the area. However, Firco Road and Willits Creek Road both need repairs and ongoing maintenance to provide safe and effective emergency access.

Because these roads are not county-owned but accessed through deeds, specific, dedicated funding must be raised to maintain them. This assessment is dedicated solely to the repairs and maintenance of these routes, ensuring their continued safety and effectiveness, and significantly enhancing our community's safety during emergencies.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak shared his support for this resolution: "Our community's safety is of the utmost importance to the board. This resolution has been a long time in the making, and I am very excited we have found a path forward. It paves the way for improvements to much-needed emergency access routes, increasing our community's safety during a wildfire event."

Read the rest of Sherwood Over on page 6

"I look forward to meeting with

## Food distribution moving to Blosser Lane in June

Your Redwood Empire Food Bank food distribution at Laughlin Fields will be permanently closed as of June 1, 2024

Please join our partners at Mendocino Food & Nutrition on Thursday, June 6 and Thursday, June 20 at 1250 Blosser Lane from 12 to 1 pm.

Food Pop Ups every first and third Thursday, from 12 to 1 pm. More info: [www.fortbraggfoodbank.org/find-help](http://www.fortbraggfoodbank.org/find-help) or 707-964-9404. Volunteer Signup: [outeach@fbfoodbank.org](mailto:outeach@fbfoodbank.org).

## County dog kennels at full capacity

Posted by Mendocino County Animal Care Services

May 24 – Currently the Animal Shelter is at full capacity in our dog kennel section. We are not in a position to take in stray dogs due to being at full capacity.

Please call us at 707-463-4427 if you find a lost - stray dog that doesn't have identification like a "dog license tag, rabies tag or name tag." We will ask if it is possible for you to hold the lost - stray dog for a couple of days until we are able to free up space in our dog kennels. Staff will ask you if you can bring the lost - stray dog to the Animal Shelter at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah so we can scan the lost - stray dog for a microchip, take their picture, and post the lost - stray dog information on our Facebook page in an effort to reconnect the lost - stray dog with their owner.

If you are willing to hold the lost - stray dog but not able to come to the Animal Shelter, we will arrange for an Animal Protection Officer to come to your location, scan the lost - stray dog for a microchip, take the dog's picture, and post the lost - stray dog information on our Facebook page to reconnect the lost - stray dog with their owner.

If you are not able to do the above, then we will ask that you not take custody of the lost - stray dog, but send us a picture and general location of the lost - stray dog for us to post on our Facebook page to reconnect the lost - stray dog with their owner. Please send your pictures of the lost - stray dogs by filling out a Lost Animal Report at [www.cognitofrms.com/MendocinoCountyAnimalCareServices/lostanimalreport](http://www.cognitofrms.com/MendocinoCountyAnimalCareServices/lostanimalreport)

These are very difficult times for animal owners, lost - stray animals, and for animal shelters. Animal Care Services appreciates any assistance that we can get from citizens in these situations. Thank you.

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

**Willits Weekly**

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**Willits Weekly**

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Above, left: Steve Wilson won both Motorcycle Best of Show and a Sponsor Plaque with this brightly colored '47 chopped Harley. Above, right: The local Scout troop assists a young girl through the rope course they set up for the event. Below: Main Street is lined with classic cars and bikes of many different years and styles. At right, from top: Holli Woodhouse brought her 1938 Chevy which her grandfather rebuilt in the '80s. The grill of this 1940 Pontiac shows the attention to art and detail of the older vehicles. Local businesses owners Martin Rodriguez of Ace Copy and Saprina Rodriguez of Toy Depot and Imagination Station display their merchandise at a booth along Main Street. Burt Silva won the Best of Show award with his red Boss 302 Mustang. Several motorcycles were included in the 150 vehicles registered for the show.



Photos by Mathew Caine

## A Big Move

Classic vehicles line Main Street instead of Rec Grove during 42nd annual Car and Bike Show

An intriguing experiment took place on Main Street last Sunday. Being the 42nd annual Willits Car Show, the basic premise was the same, but the location moved to a place that seemed more accessible to visitors, and a place which showcased the downtown area and brought commerce to the businesses that chose to open to accommodate the attendees.

One hundred and fifty vehicles: antique automobiles, roadsters, coupes, sedans, station wagons, trucks, and bikes lined both sides of the street for three blocks as people perused and engaged in conversations with the proud owners and the old fire engine gave rides up and down the route. It gave the impression of a parade, with the viewers moving instead of the cars.

"Being that it's sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, having it at the Rec Grove takes away from the downtown businesses being utilized during the weekend because everyone's down at the park," explained Misty Johnson, the new Chamber coordinator. "So, the idea was to try it downtown and see if we can get more people into our businesses that work so hard. We have a lot of people here and we're hoping that it is going to boost business here."

Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, who, with husband Martin, had a booth to highlight their several businesses, primarily the Toy Depot, said, "I think it's wonderful that the Car Show is on Main Street this year. I've heard some good feedback about it being on Main Street. I think the Chamber of Commerce was right to move it to Main Street because it supports their mission of supporting local businesses. Classic cars and Main Street just go together."

"I appreciate the opportunity for local businesses that are not in the few blocks of downtown to have the opportunity to show what they have to offer," said Rodriguez. "I think it's wonderful seeing businesses from the south and businesses that are on the side streets have a chance to come down and participate."

Rodriguez additionally was able to begin to promote her restaurant, The Whistle Stop, which will be opening in late July. Several other businesses were able to promote their ventures to both locals and visitors from out of town who were attracted by the gleaming and extremely well-maintained autos and bikes.

Of course, the vehicles were the main attraction, and the owners were always willing and eager to speak about their projects. One such owner, Dave Luzzi, came down from Fortuna with his deep blue 1970 Cutlass.

"It has a 455 engine, power steering, power brakes, air conditioning, power windows, AM-FM, 8-track," said Luzzi. "I have boxes and boxes of 8-tracks. Some of the younger kids don't even know what an 8-track is. The engine was good when I got it, but I did some changes internally and it was a little different color. It was a blue, but this is an indigo blue, with suspended pearl. It's a stock color."

Read the rest of Car Show Over on page 15

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The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Bicoastal Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are finalized and make up the official list of Lake and Mendocino voting ballot. The audience can then vote on one choice in each category. Voters are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per category per 24-hour period is allowed. Listing in this publication and/or award is not a guarantee of future investment success. This recognition should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor by any client. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the recipient for participation or in connection with obtaining or using the third party rating or award.

# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

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!

## COMMENCEMENT DAY WORD SEARCH

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

ACADEMIC	COURSE	GRADES	RESIDENCY
ADVANCEMENT	CREDITS	GRADUATE	SCHOOL
ALUMNI	DEGREE	GUESTS	SENIOR
AUDITORIUM	DIPLOMA	HONORS	STAGE
CAMPUS	DRESS	MORTARBOARD	TASSEL
CANDIDATE	EXAMS	PERFORMANCE	TEACHER
COLLEGE	FINAL	PROCESSION	UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT	GOWN	PROFESSOR	WALKING

1	2	3				4	5	6					
7						8				9			
10			11						12				
13						14	15			16			
17				18			19			20			
21					22	23			24				
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			27	28			29						
			30										
			32			33			34	35	36	37	38
39	40			41					42				
43				44						45			
46				47						48			
49											50		
											52		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Fashion accessory
- Engine additive
- Small, faint constellation
- Gives a job
- Self-righteous person
- Caucasian language
- Surinam toad
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Former French coin
- Levels the score
- What stage performers do
- Egyptian Sun god
- Localities
- Spherical body
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Perfect
- It's on many people's heads
- Boxing's GOAT
- Photo
- Popular HBO show

### CLUES DOWN

- Occur
- Show up
- Capital of Taiwan
- Brother or sister
- Secret get-togethers
- Type of tea
- Where the action is
- Cast out
- Crime group
- Type of vessel (abbr.)

- Popular music awards show
- Pouch
- Lake in Botswana
- Unruly group
- One-fourth
- Very eager
- Edward \_\_, author and writer
- Flying insect
- Dragged forcibly
- Thus far
- Not just 'play'
- Commercials
- Accept and handle
- Sacrifice hit
- One who buys and sells securities simultaneously
- Month
- Most thin
- Naturally occurring material
- Luke's mentor \_\_-Wan
- Postmodernist Austrian 'House'
- Aquatic salamander
- Baseball stat
- Beginning military rank
- Talk rapidly and unintelligibly
- Paddle
- Caregiver (abbr.)
- Old Irish alphabet
- Japanese city
- In a way, acted
- Things to see
- Nursemaid
- Type of tooth
- To be demonstrated
- Defunct European group



### End of an era

This month saw the final print edition of a fellow weekly newspaper in Mendocino County, the Anderson Valley Advertiser. The AVA will continue online at [www.theava.com](http://www.theava.com). Thanks to the Historical Society of Mendocino County for posting this graphic comparing the first edition, printed January 25, 1955, and the last, printed May 1, 2024.

### Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

- Thursday, May 30:** Ground Beef Tacos, Rice & Beans
- Friday, May 31:** Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll
- Monday, June 3:** Turkey Tetrazzini, Veggies, Roll
- Tuesday, June 4:** Southern Fried Catfish, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll
- Wednesday, June 5:** Chicken a la King, Veggies, Roll
- Thursday, June 6:** Pepperoni Pizza, Green Salad
- Friday, June 7:** Italian Sub Sandwich, Pickle, Chips
- Activities:** Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.
- Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, June 9 next month.**
- 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. Delivered throughout Willits.
- Transportation for seniors:** Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments. Senior Center Thrift Shop: 459-2176
- The Senior Center is in need of volunteers to help with the many activities here at the center, including volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers. "Volunteers are one-third of our workforce, which allows us to offer many services to our members and community." To learn more about volunteering: 459-6826.

### Explore local history at the Museum, Thursdays 6 to 8 pm

- Submitted by Mendocino County Museum**
- This summer, enjoy Thursday evening activities at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits. Each month a permanent museum exhibit will be revisited. New content will be shared by museum docents and a corresponding art project will be provided.
- Discover new information on permanent museum exhibits, and engage in a related art project. Thursdays from 6 to 8 pm. Each month will feature a new activity.
- In June, "Andree Connor – Wonderful Ways to Be"**
    - Thursday, June 13, Macrame Key Chains
    - Thursday, June 20, Design a Temporary Tattoo
    - Thursday, June 27, Fairy House Travel Edition
  - In July, "The Coli Sisters – Reflections on the Creamery"**
    - Thursday, July 11, Magnet Magic
    - Thursday, July 18, Wooden Spoon Painting
    - Thursday, July 25, Tin Can Decoupage
  - In August, "ImPRESSED Third Annual Printmaking Exhibit – Full Steam Ahead"**
    - Thursday, August 1, Linoleum Block Carving Basics
    - Thursday, August 8, Linoleum Carving Basics Part 2
    - Thursday, August 15, Card Printing
    - Thursday, August 22, Printing on Fabric
    - Thursday, August 29, Found Object Printing
- Program cost is \$9 and includes museum admission. These programs are designed for teens and adults, but all are welcome. More info: visit [www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum) or contact the museum at [museum@mendocinocounty.gov](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.gov) or 707-234-6365.



## Open House

### Willits Food Bank invites public to see how food is collected and distributed and asks for help

Twenty-three percent of Californians are struggling with food insecurity, with an even higher percentage in Mendocino County. Thirty-eight years ago, the Willits Food Bank was created to make life-sustaining food available to individuals and families who are either homeless or unable to ensure that their members have the sustenance they need to survive.

The Food Bank has been led by a few competent and energetic executive directors. Among them, the much loved and respected Jim Marill who passed a few years ago, and Ruthanne Volz, who recently retired. The new director, Kim Tippit, brings a fresh perspective and energy to the organization, which has recently relocated to a building at 344 Railroad Avenue, across the track from Sparetime Supply, who donated the building that was their original location.

The new building affords the Food Bank a much superior place to work, store and distribute, than the old location on East San Francisco, which was on several levels, cramped, and extremely inconvenient for their purposes of getting food out the door to those who count on them.

The Willits Food Bank had an open house last Friday, to allow the people of Willits a chance to see how food is collected and distributed and to show how prospective and much-needed funds are being utilized.

"The place is wonderful. The people are wonderful. The cause is wonderful, but we are in dire need of funds," said Tippit. "There is such a need for food in the area that people were able to get grocery distributions bi-monthly, here. They've been able to do that for years. The first thing I did was to go to weekly distributions."

due to USDA regulations, which creates an even greater need for the Willits Food Bank to step up and increase their ability to hand out food.

"We were getting out food from Redwood Empire Food Bank, but we were having to pay for all the shipping coming up from Santa Rosa," continued Tippit. "It was very expensive, and we had to pay for some of the food costs as well as supplementing fruits and vegetables that we were purchasing. Right before Ruthanne left, the Fort Bragg Food Bank started Food Nutrition and purchased a warehouse on Blosser Lane, and they supply Ukiah Food Bank, Fort Bragg Food Bank and other food banks in the area. We get all of our food for free from them now.

"In the past, we served around 84 people per day on average," explained Tippit. "At the beginning of the year, the number was 111. Before COVID, we were seeing about 30 to 40 people a day. They just came out with the California state numbers. Twenty-three percent of people in California are food insufficient. Our numbers are much higher here in Willits.

"If you look at the [Emergency Food Assistance Program], for one person in a household, the maximum income requirement is approximately \$35,000. That's about what the household income is here in Mendocino, which is very low compared to the cost of living. So, families who have never had to worry about food before are really struggling now," Tippit said.

A program that is currently ramping up is the Food Recovery Program which will bring in approximately 100,000 pounds of food annually that is often wasted by grocery stores. Foods that are not pretty

Read the rest of **Food Bank** *Over on page 15*

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Above, left: The hard-working staff of the new Willits Food Bank, including front office and warehouse personnel, gather for a photo. At top, left: The shelves in one of the bright spacious warehouse rooms are empty at the end of a distribution day. At top, right: Larry Garber is in charge of filling the commodity bags. Above, right: Ken and Lisa Mace hoist one of the heavy boxes of shrimp. Below: People come throughout the afternoon to see the new Food Bank facility. Further below, left: Executive Director Kim Tippit, Warehouse Manager Dan Beebe, and Supervisor John Haschak talk about the existential needs of the Food Bank. At bottom, left: The building, the original location of Sparetime Supply, was donated for use by the Willits Food Bank. At bottom, right: Bags of salad shrimp fill the walk-in refrigerator before the distributions.

Photos by Mathew Caine



**Willits Mini Storage**

**Giant Yard Sale**

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

**261 Franklin Ave.**

Senior Center will be doing hot dogs & soda.

**June 8, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

decision through their attorneys, so I'm sure there'll be more information to come with that.

"We have been in talks with a couple other CA certified ballot printers to see their numbers, and samples that they do, and talk to other counties. So we are working on that, and have been working on that for the last couple of months."

SOS Webber's letter cites two different code sections her office believes that IVS has violated. In violation of Section 13004(b) of the Elections Code, the letter states: "Integrated Voting Solutions failed to directly notify the Secretary of State about the ballot printing error occurring in Mendocino County."

The letter reports the SOS office was notified of the ballot printing issue by the Mendocino County registrar of voters, and not by Integrated Voting Solution, and continues: "The Secretary of State then contacted Integrated Voting Solutions to confirm that the ballot printing issue had occurred and request written documentation detailing the incident, how it occurred, and what mitigation was taking place to resolve the issue."

The second violation cited, of section 20227 of the California Code of Regulations, is described as follows:

"Integrated Voting Solutions failed to notify the Secretary of State in writing that they planned to use or were using a third-party vendor for the application of ballot tints and watermarks on ballots used in California," SOS Webber's letter states.

"Additionally, this third-party vendor was not certified by the Secretary of State to perform any part of the ballot printing process for California ballots."

A May 20 letter from Richardson, Jones & Esraelian, corporate counsel for IVS, argues that neither of the issues mentioned by the SOS are actually violations of the code sections cited, and requests that "the California Secretary of State retract its May 17, 2024 revocation of IVS' status as a certified ballot printer for California."

The letter also states: "With regard to your allegation that IVS violated California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 4, Section 20227, please be advised that the term 'third-party vendor' is a misnomer and is misleading. The individual in charge of the application of ballot tints and watermarks was [name taken out], who is a contracted employee of IVS who works under IVS' certification. Mr. [name taken out] uses IVS certified tools and software to complete the application of ballot tints and watermarks to the ballots. He does not possess and therefore cannot use any other tools or software to complete the application of ballot tints and watermarks to the ballots. I submit Mr. [name taken out]'s application of ballot tints and watermarks does not violate California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 4, Section 20227."

SOS Webber's letter includes the conclusions of her office's investigation with a timeline of the original ballot error and efforts to remediate it by printing and mailing new ballots. It also discusses the brief delay in IVS getting corrected ballots mailed out "due to a separate delayed delivery of the vote-by-mail envelopes from their envelope vendor."

In one section, Webber's letter reports a slightly technical description from IVS CEO Eric Kozlowski, about how the ballot printing error happened.

"Mr. Kozlowski described the cause of the ballot printing issue as the result of an error made by Integrated Voting Solutions' third-party vendor, who was a former employee hired to add the tint and watermark images to the ballot layout. The third-party vendor applied the tint and watermark image to the vote by mail ballots, but accidentally uploaded a test file to Integrated Voting Solutions' FTP site with only a static ballot image for the Supervisorial District 1 Republican ballot style, instead of the correct live ballot images. Integrated Voting Solutions then printed and mailed out the incorrect test ballot to all of Mendocino County's vote by mail ballots for the Supervisorial District 1 Republican ballot style," the letter stated.

"Mr. Kozlowski stated that Integrated Voting Solutions' internal quality control check did not catch the issue because the header fields, watermark and barcodes on all of the ballots were displaying correctly."

the community May 28 [already happened at Tuesday's Brooktrails board meeting] to answer questions and emphasize the importance of property owners to please cast their votes. Lastly, I want to thank the many people who have helped in this process."

Important dates:

June 7: All property owners assessed for special benefit will receive an official ballot by mail.

is challenged. The Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury investigated Family and Children's Services because of a complaint regarding reports filed late to the Superior Court and short-staffing due, in part, to unfilled positions and a four-day workweek which leaves the FCS offices closed to the public on Fridays.

When the Grand Jury began to investigate, it was discovered there had been several investigative reports produced by past grand juries regarding issues in FCS. This is of concern to our community and to the disenfranchised fostered children in Mendocino County. The lack of adequate staffing, staffing turnover, and high caseloads for social workers complicates the timely filing of court reports.

Social workers are required to produce reports from the time the child/children are removed from their home until the resolution or permanent placement has been achieved. When vulnerable families are separated, an anxiety-fueled frustration is created, and the longer the separation, the more toxic the stress. Everyone in the family is affected, not just the child/children. Late reports contribute to longer separation.

The Grand Jury found that not only was there no easy fix, but there was more than one problem to solve. However, one of our findings produced a shining star: There are talented, dedicated people who work at FCS and who attempt to provide quality services to the children and families of Mendocino County.

A cross-section of issues must be addressed to help ensure Mendocino County children and youth in foster care find safety, stability and success. Together, the federal, state and county governments, advocates, children in foster care, the educational system and other stakeholders must work to establish effective policies and programs.

Late report filing, short-staffing, added responsibilities, a short workweek, and other roadblocks cause cases to be delayed. Getting families through the court process, into counseling, and into family reunification or placement as soon as possible is crucial in order to minimize the trauma to children in foster care.

**Recommendations**

The Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury expects the following recommendations be completed by the dates indicated, unless otherwise indicated by October 2024.

- FCS work with Human Resources to address and increase staffing.
- FCS management provide increased and ongoing therapy for staff desiring it.
- Since 24% of children in foster care are Native American, further attention be given by FCS to improve relations and communication with ICWA representatives. Involvement in established round tables needs to increase in order to assure adequate attention to Native children.
- Rather than sending Mendocino County social workers to make routine monthly visits to foster children in other states and counties, Mendocino County should explore arrangements for visits by the Social Services agencies where Mendocino County foster children are placed.
- FCS management find ways to provide coverage for absent social workers to alleviate heavy caseloads for other staff

Resilience Action Plan <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/californiawildfireandforestresilienceactionplan.pdf>.

To track the progress being made, both in your community and throughout California, visit the CAL FIRE fuels reduction dashboard at [www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/fuels-reduction](http://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/fuels-reduction).

This project burn will be conducted under strictly controlled weather and fuel conditions. Smoke and aircraft may be visible in the area.

July 23: Public hearing and ballot count at the Board of Supervisors July 23 meeting. All ballots must be received prior to the end of the public hearing on July 23. County of Mendocino Administrative Building, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah.

For more info or to read the Engineers Report and Benefit Assessment Evaluation for this project, visit [www.mendocinocounty.gov/business/economic-development/special-benefit-assessment](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/business/economic-development/special-benefit-assessment)

members.

- FCS management develop incentives for staff members' timely reports.
- FCS management and social workers develop a strategic plan that will eliminate late court reports.

• FCS expand their attractive and informative Facebook advertising to other websites, including Mendocino County's, for all job openings.

• FCS management be required to encourage immediate approval of a new SIP plan that addresses FCS staffing issues.

• Mendocino County implement a QA department in FCS. (to be completed by May 2025)

• FCS immediately fill vacant staff positions. F11

• Prior to the beginning of Fiscal Year 2025/26, the county budget provide more transparency concerning decoding and identifying line items and specifics of distribution and allocation of funds for FCS. (to be completed by January 2025)

• Mendocino County use monies in the FCS budget for staffing, reducing overtime, and salary adjustments. (to be completed by January 2025)

• FCS work with county Human Resources to streamline the hiring process so it takes no more than two months between a candidate's application and a decision by the county.

• Advertised positions should not have an application deadline.

• There be a permanent open application process to create a pool of qualified people for all FCS Vocational Assistants, Social Services Assistants, Social Worker, and Social Worker Supervisor positions

• FCS address understaffing which leads to high caseloads and low worker morale, frequently contributing to high worker turnover, a toxic culture, and lack of experienced workers.

• Mendocino County and FCS explore ways to keep the FCS offices open five days a week while allowing employees to maintain their four-day/10-hour shifts by implementing staggered schedules. (to be completed by January 2025)

• Increase staffing, including the three unfilled Vocational Assistant positions, to alleviate the problem of using Social Workers and Social Worker Assistants for transportation of children.

• The Office of the Ombudsman be expanded to include services for children, allowing for immediate advocacy prior to approaching FCS. (to be completed by May 2025)

• FCS use all possible means to reference the California DSS Ombudsperson for information and assistance.

• FCS management provide training for the use of the California state-wide computer system, CWS/CMS case management system, and assure the system is used to its fullest advantage.

• The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors create a committee whose sole mission is to independently and accurately evaluate the status of timely court filings by FCS. The committee will report their findings quarterly to the Board of Supervisors.

for training out at Station 54 on Baechtel Road. An over the embankment drill was offered on April 23m and ICS 300 class will be offered the beginning of May. Staff is consistently training; many of the hours are on their own volunteer time.

**Equipment**

One of our duty rigs was recently hit by another driver so is out of commission. Our firefighter was not injured, and we are currently looking for a replacement.



**Missing woman, 70, found north of Fort Bragg**

*By Captain Quincy Cromer, for MCSO*

On Thursday, May 23, 2024 at approximately 4 pm, Search and Rescue volunteers were able to locate and rescue missing person Elizabeth Schenk, 70, visiting the area from Oakland, who was found in a heavily wooded area north of Fort Bragg.

Schenk had been missing since approximately 9 am on Tuesday, May 21, and had survived two nights and almost three days in the wilderness before being located and rescued by volunteers.

The man who reported Schenk missing said he'd received a call from Schenk at approximately 9:30 am May 21, after she went for a walk on a nearby logging road. Schenk was reportedly lost and called him to request assistance and directions. Schenk described her surroundings and a nearby gate to the man, who provided Schenk walking directions.

At approximately 11 am on Tuesday, the male became concerned because Schenk had not returned from her walk and was not answering her cell phone. He requested assistance from numerous nearby neighbors to search the logging roads for Schenk. After searching for numerous hours and not locating Schenk, the man reported the situation to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office at approximately 4:47 pm.

After she was found on Thursday afternoon, Schenk was transported numerous miles to the incident command post on Bruhel Point Road, where medical personnel were standing by to evaluate Schenk's condition. As of the publishing of this May 23 press release, Schenk was being transported to the Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Hospital as a precautionary measure for testing and medical evaluation.

Schenk's condition was stable, she was in good spirits, and believed to have only suffered minor scratches and abrasions from her exposure to the wilderness for more than two days.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and numerous Search and Rescue organizations had searched all night on Tuesday, May 21, conducted additional searches on Wednesday, May 22, and requested mutual-aid resources for another search on Thursday, May 23.

The area where Schenk went missing was described by searchers as containing extremely steep topography with overgrown vegetation and forestation, which slowed and hindered search efforts. Due to the treacherous terrain and tough wilderness conditions of the search area, additional Search and Rescue personnel were requested through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the search planned on Thursday, May 23.

During search efforts on that Thursday, there were 73 Search and Rescue volunteers deployed from numerous Northern California counties. The search efforts on Thursday included seven canines certified in scent trailing and area detection, and unmanned aerial vehicles. During the mid-afternoon on Thursday, searchers located a clothing garment believed to be associated with Schenk and assigned additional searchers to saturate the area. Schenk was ultimately located approximately 200 yards from where the clothing garment was located, and she was assessed at the scene before being transported to the command post.

Schenk's family was present during search efforts conducted by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and were reunited with Schenk at the command post on Thursday.

The success of this Search and Rescue mission was made possible by the dedication and efforts of countless Search and Rescue volunteers from numerous Northern California counties, and many other first responder organizations who selflessly assisted with this operation. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would like to thank all of the organizations who assisted with this Search and Rescue operation, as well as the community members and businesses, specifically Harvest Market in Fort Bragg, for their dedication and support towards feeding the Search and Rescue volunteers during this critical mission.



*Above: Kolbe Bufardeci runs his route. At right, top: Coach Cavender leads his linemen through drills. At right: Eddie Perez hands the ball off to Pancrazio Bertolino. At right, below, left: Coach Cavender goes through hitting drills. At right, below, right: Corey Rocky makes a pass to one of his receivers. At right, at bottom: End of practice team talk.*

*Photos by Ava Dockins*

COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

**WHS track and field crosses the finish line as football begins training**

**Spring football fever**

Willits Wolverines football propelled into action with spring ball practice on May 13. Players are now in full beast mode with weights and field practice. Coaches Brandon Norbury, Bill Norbury, Gary Cavender,

**Sheri Dockins** Sports Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com Matt Moratti, Colby Forrester and Matt Rountree are present

with fresh minds and are equipped with training methods to strengthen the team, and Coach Cavender pulls no stops with breaking in the new freshmen.

hard for the upcoming season. We had a great core group for spring ball, averaging around 25 players. We are returning six sophomores that we brought up to varsity last year. I'm excited to see them all out here working hard to get better each and every day!

Willits fans and families are so excited to see the newcomers and dynamics of the upcoming games. Win or lose, your community is behind you and is ready for some football. LET'S GO WOLVERINES!

**Track and field: the finish line**

At the CMC league championships on May 3 at Lower Lake High School, Nikolas Bloyd fixated on the finish line with strong-willed perseverance and won first in the unified 100-meter dash. Nikolas and Leo Moratti are the two Willits track athletes to qualify for the Meet of Champions 2024 at Dublin High School, (top three placers at the Meet of Champions qualifies you for the California State Championships).

Nikolas won his event for the unified event (an event where one student with special needs competes against his peers from other schools). Leo was the league champion for the third year in a row and

*Read the rest of Sports Over on page 15*



**WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

**Willits Center for the Arts Is looking for retired teachers or individuals who would be interested in volunteering to teach Art History to K-12 students. It would be part time, perhaps 2 or 3 days a month depending on you.**

**The program is called Art Talks and currently serves over 2,000 students. We hope to cover the entire county. We will train. Lesson plans and PowerPoint are ready to go. A two-day training session in Willits will prepare you to teach art history in an entertaining way. Training happens June 28-29 for**

**More information contact: [gtm1950@gmail.com](mailto:gtm1950@gmail.com)**

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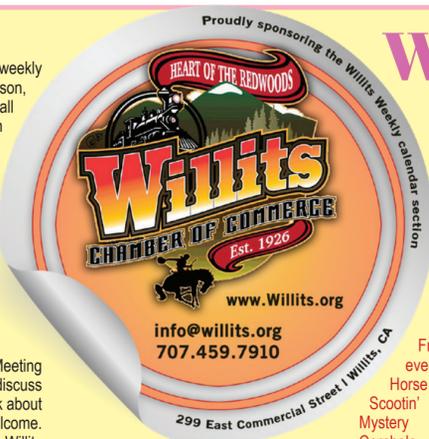
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**Thursday, May 30**

**Willits Farmers Market:** The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, May 30, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin Steiskal reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.



**Friday, May 31**

**Book Lovers Discussion Group:** Meeting monthly at the Willits Library to discuss books, authors and genres. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Friday, May 31, from 12 to 1 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

**'Mothers and Sons' opens at WCT:** Terrence McNally's famous play of lifestyle and generational conflicts, "Mothers and Sons," opens Friday, May 31 and runs through June 9 at Willits Community Theatre. Veteran Director Bill Barksdale brings the McNally masterpiece to life with a select cast of actors. An aging mother seeks to end her bitterness over her son's death and lifestyle choices while visiting his former same-sex partner and his new husband, and their young son. The play shows at the WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane, on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays, at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20; available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.



**'Nature, Nurture' opens at WCA:** the June exhibit at Willits Center for the Arts features the evocative works of local artists Judy Chance Hope and Margi Gomez Guhde, exploring the profound connection between humanity and the natural world. Opens with a "Meet the Artists" reception on Saturday, June 1, 6 to 9 pm, and runs through June 23 at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm.

**'Mothers and Sons' at WCT:** Terrence McNally's famous play of lifestyle and generational conflicts, directed by Bill Barksdale, with a select cast of actors. Saturday, June 1 at 7:30 pm at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse. See Friday, May 31 listing for more details.

**Friends Anonymous at Shanachie:** a Punk Rock band from Northern California - they like to plug in, go loud and proud, and put on a good time. Their music is fun but also full of complex emotion. Saturday, June 1, at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

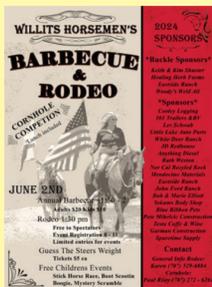
**Willits Horsemen's BBQ & Rodeo PlayDay:** Willits Horsemen presents the annual event on Sunday, June 2 at the Horsemen's Arena, 901

# What's Happening Around Town

**East Commercial Street Barbecue** is from 11:30 am to 2 pm; **Adults \$20; Kids \$10.** Rodeo starts at 1:30 pm. Free to spectators. Event registration 8 to 11 am. Limited entries for events. Guess the Steer's Weight tickets, \$5 each. Free children's events: Stick Horse Race, Boot Scootin' Boogie, and Mystery Scramble. Cornhole Competition (lunch included); Contact Paul Riley, 707-272-6261. General rodeo info call Karen at (707) 529-6884.

8th grade class at the promotion ceremony, Wednesday, June 5 at 6 pm at 1431 South Main Street. The event will take place outside on the field behind the school. More info: 707-459-5506.

**Thursday, June 6**



**Willits Farmers Market:** The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, June 6, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin Steiskal reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

**Winterlark at Shanachie:** San Francisco Bay Area singer-songwriters Kristin Olson, upright bass, and Sweeney E. Schragg, guitar, bring "urban folk musically that blends literate lyrics; bossa nova and soul rhythms; and the harmonic, melodic, and improvisatory traditions of jazz." Thursday, June 6 at 6 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

**Willits High School Class of 2024 Graduation Ceremony:** Come celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2024 at the Willits High School's annual graduation ceremony, Thursday, June 6 at 5 pm at Maize Field. More info: 707-459-7700.

**Willits Charter School 12th grade Graduation Ceremony:** Come celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2024 at the Willits Charter School's annual graduation ceremony, Thursday, June 6 at 6 pm at 1431 South Main Street. The event will take place outside on the field behind the school. More info: 707-459-5506.



**Friday, June 7**

**'Mothers and Sons' at WCT:** Second weekend for Terrence McNally's famous play of lifestyle and generational conflicts, "Mothers and Sons," at Willits Community Theatre. 7:30 pm on Friday, June 7. Veteran Director Bill Barksdale brings the McNally masterpiece of character and insightfulness to life with a select cast of actors. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$20; available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.

**Saturday, June 8**

**Andrew Victor at Shanachie:** Singer / songwriter with unique folk stylings, has shared bills in the U.S. and Europe with Sharon Van Etten, Alela Diane, and Damien Jurado. Saturday, June 8 at 6 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

**'Mothers and Sons' at WCT:** Second weekend for Terrence McNally's famous play of lifestyle and generational conflicts, "Mothers and Sons," at Willits Community Theatre. 7:30 pm on Saturday, June 8. Veteran Director Bill Barksdale brings the McNally masterpiece of character and insightfulness to life with a select cast of actors. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$20; available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.

**Blind Lead at Shanachie:** a high-energy and multi-instrumental duo, Blind Lead's goal is to rock your socks off via rock, punk, blues and funk. Saturday, June 8 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

**Sunday, June 9**

**'Mothers and Sons' at WCT:** Closing performance for Terrence McNally's famous play of lifestyle and generational conflicts, "Mothers and Sons," at Willits Community Theatre. 2 pm matinee on Sunday, June 9. Veteran Director Bill Barksdale brings the McNally masterpiece of character and insightfulness to life with a select cast of actors. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

Tickets are \$20; available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.

**Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events**

**Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street**

**Saturday Scramble:** Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!"

**Bluegrass String Jam:** Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm - welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"

**Wednesday Open Mic Night:** Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered for the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm.



**Dezi 5 Latchkey Emerald Triangle Tour:** June 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th. Performances at various venues including Willits Community Theatre and Shanachie Pub.

**COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES**

## 'Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga'

**The Story:** Revenge melodrama prequel to "Mad Max: Fury Road." It features berserker motorcycle thugs, fanatical supercharged vroom-vroom jalopy thugs, angry desperate starving desert rat thugs, and all of them wearing skeleton masks or face paint, and none of them seem very nice. And further, of course, it's a biopic of Furiosa herself (remember Charlize Theron!?!).

In this flick, we learn how she came to be such an icy-eyed "shoot first and damn the consequences" badass. This time around, Charlize is replaced in the heroine's title role by Anya "Queen's Gambit" Taylor-Joy.

As for the plot, people get shot. People get run over and crushed. A few people are burned alive. It's almost continual battles and shoot-outs. Because she's the unstoppable heroine, Furiosa who wants revenge for her murdered parent, wins all the fights, and learns there's no such thing as "getting even." And that's a sad and rueful and important lesson for us all who claim to be adults.

**My Thoughts:** Remarkable for a Hollywood grand production, there's no nudity, no sex, or even sexual double entendres. To be absolutely accurate, there is a quite biologically graphic live childbirth scene. Also, sociologically speaking, there seemed to be a harem for special and pretty, enslaved breeding babes in gauzy white dresses.

Many years ago, my quite knowledgeable father taught me that the essence of cinema is "The Chase." This flick (2 hours 26 minutes) is 2 hours and 15 minutes of chase, plus time-fillers such as dialogue, mostly about why they're doing what they're doing, or going where they're going. Also, a couple minutes of sneering. Also screams.

**Parents:** Not for children. It's all fire, and terror, and noise, and hungry-hungry dogs.

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

## Stories for the whole family at Farmers Market

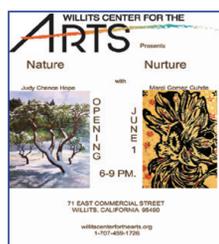
Submitted by Willits Branch Library

Who's ready for a story?

The Willits Branch Library, in cooperation with the Mendocino County Farmers Market Association, brings Storytime to the Willits Farmers Market every Thursday from 3:30 to 4 pm.

Library Assistant Tobin Steiskal will be promoting early literacy, helping kids to grow communication and social skills, and encouraging imagination and creativity at West Mendocino Avenue, between Muir and Main streets, each week. All ages are welcome.

For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.



**Ongoing Events**

**Free Food Pop-Ups:** Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program's Food Pop-Up in Willits is now offering two events per month, first and third Thursdays, at 1250 Blosser Lane, from noon to 1 pm, weather permitting. Free food for all! In June these food pop-ups will happen June 6 and June 20. Info: outreach@fbfoodbank.org; 707-964-9404

**'In the Field' Exhibit:** Mendocino County Museum's latest exhibit, "In the Field: Exploring Botany in Mendocino County," celebrates the study of unique plants that grow in our region, reflecting on the pursuits of Mendocino County botanists from past to present, featuring sketches, illustrations, photographs, and pressed specimens. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, is open 11 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. More info: visit www.mendocinocounty.org/museum

**Willits Tennis Club:** Meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School courts. New members welcome. Free. Show up or call 707-484-3385.

**Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group:** Meets every week on Mondays, 6 pm, at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866.

**Willits Drum Circle:** Every second and fourth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

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

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

**Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 2 pm:** The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: tgregory@saber.net or visit Willits Boules Club on Facebook.

**Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym:** Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers free classes for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street, on Thursday evenings. "We teach Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu Karate, Kenpo Youth/Adult Self Defense, Bully and Abduction Awareness/Defense, and Small Child PreSkills." Little Dragons Small Child "PreSkillz" karate class, 6 to 6:30 pm, ages 3, 4, 5, 6 (7) year-olds. Beginner/intermediate class, 7/8 years and above, 6:35 pm to 8 pm. Intermediate/advanced class, all ages, 8 to 8:45 pm. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). More info: call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565.

## State Parks Passes at the Willits Library

Fair weather is returning, and it's a great time to get outside! Visit a California State Park with a FREE California State Library Parks Pass. There are over 15 participating parks in Mendocino County alone!

Just come into the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street, and ask for a parks pass. Each pass can be checked out for 21 days with your library card.

Learn more at www.mendolibrary.org/borrow/california-state-library-parks-pass



Dan Essman, Columnist

**Saturday, June 1**

**First Saturday Benefit for Willits Food Bank:** Cosmic Pickle Productions and the Willits Lions Club present A Benefit for the Willits Food Bank, Saturday, June 1 at the Rec Grove, 12 noon to 5 pm. Music by Cosmic Family Band, Clay Hawkins Trio, and the Farmers Market Band. Food and craft vendors. Free admission.



**Wednesday, June 5**

**Willits Song Circle at Methodist Church:** The free first-Wednesday-of-the-month Willits Song Circle is for people who like to sing together, a community of song. Open to all! This month's Wednesday, June 5 circle, 5 to 6:30 pm at Willits Methodist Church, School and Pine streets, song circle organizers "would especially welcome songs celebrating Summer. Anyone can lead or request a song. If possible, please send the lyrics for songs you request to its2fran@aol.com in advance so we can print up copies. This month's song leaders will be Don Wilits, Fran Gardner, and Madge Strong. Donations accepted for the use of the hall. More info: dwilits@mcn.org, mstrong@willitsonline.com or its2fran@aol.com.

**Baechtel Grove Middle School 8th grade Promotion Ceremony:** Come celebrate the achievements of BGMS' 8th grade class at the promotion ceremony, Wednesday, June 5 at 6 pm at Maize Field at Willits High School. More info: 707-459-2417.

**Willits Charter School 8th grade Promotion Ceremony:** Come celebrate the achievements of the Willits Charter School's

## California Adopt-a-Pet Day, June 1

Mendocino County Animal Care Services in Ukiah will participate in California Adopt-a-Pet Day on Saturday, June 1, with no adoption fees!, at the Ukiah Shelter, 298 Plant Road, on Saturday, June 1, from 10 am to 1 pm. Event applies to dogs and cats who are spayed and neutered, and who leave the shelter the day of the event. For dogs, the \$31 Mendocino County license fee still applies.

"We invite you to meet and fall in love with our amazing pets who are eagerly awaiting loving homes! Thanks to the generous support of ASPCA in partnership with CalAnimals, all adoption fees are covered!" Visit www.mendocinanimalshelter.com to see all adoptable animals at the Ukiah Animal Shelter.





Tickets still available for Sober Grad Spring Raffle Basket!

Tickets are still available to purchase ahead of the June 3 drawing and cost \$5 each. They're available from Willits Sober Grad board members or members of the Class of 2024. More info: willitssobergrad@gmail.com.

**WILLITS SOBER GRAD Raffle Basket**

Basket Includes

Basket is filled with wonderful spring items, Flourish & Flow 1 month membership, Oil Change from NorCrawl, Pampered Chef Deep Stone Dish & Focaccia Bread Mix, Good Guys Gym (2) 3 month memberships, Frontier Days Ticket Family Pack, Full Color Service from Hair by Winter Wilson, Beach Blanket, Picnic Backpack, Bamboo Cutting Board, a load of rock from Northern Aggregates and much, much more!

\$5.00 per ticket



Above and below: Brookside Elementary School students have fun in Barbie Gonzalez's kindergarten class. While having fun, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students are also learning social skills and working on gross and fine motor skills.

**Enrollment open at Brookside Elementary for 2024/25 school year**

Submitted by Jaclyn Luna for Brookside Elementary

Brookside Elementary School is bustling with families enrolling children in transitional kindergarten or kindergarten for fall. Both TK and kindergarten are full-day programs, from 8:10 am to 2:30 pm.

To meet the age requirement, students must turn 5 years old on or before June 2, 2025.

Children benefit from attending TK in multiple ways. They build social and self-regulation skills needed for school and life. TK students also learn pre-literacy, pre-math and other cognitive skills. Children who attend TK are better prepared for academic success. They also have lots of fun and build friendships that can last through high school and beyond!

Pre-enroll at [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com) or call Brookside Elementary with any questions at (707) 459-5385.



**Doug Goss**  
June 5, 1946 – May 1, 2024

Douglas W. Goss (Doug) was born on June 5, 1946 in Billings, Montana to Doris Hare and Tom Kennen (raised by his stepfather, Herbert A Goss) and passed away suddenly May 1, 2024 in Idaho Falls, ID.

Doug's family moved about frequently in the Prineville; The Dalles and Mt. Hood areas of Oregon,

until they eventually relocated in Willits, California. Doug's stepfather served the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department as resident Deputy in Covelo in the late 50's and early 60's. When his parents moved to Willits, Doug elected to stay behind and finish high school in Covelo. Thankful to the Nunnemaker family for hosting him, he excelled in sports and graduated Covelo High School in 1964.

Doug proudly served law enforcement, first with the City of Willits; then Mendocino County Sheriff's Department preferring the Covelo beat (both his stepfather, and his son Tim also patrolled that area), and finally land security chief for Louisiana Pacific (now MRC) – his final years in law enforcement working on eradication of marijuana with the COMMET Team.

Rodeo was also in his blood. A bull rider as a youngster, he never lost the love of rodeo. Doug volunteered and was on the board of directors for Willits Frontier Days for over 40 years. He proudly chaired the Heritage Award Committee – and pulled rough stock tags for the "roughies" all over Northern California for stock contractors Dick Hemsted; John Growney; Mike Mora and Lou Bugenig.

Although law enforcement and rodeo shared a big piece of his heart – the biggest piece was love and support of his family. He loved living and raising his boys (and all their friends) on Harmony Hill and had many conversations with G-Ma about its future. In 2019, he made the difficult decision to move from Willits to Idaho Falls to be closer to his sons. That decision turned out to be the biggest blessing – in Idaho, he enjoyed fishing; going out to lunch and dinner; cruising the Teton Mountain area on side by sides with the boys; chatting it up with the neighbors and literally loving life. His wife coaxed him into joining the health club where they met friends there 3 x week for water aerobics.

Doug is survived by his wife, Kathleen Goss; his sons Boyd Kennen (Sue); Eric Goss Gibson; and Tim Goss. He is also survived by his sisters, Gloria Goss (Washington); Linda Goss (Nevada); Karen Munson Kennen and Tom Kennen (both of Oregon). Doug was so proud to have five grandsons, Cody Goss (Hannah); Brody Kennen; Chance Kennen; Tyler Shockley and Austin Gibson – but leaving the best for last, his great-granddaughter, Peyton.

The family has planned a semi-private celebration of his life for June 30th in Redwood Valley, CA. Please contact Kathleen at [zkoss@yahoo.com](mailto:zkoss@yahoo.com) if you would like details.



**Destination Adventure**

Starting June 31, Redeem every 100 points after earning 100 today's points for one ticket entry into the drawing!

Random Hot Seat Drawings for Free Play and Bonus Entries from 5 to 9 pm on

**Mondays Wednesdays Fridays**

Earn points for entries into the Destination Adventures

Drawing where 1 Grand Prize Winner will win an Outdoor Camping Set on

**June 29 at 9 pm**

Camping Set Includes:  
1 KTT Family Cabin Tent  
4 Sleeping Bags  
4 Camping Chairs  
1 Portable Camping Kitchen  
1 Triton 2 Burner Camp Stove  
1 Camping Lantern

**SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO**  
[www.svrcasino.com](http://www.svrcasino.com)

**LEGAL NOTICES**

WW486  
**SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)**  
(CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): 24CV00401)  
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): RONNIE PUTNAM, a single man, FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, a Florida Corporation, all persons unknown, claiming any legal or equitable right, title, estate or lien, or interest in the property described in the complaint adverse to the title of the Plaintiffs, or any cloud upon the Plaintiff's title thereto; DOES 1-150, inclusive.  
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): TIMOTHY T. McISAAC and PIARIVA McISSAC, as Trustees of the Mclaac Revocable Trust dated July 29, 2015.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Website ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

iAVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en forma legal correcta si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda deshechar el caso.

The Real Property which is subject to this action is described as being: that certain real property situated in the State of California, County of Mendocino, more particularly described as the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 22 North, Range 10 West, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, also administratively described as Mendocino County Assessor's Parcel Number 034-050-05.

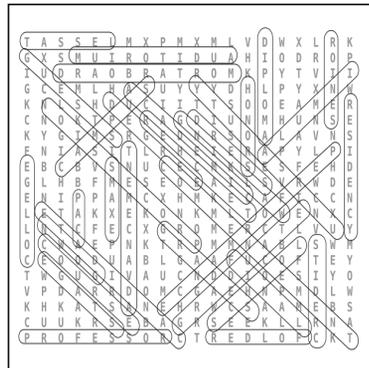
The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MENDOCINO, 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado es):

CHRISTOPHER J. NEARY  
110 South Main Street, Suite C  
Willits, CA 95490  
(707) 459-5551

Date: (Fecha) April 3, 2024  
s/Kim Turner/Deputy (Adjunto)  
Publication Dates: May 9, 16, 23, 30, 2024

**Willits Weekly**  
Online & In Print



**LEGAL NOTICES**

WW491  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2024-F0251  
The following person or persons are doing business as Noyo Theater, 57 East Commercial Street, Willits CA 95490-3101.  
Registered owners: James Patrick Devine and Michelle Lynn Hutchins, 1801 Hearst-Willits Road, Willits CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by a married couple.  
The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 15, 2024.  
s/ James Patrick Devine  
Publication dates: May 23 and 30, June 6 and 13, 2024

**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](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

WW486  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2024-F0237  
The following person or persons are doing business as The Whistle Stop, 280 East Commercial Street, Willits CA 95490; 707-354-2539.  
Registered owner: Imagination Station Preschool & Childcare Center, 11 North Marin Street, Willits CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 2, 2024.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 2, 2024.  
s/ Saprina Rodriguez, CEO & 100% Owner  
Publication dates: May 16, 23, and 30, June 6, 2024

WW489  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2024-F0249  
The following person or persons are doing business as Forest Valley Farm, 16750 Walker Lake Road, Willits CA 95490; 707-354-1252.  
Registered owners: Evelyn Angouli Fisher and Adrian Christopher Fisher, 16750 Walker Lake Road, Willits CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by a married couple.  
The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 13, 2024.  
s/ Evelyn A. Fisher and Adrian Fisher.  
Publication dates: May 16, 23, and 30, June 6, 2024

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: PATSY NELL PHILLIPS AKA PATSY PHILLIPS**  
CASE NO. 24PR00078

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: PATSY NELL PHILLIPS AKA PATSY PHILLIPS. A Petition for Probate has been filed by TAMRA L. PHILLIPS in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that TAMRA L. PHILLIPS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: June 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

If you object to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: Alexander C. Rich, CARTER RICH PC, 716 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490 Telephone: 707-456-9210  
Publication Dates: May 16, 23, and 30, 2024.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

WW488  
CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT  
**NOTICE INVITING FORMAL BIDS**  
PROJECT NO. 2024-01

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for: The work shown on the project plans entitled:

CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT PROJECT PLANS

For:  
**2024 Pavement Preservation Project - Project No. 2024-01**  
The work for this project includes pavement improvements on portions of Blosser Lane, Locust Street, and Walnut Street totaling approximately 46,500 square feet and approximately 10,000 square feet of asphalt digouts on East Commercial Street. It also includes construction of new sidewalks, curb and gutter, asphalt dikes, pedestrian ramps, and driveways within the project footprint.

IN  
City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California &  
The work described in specifications books entitled: CITY OF WILLITS - BID BOOK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS CITY OF WILLITS - PROPOSAL PACKET CITY OF WILLITS - EXAMPLE AWARD PACKET

For:  
**2024 Pavement Preservation Project - Project No. 2024-01**  
IN

City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California will be received by a designated representative, of the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, until the hour of 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers, of the City of Willits, located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.

**THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS IS: \$886,755.89**

The contractor shall possess a Class A license at the time this contract is awarded.

- Key Dates:**
- Pre-bid Meeting: May 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m. (on site)
  - Final Questions from Bidders: June 5, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.
  - Final Addendum Issued June 11, 2024
  - Bid Opening: June 20, 2024 2:00 p.m.
  - Project Start Date: July 8, 2024
  - Project Length: 120 working days (Completion: 1/2/2025)

Interested bidders should contact the following to obtain electronic copies of plans and other bid documents:

Brandy Sanderson  
[bsanderson@cityofwillits.org](mailto:bsanderson@cityofwillits.org)  
(707) 459-7143

CITY OF WILLITS: s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk  
DATED: 5/16/2024

Publication Dates: May 16, 23 and 30, 2024

**MENDOCINO COUNTY**

**Mendocino County invites applications for:**

- Auditor/Appraiser**  
\$68,515 - \$83,283
- Corrections Deputy**  
\$55,369 - \$67,308
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner**  
\$75,878 - \$93,142
- Director Social Services**  
\$143,083 - \$173,908
- Juvenile Corrections Officer**  
\$50,710 - \$61,630
- Licensed Vocational Nurse**  
\$56,076 - \$68,140
- Program Specialist I/II**  
\$51,396 - \$68,931
- Real Property Appraiser I/II**  
\$59,779 - \$79,664
- Real Property Appraiser Technician**  
\$51,584 - \$62,691
- Senior Public Health Nurse**  
\$101,296 - \$123,136

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs)  
EOE

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



Bruno

### Talk About Bruno

Bruno is a hearty fellow – athletic and playful for sure. A happy, friendly boy, Bruno is an affectionate softy who loves to be involved in daily life. He has the unrivaled energy of a puppy, and is eager to go hiking, running, and take long walks or runs. He LOVES people. He would be thrilled to be a jogging partner, and he has enough of a presence to be a protective running mate. Mostly he would run alongside and look up at you with his big goofy smile and tongue hanging out!

Bruno is best suited for an experienced owner who can provide him with training and ample exercise. He would be happiest with lots of space with which to expend his energy, so city life won't cut it for our eager and athletic boy. He is dog friendly to a point, but can be choosy, particularly with some male dogs, he needs space and proper introductions. If you're an active person ready to give your all to Bruno, we'd love to hear from you!



Axil

To learn more about Bruno, or to view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://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.

### Silky Axil

Axil may need some time to adjust to a new home but seems to enjoy human attention. He came in with another cat, Rose, and would love to be adopted with his feline friend. Two cats are better than one!

Axil may need some coat maintenance to prevent matting.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from noon to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 3 pm (closed



Brother

for lunch from 1 to 1:30 pm) on Saturdays. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com). Call 707-467-6453 for more information.

### Little Brother

Meet Brother! You guessed it, he is related to our recent shelter guest "Sister." Brother is a sweet dude and a very nice size! He won't get too big and he is ready to start meeting new people. He hopes to find his forever family soon! Brother likes other dogs, did well with a 7-year-old kiddo and LOVES the water!

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](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com), on our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



Above: Volunteers with 100+ Women Strong of Inland Mendocino County present the big check to Court Appointed Special Advocates. From left: Kasey Gray; Karen Christopherson; Brandy Maxwell, CASA Training and Recruitment Coordinator; CASA Executive Director Sheryn Hildebrand; Kathi Groth; and Carolyn Welch. At right: The crowd at this year's 100+ Women Strong of Inland Mendocino County spring event at Dancing Crow Vineyards in Hopland.

### 100+ Women Strong Inland Mendocino awards CASA \$10,000

Submitted by Heidi Dickerson, for 100+ Women Strong

Another successful 100+ Women Strong for Inland Mendocino County event took place at Dancing Crow Vineyards in Hopland on May 2. Court Appointed Special Advocates, aka CASA, was the winner of \$10,000. The other two nonprofits, the Mendocino County Historical Society and Mendocino County Spay-Neuter Assistance Program, aka SNAP, received half of the rest of the event's proceeds, amounting to at least \$1,500 each.

CASA is a program consisting of volunteers who are screened and trained to look out for the best interests of abused and neglected children of the community who are in the court system. The program has been in effect since 1994 and has served hundreds of children with continued care and attention until their case is concluded.

"We are excited and will use the funding for our Children's Side Account as well as updating our 247 Help Resource APP because of new mandates by the government," said CASA's Executive Director Sheryn Hildebrand. "The APP is meant to support families needing resources in our little neck of the woods and also supports our law enforcement and medical community in providing resources to homeless families and families during law enforcement call out. Our Children's Side Account is used to support things for our youth where other funding is limited. For example, we have a pregnant teen who we will support with needed items for her new arrival in June."



To find out more about CASA visit <https://mendocinocasa.org/our-story>.

Everyone at the 100+ Women Strong gathering was feted to a buffet of organic appetizers provided by Caring Kitchen of Mendocino, sponsored by Visit Mendocino County. Dancing Crow wines were available at the Mediterranean-style winery.

100+ Women Strong Inland Mendocino County, an inclusive all-volunteer group, has distributed more than \$201,000 since its founding in 2019.

Anyone interested in attending the next gathering on October 3 and hearing from three nonprofits doing indispensable work in our community is welcome. To register, each attendee pledges \$100 on the 100+ Mendocino Women website via the Community Foundation of Mendocino County at <https://communityfound.org/community/leadership-projects/100-women-strong-inland-mendocino/>. Click the "Donate" button. All previous donors to 100 Women Strong of Inland Mendocino County, who have not done so already, must redo their contribution information on the Community Foundation link. Or call Karen Christopherson, 707-272-5570.



This year's Stamp Out Hunger event, held by the Willits Post Office on May 11, collected 1,513 pounds of food for Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Thank you to all who donated.



### Willits' H&R Block holds annual canned food drive and TV giveaway

As has become a well-loved annual tradition, Willits H&R Block and local owner/operator Barbara Lincoln held the annual food drive and TV giveaway again this year at the end of tax season. 1,142.50 pounds of food went to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank, and client Gerald Peterson went home with the 32 inch Philips Roku television.

Submitted by H&R Block

Above: H&R Block owner Barbara Lincoln, left, stands with Willits Community Services and Food Bank crewmembers including, from left: Dobi Menesin, Larry Garber, Nils Rule-Gustafson and Kenny Mace

At right, top: TV winner Gerald Peterson smiles next to his new set.

At right: Lincoln holds the box as Menesin draws the winning ticket.

Photos by Donnal Caine



## OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, June 1**  
from 11 am to 1 pm

**7400 Ridgewood Road**  
**\$675,000**  
Major price adjustment

Beautiful home on over 70 acres in Willits' Pine Mountain neighborhood  
*Easy-to-find with GPS*

Listed by:  
Raymond Hebel DRE #02092144  
707-367-9737  
Luxe Places International R 707-462-1600  
Tony Sorace  
DRE #00672123  
Ponderosa & Sun Realty  
BAREIS.MLS#: 323023603

## photo•tog•ra•phress

[fuh-tog-ruh-friss]

noun: Maureen Jennison: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

Scan the QR code with your phone or log on to:  
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See the photos and order prints!

707-972-7047 maureengetsmail@gmail.com

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Residential & Commercial  
Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties

## WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS BULLS & BRONCS

JULY 6, 2024 GATES OPEN AT 6 PM, EVENT AT 7 PM

MUTTON BUSTIN'  
BREAKAWAY JACKPOT - \$500 ADDED MONEY  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS JUNIORS  
CALVES SUPPLIED BY LOU BIGGEMIG

BRONCS & BULLS - \$2,000 ADDED MONEY EACH  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY CLAYTON COOLEY AND KEVIN ROUNTREE

GATES: ADULTS: \$10 KIDS: \$5 ENTRY FORM: WILLITSFRONTIERDAYS.COM  
FOOD INFO: CLAYTON: 805-286-7457 KEVIN: 707-354-1099 MARY: 707-272-5395  
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## CLASSIFIEDS

**Free Furniture**  
Free to good home. Large, wood dining table, 5 chairs, and matching china cabinet. Older, but in good condition. Pick it up, it's yours! 707-459-3702/

**Indoor Yard Sale**  
Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, May 18** from 8 am to 4 pm.

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

**Weed Eating**  
Reliable and efficient. Senior discount. Call Mike at (707) 354-5650.

**'Would You Like to Take Problem-Solving to the Next Level?'**  
Let's explore ways we can use spiritual ideas to unlock the possibilities for effective problem-solving. Join us to share in the discussion or just listen on Saturday, June 1st from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Willits Library. Sponsored by Eckankar in California

**Moving Sale**  
Professional Exercise Bicycle \$50, Kitchen Aid Mixer (only used 4 times) \$50, Ice Machine, \$30, Tooled Leather Purse \$35, Tooled Leather Wallet \$5, 2 Beekeeping Jackets with attached Hats, 2 Gloves \$50. (408) 500-8754

**30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks**

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW492

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Proposed Energy Savings Contract for Solar Project at Multiple Sites**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 12, 2024, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the Willits City Council will consider a resolution formally adopting findings required by Government Code section 4217.10 et seq. City Council will hold a hearing to consider anticipated energy cost savings and other benefits related to entering into a contract for the purchase and installation of solar power generation at the following sites:

City Hall, 111 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490  
Sports Field, 400 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490

The hearing will be held at City Hall, between 6:30 and 8 PM, located at 111 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490.  
Publication Date: May 30, 2024

Maureen & Christopher Moore, 1986ish  
Jennifer Poole, father Herb and brother Herbie, 1965

## Father's Day 'Foto Call'

Annual call for photos for upcoming community collage celebrating Father's Day

The day to celebrate our Dads is just around the corner, falling this year on Sunday, June 16. Willits Weekly would like to encourage the community to not only try and track down that no-fail golf tie, or ... erm ... Concho bolero tie in these here parts, but also to submit a photo of you and your dad, or a special father figure in your life, for our upcoming June 13 edition.

Because really, what would be a better Father's Day gift than having your smiling faces published in the hometown newspaper for all to see and have something to be clipped and hung on the fridge for weeks to come?

Photos can be sent to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com), or, if there's just a physical copy, it can be scanned at Ace Copy and Shipping and then emailed. Please include names of those in the photo, from left to right and or a special message for the holiday. We will try and print as many as we can in our June 13 edition, and look forward to helping create a happy Father's Day for all.

## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

### Agape Bible Church

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

### Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.  
Pastor Kris Strickland  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME  
**Church of Christ**  
"What must we do to be saved?"  
Acts 2:37  
1095 S. Main St., Willits  
(next to Super 8)  
(707) 459-5023  
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service-  
6-7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study-  
7-8:00 p.m.

### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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

### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

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  - 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  
Modified Worship Service  
10 a.m.  
Other ministries suspended  
for now.  
For appointments call:  
(707) 459-3106

### St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday-5:30 p.m.  
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English  
10:30 a.m. - Spanish  
Confessions on Saturday  
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.  
Or by appointment at  
707-459-2252  
https://stanthonywillits.org/  
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

### St. Francis Episcopal Church

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

### St. John Lutheran Church

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

### Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714  
Friendly, open worship  
Saturdays  
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
Zoom Transmission Available.  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
399 W. Mendocino Ave.  
All are welcome!

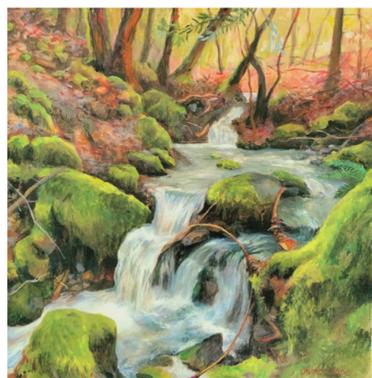
### Willits United Methodist Church

Labyrinth and Peace Garden  
A place to find comfort  
where all are welcome  
Pastor Rosemary Landry  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
707-459-2855  
wumc@willitsonline.com  
www.willitsumc.org  
Facebook: facebook willits umc

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

At right: Artist Judy Chance Hope's recent works, at bottom,  
depict rivers and trees painted in different seasons.

At far right: Artist Margi Gomez Guhde's prints on homemade  
papers, below, are inspired by birds and other wildlife in the  
redwood forests.



## 'Nature, Nurture' opens at Willits Art Center June 1

Submitted by WCA

The Willits Center for the Arts is delighted to announce the upcoming art exhibition "Nature, Nurture," featuring the evocative works of local artists Judy Chance Hope and Margi Gomez Guhde. This captivating show will run from June 1 through June 23, and will explore the profound connection between humanity and the natural world through the eyes of these two creative talents.

A "Meet the Artists" reception will kick off the exhibition on Saturday, June 1, from 6 to 9 pm, providing an intimate opportunity for art enthusiasts to engage with Judy Chance Hope and Margi Gomez Guhde, gaining deeper insights into their artistic processes and inspirations.

Judy Chance Hope finds inspiration in the natural landscapes of Sonoma, Humboldt and Mendocino counties, where she has lived and observed the ever-changing beauty of the woods. "My paintings are often about a place I love," says Hope. "Nature demonstrates how to adapt to change and appreciate what is new. Lately, I've painted local rivers and trees in different seasons. That is the focus of this collection." Her vibrant and detailed works celebrate the tenacious life force of nature, aiming to spark a kindred and sacred moment of awe in the viewer.

Margi Gomez Guhde is currently exploring the art of printmaking,

incorporating decorative and handmade papers as backgrounds and collage elements. "The addition of handmade papers enhances and alters the images in quirky and unexpected ways," Guhde explains. Her inspiration comes from the birds and other animals she observes in the local redwood forests. Through her art, she strives to convey beauty and capture a moment in time, reflecting the natural splendor that surrounds her.

The "Nature, Nurture" exhibition promises to be a thought-provoking and visually stunning display of contemporary art, exploring themes that resonate deeply with audiences of all ages. The Willits Center for the Arts invites the community to experience this extraordinary show and engage with the artists who bring these compelling visions to life.

Gallery hours at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm.

The Willits Center for the Arts is dedicated to promoting artistic expression and cultural enrichment in Northern California. Through various programs and exhibitions, WAC strives to engage the community in the arts, providing educational opportunities and fostering a deep appreciation for artistic endeavors. Visit [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org) to learn more.



Above, from top: The light and airy front room at WCS is a comfortable and pleasant place to work. Patrick Hart shares a moment with warehouseman Larry Garber in the back of the facility. A sample of what goes into the distributions for the attendees.

Photos by Mathew Caine

### The rest of Food Bank

to look at but are perfectly nutritious are now stored at Safeway and Mariposa to be picked up weekly by the crew at the Food Bank.

"They throw away a lot of food just because it doesn't look beautiful. We get about four tons a month here. They store the food in bins in Mariposa and Safeway. We go over on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to the groceries and do recovery," added Tippit.

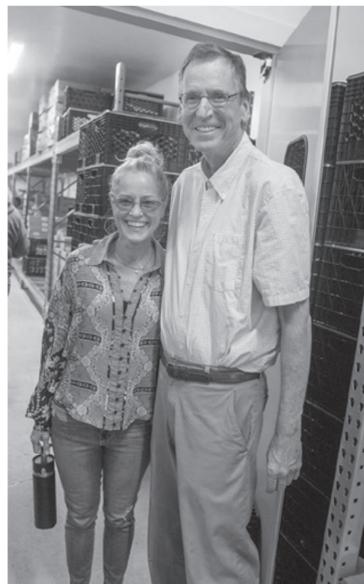
"We have four major components that we give out," explained warehouse manager Dan Beebe. "We have what we call a 'commodity bag,' a produce bag, a cold bag, which is milk, eggs, some dairy, maybe a sweet dessert, some miscellaneous items. Then, we have what we might call 'an extra credit bag' in case we have a lot of some other inventory. Everyone will get some kind of produce. They'll get a cold bag. There's always some kind of bread, some kind of complex carb. Then our commodity bag.

"I always try to have either a rice, a pasta, or a dried bean of some sort, something that can be the foundation of a meal," said Beebe. "This week we gave out catfish, and when we ran out of that, we had salmon. We always try to give out some kind of animal protein if we can. We do have a little bit of vegetarian option. We always try to give out eggs if we can, some type of milk."

Last Friday, the Willits Food Bank served 179 families and they expect that number to rise due to the closing of the Redwood Empire distributions at the ball fields. In order to support the increased numbers, the Willits Food Bank needs volunteers and money.

"We have about five and a half months of solvency left," said a concerned Tippit. They are currently looking for grants and donations, as well as citizens to support several state bills that are being considered. SB304 Food Insecurity and Hunger, AB175 Food Assistance Program, AB1111 Food Bank Funding, HR 1073 Fighting Hunger Incentives Act, S-346 Food Insecurity and Hunger Funding, and HR 2311 Summer Meals Act.

For more information, visit [www.willitsfoodbank.com](http://www.willitsfoodbank.com), email [info@willitsfoodbank.org](mailto:info@willitsfoodbank.org), or call 459-3333.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Above: Necole Aguilar, in addition to bringing her fiance's Chevy K-10 truck, was enlisted to sing the national anthem. At right: New Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Misty Johnson holds up a commemorative T-shirt. Below, left: The antique fire engine carries passengers along the route of the car show. Below, right: The automobiles gleam with shiny paint jobs and sparkling chrome. At bottom: Sixteen Corvettes, of all years, have their own section at the show.

### The rest of Car Show

Burt Silva, who won the Best in Show award with his Boss 302 Mustang, a deep red beauty of a classic car, told of its history: "This car has been in my family for 20 years. I love this event. I love cars and I'm surrounded by all these car guys. This has a Boss 302 engine. It was designed specifically to race in the Trans Am racing circuit in the late '60s and early '70s. The year that it was made, it won the entire Trans Am racing circuit. When we got this, we had to rebuild all of the wiring, repaint it, put new tires on it, redo the interior."

Necole Aguilar, who was enlisted to sing the national anthem to open the show, came with her fiance's '70 Chevy K-10. "He hasn't done a lot to it," explained Aguilar. "I think it has a couple inches of lift, maybe three inches. It's got the tires that he loves. He's very good at taking a vehicle and adding just the right elements, not too much but just right to make it have just the right stance. He gets a lot of compliments. He'll be driving down the road and little old

ladies will give a thumbs up. It's kind of blown his mind at how many people love this."

With 150 vehicles, there were many discussions and mini-lectures occurring. Everyone that Willits Weekly spoke with gave great reviews to the change of venue, even though there were some who objected to it being moved from the pleasant shady surroundings of Rec Grove Park, but they seemed to be in the minority.

Mike Tobin, who has DJ'd and announced for the event for several years, appreciated the change. "I love this," he shared. "This is a great venue. The cars are on the pavement where they belong. We have our Main Street, our vendors and local businesses, Chamber of Commerce, and everybody's going to have a good time. Most towns have their car shows like this. Go to Petaluma. Go to Santa Rosa. Go to Cloverdale. Go to School Street in Ukiah. They close off the street and have a great time."



Above: Porter Garman runs the football at WHS practice. Below: Linemen Donald Glenn and Ayden Thrillkill prepare for the block.

Photos by Ava Dockins

### The rest of Sports

Class A runner-up for the long jump.

Congratulations to these two athletes for their amazing accomplishments. Track and field has wrapped up a successful season and Willits can't wait to see what the athletes are made of next year.

"It was a rough year practicing on our track because of the weather and the track conditions," said Coach Moratti, "but Leo did improve in his jumping consistency, hitting nearly 22 feet in practice, and he has a chance of being a four-time [Meet of Champions] qualifier next year.

"Nikolas was really excited to compete this year," said Moratti, "and it's awesome to see him have the opportunity to perform with his peers."



### The rest of Grads

Officials, staff and teachers sat on and flanking the stage where the graduates were seated, including members of the Board of Trustees (President Xochilt Martinez; Trustee Noel O'Neill; Trustee Marie Myers; Trustee Robert Jason Pinoli; Trustee Barbara Rice; Trustee Lorree Crandell; Trustee TeMashio Anderson; and Student Trustee Lawrence Ortiz); Superintendent and President Timothy Karas; Assistant Superintendent and Vice President of Administrative Services Eileen Cichocki; Vice President of Academic Affairs Debra Polak; Vice President of Student Services Ulises Velasco; and President of the Faculty Senate Nicholas Petti.

After checking in and congregating in the staging area for photos, well-wishes and more, graduates were led into the ceremony space by Dean of Applied Academics Christy Smith; Dean of Counseling and Student Retention Ingrid Larsen; Dean of Instruction Rebecca Montes; and Chemistry Professor and ASMC Advisor Marcus Frederickson.

The graduates filed into the rows of seating reserved at the base of the stage dressed in dark blue robes. Many wore additional honors including gold cords, stoles that indicated their membership in Phi Theta Kappa or the Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement programs. Many students also wore adornments honoring their nationality or heritage, and some were decorated with flowers and monetary bills folded into intricate designs.

In the sea of blue square mortar board graduation caps, shown backwards towards the audience in the stands, some stood out, as some graduates also chose to decorate the cap's flat surface, writing messages to parents and loved ones, messages of encouragement or humor, or simply sparkles, beads and glitter.

The national anthem was sung by graduate Gwendolen May van Wyk, and a blessing was given by Martin Martinez. A land acknowledgment was followed by Timothy Karas, who also gave the welcome speech and introduction of those sitting on the platform.

Zoe Bigelow, AS Agriculture - Horticulture - was the student speaker and gave a heartfelt address to her class and those in attendance at Friday's ceremony.

Debra Polak gave the presentation of the candidates, and Karas gave the conferral of degrees and certificates after. It was then up to EOPS CARE Specialist Nancy Heth and PTA Program Specialist Aura Weis to run through the announcement of the candidates, reading each person's name aloud as the graduate crossed the stage, shaking hands with the platform party, receiving their diploma, and then posing for their official portrait.

After the final grad returned to their seat, Polak announced the time to transfer the tassel, and Karas gave closing remarks.

Congratulations to all the graduates!

Photos of the 2024 ceremony are available here: <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/mendocollege>

See a full list of graduates in the June 6 edition of Willits Weekly.

## 2024 WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS SWEETHEART CONTESTANT

# ELENA ARKELIAN



**Friday, June 21:**  
HOMETOWN CELEBRATION  
Main Street - Downtown Willits | 5 to 9 pm

**Saturday, June 22:**  
SWEETHEART JUDGING  
Appearance & Poise  
10 am | Rodeo Grounds

**Sunday, June 23:**  
HORSESHOW  
Jack Tharp Arena | 8 am

**Friday, June 28:**  
CARNIVAL OPENS  
TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS  
Jack Tharp Arena | 6 pm  
Adult: \$20, Child (12 & under): \$10

**Weekend of June 29/30:**  
SWEETHEART CROWNED  
**Wednesday, July 3:**  
CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO  
7 pm | Jack Tharp Arena  
Box: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (12 & under): \$10

**WESTERN DANCE**  
featuring Chad Bushnell  
Following rodeo | Free

**Thursday, July 4:**  
HORSESHOE CONTEST  
Rec Grove Park | 10 am

**PARADE "Cowboys and Cadillacs"**  
Main Street - Downtown Willits | 11 am

**COUNTRY MUSIC RODEOLA**  
Rec Grove Park | Noon

**BEEF BARBECUE**  
Rec Grove Park | Noon  
Adult: \$20 & Child (12 & under)/Senior: \$12

**CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO**  
Jack Tharp Arena | 4 pm  
Box: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (12 & under): \$10

**Friday, July 5:**  
LIONS COWBOY BREAKFAST  
Rec Grove Park | 7 am  
Adult: \$13, Child (12 & under): \$9

**JUNIOR RODEO**  
Jack Tharp Arena | 8 am  
Adult: \$10, Child (12 & under): \$5

**Saturday, July 6:**  
BULLS & BRONCS:  
Jack Tharp Arena | 7 pm  
Adult: \$10, Child (12 & under): \$5

**Call or text for tickets:  
707-354-2877**

## 2024 WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS SWEETHEART CONTESTANT

# CATIE SPACKMAN



**Friday, June 21:**  
HOMETOWN CELEBRATION  
Main Street - Downtown Willits | 5 to 9 pm

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