

# Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 643

Thursday, June 18, 2026

## Brooktrails talks budget and cost increases

Barbara O'Reardon  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Board President Tina Tyler-O'Shea was unable to attend the June 9 meeting of the Brooktrails Township Community Services District board, so, in her absence, the meeting was conducted by Vice President Rick Williams.

There were two public hearing items listed:

- 1) For Resolution 2026-07 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026-07 Financial Plan for Services (The Budget)
- 2) Resolution 2026-08 Adopting a Cost of Living

Read the rest of **Brooktrails**  
Over on Page 11

## Juror compliance hearings have begun in Ukiah

Submitted by Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino

June 8 – Judge Keith Faulder has presided over the first two juror compliance calendars in April and May. A random sample of potential jurors who had disregarded their jury summons were ordered to appear before the court to explain why they did not comply with repeated attempts to summon them for jury duty.

For the first two calendars, the court ordered 87 people to appear at these hearings. Those who appeared at the hearings were given an opportunity to explain to the judge why they did not comply with their summons.

Read the rest of **Summons**  
Over on Page 11

## Curfew laws for Willits youth

Posted by WPD

The summer vacation is upon us, and we would like to re-issue this previous notice for all parents of minors for curfew laws from the Willits Municipal Code. Willits Police Department has received an increase in complaints for juvenile offenses related to minors out after curfew.

As a reminder the City of Willits Municipal Code Chapter 9.84 provides the following curfew for unaccompanied minors:

The curfew for minors between 16-18 years old is between 11 pm and 5 am.

The curfew for minors under age 16 is between 10 pm and 5 am.

Parents, guardians, or other adults having the

Read the rest of **Curfew**  
Over on Page 9



Above, from left: Wilma's red hair was selected by the sponsor to honor two red-headed sisters from Willits. The crew who installed Wilma made the task look like a piece of cake, from removing her off the trailer, to standing her up, to placing her, including, from left: Stephen Hoyle, Fred Barry, and Bruce Cartwright. Wilma gets slowly moved next to Cowboy Willy at the north end of the arena.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above: Fred Barry, Willits Frontier Days president, Barry Trucking owner, and all-around problem-solver extraordinaire, picked up Wilma from Hayward and brought her home and under the Willits Arch Friday morning on her way to the rodeo grounds. At left, from top: All settled in place, Wilma stands next to Willy at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds. A telescoping forklift was expertly used to lift Wilma upright with the assistance of boards and complicated rigging to ensure she stood up in one piece. The spurs feature a special detail from their sponsor; can you spot it?

## She's Here!

### Willy gets his Wilma at the Willits Frontier Days grounds in time for centennial celebration

Only once before has Willits Weekly printed a "She's Here!" headline on the front page of our hometown paper – when my sweet little Maggie was born at the end of July in 2021. The community anticipation for her arrival was wide-felt.

Maureen Jennison  
Graphics & Photographress  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Now, while Wilma, the giant fiberglass statue recently installed at the Willits Frontier Days grounds, obviously isn't technically something I physically gave birth to in the same way, lemme tell you – it feels like almost as involved of a journey, and the level of community anticipation for Wilma's arrival

has also been high.

Well, after an eight-year journey, and an intense last 10 or so months, I am thrilled to announce that Wilma is indeed here, and in time for the 100th year celebration of Willits Frontier Days this June and July.

Fundraising for Wilma was a community effort; many businesses, community groups, and individuals made donations to her fund, some generally, and some for specific things including eyes, hair, clothing and make-up colors – others did her boots, hat, spurs, jewelry, and more.

Read the rest of **Wilma**  
Over on Page 10

Below, from left: Wilma's mold is originally for a UniRoyal Gal, and comes wearing a bikini by default. On top of the cowboy hat sits a tiara, just like the ones that the real Sweethearts wear. Willits Rocks' Laurie Burghardt started work on one of her amazing painted rocks honoring Willy and Wilma. Fred Barry smiles proudly once arriving at the rodeo grounds after a 4-hour-plus drive, with a safely delivered Wilma. At bottom: After coming up with the idea in 2018 of getting Willy a Wilma, she now finally stands beside him, just in time for the 100th annual celebration this year.



## Election updates show Bourassa in first, Hart in second

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Buffey Wright-Bourassa has taken and maintained first place in the 3rd District Supervisors race, as of the last two updates from the Mendocino County Elections Office. As of the June 15 update, Bourassa has 1,442 votes, or 32.80% of the vote. Candidate Eric Hart has been in second place in the last two updates, and as of the June 15 update, has 1,391 votes, or 31.64% of the vote.

In county supervisors' elections, if no candidate wins 50% plus 1 vote in the primary, the top two candidates go on to compete in the November general election. The final Election Night report showed candidate Hart with a 5-vote lead, Bourassa gained a 53 ballot lead as of the June 11 update, and is ahead by 51 votes as of the June 15 update.

Although candidates did change places once as election results updates were reported, it's been clear since the final Election Night report that there will be two candidates competing in

Read the rest of **Election**  
Over on Page 9

## New city staff at work on upcoming budget

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Willits City Council heard some good news from new finance staff about the timeline of City of Willits' upcoming 2026/27 budget and past budget audits.

New interim city manager James Connor took a few minutes to introduce himself at the June 10 meeting. Connor worked with the City of Willits as an interim police chief in 2023 and 2024. He spent his 25-year career in Sonoma County in the police department. "I'm here to do the very best that I can to help out," Connor said. "My primary goal here is to help the council find a city manager that will fit the community's needs and the city staff and the council's needs."

Connor said his CalPERS pension would allow him to work fulltime for about 5.5 months. "And my commitment to the council is that I will be here for that entire time, provided they need me for that time, so that we can maintain stability and continue with the progress that we made on the changes already so far."

Read the rest of **Staff**  
Over on Page 9

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Thanks to Willits Rotary

To the Editor:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of Willits Rotary's 2nd Annual Grill & Give event on February 28, 2026! Willits Food Bank was one of three organizations chosen to be the recipients of the proceeds from this event. We received \$12,313.50 for our food bank, and we could not be more grateful. The event was well-attended, well-organized, the food was great, the silent auction had something for everyone, and the live auction was fantastic. I want to acknowledge Jenn Drew and Eric Hosford for all their efforts as the main organizers for such a well-run event.

Thank you to Willits Community Services board members, Lou Meier and Alex Rounds and Willits Food Bank Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Shuster, for organizing a truly special Volunteer Appreciation BBQ Party at Rec Grove on May 21, 2026. You really knocked it out of the park on this event, the venue, the food and the decor was just perfect. We were able to honor our 2025-2026 volunteers, with Willits Food Bank staff and board members presenting the awards and gifts. A special recognition pin was awarded to a select few "Shining Stars" who each had logged over 100 hours of service to Willits Food Bank in either 2025 or 2026. We hope every one of our volunteers felt the love and that you know how special you each are to us. I would like to shout out a thank you to the Whistle Stop for donating gift certificates for our volunteers for their cafe to add to their gifts as well.

Willits Community Services and Food Bank celebrated our 45th year in January 2026 and continues to be the local "go-to" for low-income and food-insecure families and individuals for healthy food and resources in Willits. We serve an average of 500 households with nutritious food using either the "Client Choice" shopping model that enables our clients to select their own items, or a "Grab & Go Bag" specifically for individuals that can only use ready-to-eat foods that require no preparation.

Our program aims to keep our community fed so no one goes hungry during this challenging time when the cost of groceries, gas, utilities and housing is continuously on the rise. Our distribution days and times are Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 am to 4:30 pm.

We also offer incidental items such as personal care kits, pet food, diapers, baby food & formula, socks, blankets, and sleeping bags. These items are freely given and available by request, but are limited to what we have on hand. We are in need of donations of these items as well as shelf-stable foods and fresh produce.

Please note: We do not accept other types of refrigerated food, frozen items, or opened food, and do not take clothing donations. You may deliver donations to the warehouse on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm or to the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Alternatively, you can donate your time by becoming a volunteer, writing us a check, or donating online on our website: [www.willitsfoodbank.com](http://www.willitsfoodbank.com). Your gift of any amount helps and is greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to: Willits Food Bank and dropped off or mailed to: Willits Community Services and Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490 . Contact (707) 459-3333 with questions or for resources.

Wendy Copperfield, executive director, Willits Community Services and Food Bank

## A PROCLAMATION OF THE WILLITS CITY COUNCIL

### Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Willits Frontier Days

"The Year of the Sweetheart", and

Designating Willits Western Wear Days, June 22 through July 4, 2026

WHEREAS, for one hundred years, Willits Frontier Days has stood as a cherished tradition in the City of Willits, bringing together residents, visitors, families, and generations of community members in celebration of our western heritage, pioneering spirit, and enduring sense of community; and

WHEREAS, since its founding in 1926, Willits Frontier Days has grown into California's longest-continuous-running and most beloved rodeo and community celebrations, honoring the history, culture, and values that have shaped the City of Willits and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the historic 100th Anniversary of Willits Frontier Days, representing a century of volunteerism, dedication, tradition, and community pride that has enriched the lives of countless individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, this centennial celebration embraces the theme, "The Year of the Sweetheart," recognizing the spirit of friendship, kindness, community connection, and the cherished relationships that unite generations of Willits residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the Sweetheart tradition serves as a reminder that the true strength of Willits Frontier Days lies not only in its rodeo arena and festivities, but in the people whose generosity, service, and commitment have sustained this treasured event for one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, the organizers, volunteers, sponsors, contestants, royalty, community partners, and supporters of Willits Frontier Days have worked tirelessly to preserve and strengthen this historic celebration, ensuring that future generations may continue to experience its unique legacy; and

WHEREAS, the Centennial of Willits Frontier

Days provides an opportunity to honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future while recognizing the countless individuals whose contributions have made this milestone possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that we proudly recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Willits Frontier Days, and hereby designate 2026 as "The Year of the Sweetheart" in honor of this remarkable milestone and the enduring spirit of community, heritage, and hospitality that defines the City of Willits.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that all residents and visitors are encouraged to join in commemorating this centennial celebration, honoring the traditions of the past while embracing the promise of the future, and extending the spirit of the Sweetheart throughout the community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this proclamation is issued this 10th day of June, 2026, in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of Willits Frontier Days and with gratitude for a century of memories, traditions, and community pride.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Allman, Mayor of the City of Willits, along with Vice Mayor Matthew Alaniz, Council Members Bruce Burton, Gerardo Gonzalez, and Larry Stranske, do hereby proclaim June 22nd through July 4th, 2026, as

"WESTERN WEAR DAYS"

in the City of Willits and encourage all who enter our community to join us in the rodeo spirit by wearing western apparel.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the CITY OF WILLITS to be affixed this 10th day of June, 2026.

Tom Allman, Mayor

## Caltrans District 1 equipment operator wins Medal of Valor

Posted by Caltrans District 1

Steve Quinliven, an equipment operator with Caltrans District 1 in Willits, was presented with the Silver Medal of Valor at an awards ceremony in Sacramento on Friday, June 11. He was recognized for his extraordinary intuition and lifesaving actions during a storm in Mendocino County.

On May 12, 2025, Quinliven provided first aid to a distressed female motorist, whose car was dangling on an embankment beneath Route 162, until emergency personnel arrived.

Quinliven's honor includes a rare Medal of Valor family legacy. He's also the father of Michael Quinliven, a 2019 Medal of Valor recipient – marking an uncommon, multigenerational tradition of extraordinary public service.

You can watch a video of Steve Quinliven telling his rescue story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhLIHTBZJY>



Steve Quinliven, second from right, with other Medal of Valor honorees and Caltrans staff at the June 11 ceremony in Sacramento.

## Willits Rain Box

A few surprising showers made their way across the Little Lake Valley on June 8 and 9, bringing an average accumulation of 0.19". May ended with a monthly precipitation total of just 0.23", which brought the total accumulation since October 1, 2025 to 49.36".

The June month-to-date accumulation already exceeds June 2024 and 2025 totals and is nearly four times the accumulation for the entire month of March 2026, but there is little cause for celebration. While some light precipitation may occur in August or September, we are likely to conclude this rain year with approximately 50", which would be 14.5" less than the two previous rain years.

– Tim Hanna, Willits Rain Box

location	Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)								rainfall since 01Oct25
	Mon Jun 08	Tue Jun 09	Wed Jun 10	Thur Jun 11	Fri Jun 12	Sat Jun 13	Sun Jun 14	weekly total	
Northbrook Way	0.21	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	54.80
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.32	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	56.04
Valley Rd	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	39.37
Canyon Rd	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	43.62
Pine Mountain			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.24
South Main @ East Oak	0.16	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	54.03
<b>average</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>49.59</b>

data compiled from [weatherunderground \(https://www.wunderground.com/\)](https://www.wunderground.com/)

# Hot Gala

Willits Community Theatre hosts nearly 100 patrons at annual fundraiser

It was billed as a Black and White Gala, but it was really too hot for black. The enthusiastic patrons who attended the Willits Community Theatre gala in the backyard of the Mendocino County Museum Saturday had too entertaining a time to notice the temperature much.

Mathew Caine

Features Writer  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Many were able to find shady spots to sit, converse, partake of a catering extravaganza in the museum conference room, which offered brilliant displays of a vast variety of foods from seven different catering concerns. Not to mention a dessert table that was quite difficult to pass up or to decide which treats not to have.

"The Gala has grown significantly in the last couple of years," explained Willits Community Theatre Managing Director Amythyst Romero. It "began as a small event in 2022 (we skipped a year in 2023), but then in 2024 and 2025, the event sold out at about 80 attendees. This year, we're looking at about 100 people. It's going to be a beautiful event, high-class, catering. We'll have Mayor Tom Allman, as our live auctioneer. We'll have live music.

"This event is leading into our 50th anniversary year. We are in the planning stages already for next year's gala, which will be the biggest ever because we will be joining forces with the Ukiah Players Theatre who is also celebrating their 50th year.... We are expecting it to be at least triple the attendance we are seeing this year.... We're going to try and have it somewhere between Ukiah and Willits, perhaps a winery."

Of course, an event like this would not be possible without generous help from local sponsors, including Mary Guibert, The Howard Foundation, Lions Club of Willits, Michael and Dayle Deer, and the Willits Rotary Club. The food was provided by Smokey Joe's BBQ, Slam Dunk Catering, Garbocci Catering, El Chicano, Szechuan Asian, and Rolling Temptation. Northspur Brewing Co. and Frey Vineyards provided the libations. Jackie Cobbs' Craft House Baking offered a variety of tasty sweet desserts.

The evening began with a welcome and a time for drinks and conversation. Then, the buffet opened at 5:45. At 7 pm, the annual Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Billy Hetherington, by board member David Strock and his wife, Abigail, who sang a lovely duet from their upcoming 2027 production of "The Fantasticks." Hetherington, as he is known for, amused the crowd with some comedy bits and a heartfelt message about his lengthy theater history, his foray into his first production, the Willits Shakespeare Company, his tenure as theater instructor at the Willits Charter School, his work with Space Performing Arts in Ukiah, and his direction of several kids' plays for the Gateway to the Stage Summer Camp.

Next, Willits Mayor Tom Allman, deftly and with great amusement, auctioned off several valuable donated items. Spencer Brewer donated two offerings: an evening of Spencer Brewer music for eight with dinner from Hatake Farm Kitchen, and a day at Brewer's Out-of-the-Box Assemblage Camp. Allman also did a Fund-A-Need where people would pledge various amounts of money to help with the playhouse's mortgage and other needs.

WCT Production Manager Jeff Shipp stepped away from his bartending duties to announce the upcoming 2027 season. "One of our most exciting directors, Bhavy Ducharme, is going to present 'Light Up the Sky.' Next up, after that, Joshua Sternberg, is going to bring us the absurdly weird and wonderful 'Waiting for Godot.' For our third production, everyone knows this one, one of the longest-running shows ever, 'The Fantasticks,' directed by Dave Strock, with musical direction by Abigail Strock. Ending the year, Michael Ducharme will be directing 'Greetings.'"

WCT Managing Director Amythyst Romero explained her vision for the Gateway to the Stage Summer Camp, which is beginning to expand into a year-round series of workshops and instructions. WCT is currently in negotiations for a lease for a new 3,000-square-foot building to house the Gateway program.

"We have branched out from just having the summer camp to having what we termed Gateway to the Stage Academy," Romero said. "The Gateway to the Stage Academy will be holding year-round programming which will include all forms of performing arts, namely voice, acting, improv, dance ... pretty much anything you can think of in performing arts. We also plan to have private music instruction, to teach skills such as recording, tech, and sound. We have big plans."

After all of the announcements, auctions, and amazing food, the evening was capped off with dancing to a new dance music band, Mixed Bag, with Tyler Balthrop on guitar, Paul Hailey on keyboards and guitar, Andrew Robertson on drums, Stacy Maisenbach on bass, and Cherie Sherague on vocals.

In the end, it was a great night, both in terms of fun and fiscal assets. The Fund-A-Need raised \$4,634; the live auction brought in \$6,550; the silent auction made \$2,200. The estimated total raised from the event is \$12,200. The success of the 2026 Gala will help the Willits Community Theatre continue to offer quality entertainment and performing arts classes.



Above, left: Patron Mary Guibert supplied funds for three of the tables at Saturday's WCT Gala fundraiser at the museum. Above: Bhavy Ducharme, one of next year's directors, fills his plate in the museum conference room. At left: The bidders utilized bid cards with their numbers printed on them to make bids during the live auction. Below, from left: Abigail and David Strock, who will be directing "The Fantasticks" next season, sang a duet from the show at the Gala. This stunning quilt from the Willits Quilters Guild, shown by WCT Managing Director Amythyst Romero, sold for \$1,000. Arris and Kathy Vellis are important and prolific members of the Willits Community Theatre production team.



At far left: Page, from the California Conservation Corps, watches over the dessert table with tasty treats from Craft House Bakery. At left: WCT Managing Director Amythyst Romero displays the first live auction item, a wagon full of garden supplies and plants. Below: Cherie Sherague fronts her new dance band, Mixed Bag, that played standards into the evening at the Gala. At bottom: Billy Hetherington accepted his Lifetime Achievement Award with grace, dignity, and a whole lot of humor.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633  
Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographer / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-972-7047  
Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer  
Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter  
Addison Alvarado, school board reporter  
Danya Davis, Police Log  
April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / willitsweekly@gmail.com

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**Willits Weekly**

EST. 2013

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# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

## 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!

## FAMILY FUN WORD SEARCH

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

- |             |          |           |
|-------------|----------|-----------|
| ADVENTURE   | HIKING   | PUZZLE    |
| BARBECUE    | LAUGHTER | ROAD TRIP |
| BIRTHDAY    | LOVE     | SEASIDE   |
| BOARD GAMES | MEMORIES | SWIMMING  |
| CAMPING     | MOVIE    | TOGETHER  |
| CELEBRATION | PARK     | VACATION  |
| DANCE       | PICNIC   |           |
| GAME        | PLAY     |           |

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9			
			10			11							
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## CLUES ACROSS

- Similar
- Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
- No (Scottish)
- \_\_\_ Aires, city
- Morning
- Senior's son (abbr.)
- A notable achievement
- European nation
- Endings
- Puts into place
- Former
- Grenadier
- Sea patrol
- Algerian port
- Norwegian river
- Precipitation
- Sunscreen rating
- New York is one
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Soft mineral with greasy feel
- Retired Brazilian footballer
- An Indian nursemaid

- Atomic #24
- Immobile
- Insignia of royalty
- Seeds from which chocolate is made
- Begin again
- Round root
- Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
- What newlyweds just said
- Empire State
- Give back
- College hoops tournament
- Unstable situations
- Young women's association

## CLUES DOWN

- Administer a drug
- Holy places
- Contrary opinions
- Blood type
- Gags
- Micturating
- Silly
- A type of 'cuff'
- Spanish be

- Austrian river
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Consume food
- California supermarket
- Electronic communication
- Cassia tree
- Written works
- Cool!
- Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
- One who was compensated
- National symbols
- Raising
- A type of talk
- Cloud
- Middle Eastern peoples
- Pouches
- 007's creator
- A cut of meat
- Sports entertainment award
- Christine \_\_\_, actress
- Relief organization (abbr.)
- Canadian province (abbr.)

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

June 1 to June 7

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **95 incidents** in this 7-day period.

## Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

### June 1

9:22 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue and issued a warning.  
 11:42 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 11:56 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue and issued a warning.  
 12:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 12:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Commercial Street and North Main Street and issued a warning.

12:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of South Main Street.  
 2:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue and issued a warning.  
 2:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Monica Lane and issued a warning.  
 2:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:45 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Walnut Street and issued a citation.  
 3:26 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Commercial Street and School Street and issued a warning.  
 6:52 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 8:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.  
 8:54 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a warning.

### June 2

2:44 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and Railroad Avenue.  
 8:02 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.  
 10:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Creekside Court and issued a warning.  
 11:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.  
 11:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a warning.

### June 3

7:14 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.  
 10:50 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.  
 9:56 pm: WIRTH, Shawntee Lanee (43) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Creekside Court. She was arrested on felony charges of domestic corporal injury and violation of a court order with priors, and on misdemeanor charges of false imprisonment and damaging or destroying a wireless communications device.

11:22 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 7:55 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.  
 2:26 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 4:30 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 500 block of Railroad Avenue.  
 8:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:57 pm: REUTERHAYES, Eamon Ireland (18) of N/A was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance.  
 11:05 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 600 block of Central Street.

### June 5

6:41 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

### June 6

8:20 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Valley Street and issued a warning.  
 11:46 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

### June 7

10:14 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of Margie Drive and issued a warning.  
 1:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Holly Street and issued a citation.  
 1:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of North Main Street.  
 3:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 4:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.  
 7:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.  
 7:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 10:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

## 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. Due to increasing food costs, dine-in and to-go meals are now \$9.

- Thursday, June 18:** Mushroom Chicken  
**Friday, June 19:** Carnitas Burrito Wet w/Green Sauce  
**Monday, June 22:** Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce  
**Tuesday, June 23:** Mediterranean Chicken Sandwich  
**Wednesday, June 24:** Sausage Potato Casserole  
**Thursday, June 25:** Chicken Marsala  
**Friday, June 26:** Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

**Activities:** Bingo on Friday nights, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class weekday mornings from 9 to 10 am.

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

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

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

# All Stars

## Willits Redwood Little League Showcase featured their best players, majors and minors

The Willits Redwood Little League All Star Showcase last Saturday evinced sportsmanship, ability, mutual encouragement, with a game that teaches all of those assets in a way that is as fun as it is a serious exercise in team play. Four four-inning games showed what the Little League has taught these youngsters, chosen as the ones with the most ability and team spirit, as well as a positive attitude in all on-field situations. The day's activities were, in a way, a prelude to the upcoming District 35 All Star Tournament upcoming on July 2 and 3.

**Mathew Caine**  
 Features Writer  
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

"Today is our local All Star Showcase," explained board president Andrew Hosford. "It's a great opportunity to highlight all of the best players in the majors and the minors. At 11 am we have the Minors All Star Showcase – the best 8- to 10-year-olds in the league are playing. There are 24 kids, and two teams are playing two four-inning games to highlight the skills that they've gathered throughout the season.

"It's up to the players to decide who makes the local All Stars teams," Hosford continued. "Each team gets ballots, and each kid nominates four players. We take the best five or six from each team. That's what makes up the 20 kids, and there are four at-large positions that the board picks: Four kids that may not have been nominated but have shown really good skills or have shown an All Star attitude, or is a good teammate, has a positive attitude even when losing, that type of thing. We follow the same procedure for the majors, which are 10- to 12-year-olds."

Each All Star team consisted of players from two of the regular season teams. Some chose a name that was a combination of the two teams (The Cubscocks, from Cubs and Whitesocks), and some chose a name that just came off the top of their heads (The Bananas).

All had a great time in the hot sun, playing a game they love and gaining real-world experience. Parents, friends, and family squeezed into the shady spots to cheer their kids on.

The Snack Shack did good business with water, Cokes, and Gatorade, as well as a hefty assortment of sandwiches, including the popular pulled pork sandwich, and nachos. The Snack Shack is one of the major funding vehicles for the league and relies on generous volunteers to run it during the season.

Each set of games began with a coin toss to determine which team would act as the home team for the first game (they would switch for the second game). The home team usually takes the field first. Next, Hosford welcomed everyone and called off the names of the coaches and assistants, prior to naming the players, in batting order, as they lined up on the base line. As each player came out, they were gifted with this year's All Star hat as a memento of their day.

Next, players recited the Little League pledge, basically an oath to be a good sport and to support each other as well as their country. A recording of "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played right before beginning the games.

Between sets of games, Hosford announced some special awards. "We decided to do some awards this year for exemplary efforts," said Hosford. Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles was cited for Softball Coach of the Year. Paul Hosford won for Volunteer of the Year for helping out with the Snack Shack. Nigel Swinney received the Community Service Award for his excellent work and attitude as groundskeeper. Swinney is a Public Works 2.5 employee for the City of Willits.

The District 35 All Star Tournament starts July 2 for the 10 and under kids and July 3 for the 10- to 12-year-olds. Hosford said the board and head coach will decide which of the 12 players at Saturday's showcase, will be on the Willits District 53 All Star team.

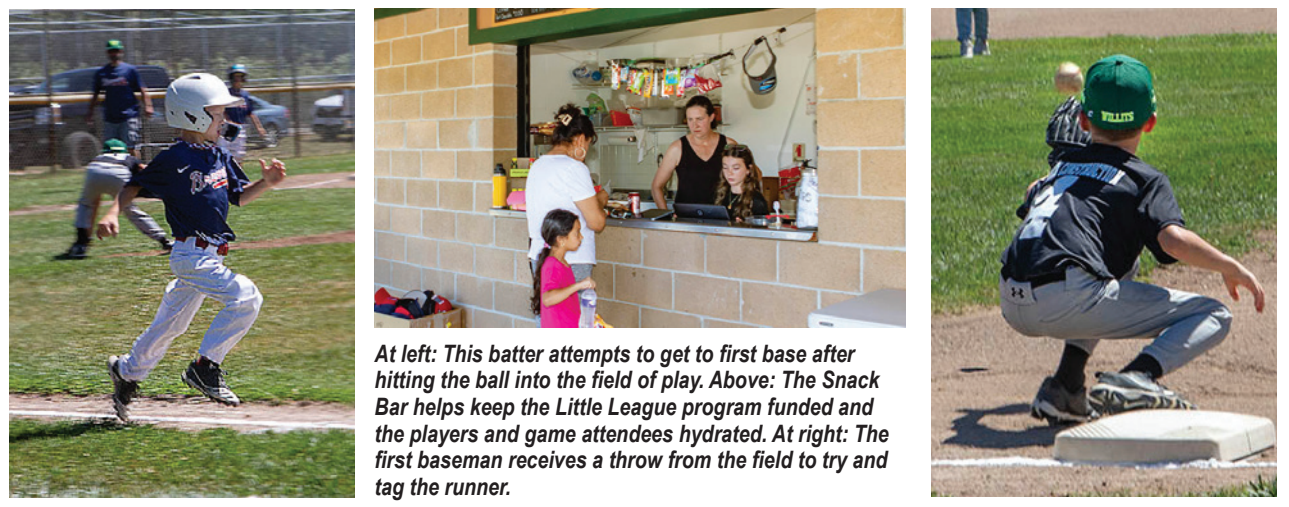
"We'll be playing all over Mendocino and Sonoma counties," Hosford said. "We're hoping to host some of the games here in Willits," as the tournament continues. It might be difficult, logistically, to play games during the 100th anniversary of the Frontier Days Rodeo, but Hosford was sure Willits Redwood Little League "would figure out how to make it work."



At top, left: Andrew Hosford, Willits Little League board president, provides commentary for the Willits Little League All Star Showcase on Saturday. At top, right: The Little League players lined up as their names were called, received their All Star hats, and waited for the Little League Pledge, the national anthem, and the game. Above: Major players from both teams gather for a group photo prior to the start of the game. Below, left: Many parents, along with brothers and sisters, came to watch their children play the All Star games. Below, right: At the end of the games, in a show of sportsmanship, the players and coaches of both teams congratulate each other on a fun and well-played game.



Above, from left: Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles receives an award for Softball Coach of the Year, from Chris Bartow, vice president of the Willits Redwood Little League board. Paul Hosford receives the award for Willits Redwood Little League Volunteer of the Year, for helping to run the Snack Shack all season. Nigel Swinney receives the Community Service Award for the great job he did as the groundskeeper for the city, from Bartow. One of the smaller players with a colorful bat wisely lets an inside ball go by the plate.



At left: This batter attempts to get to first base after hitting the ball into the field of play. Above: The Snack Bar helps keep the Little League program funded and the players and game attendees hydrated. At right: The first baseman receives a throw from the field to try and tag the runner.

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## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
802 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 Evening Service-6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study-7:30 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**  
• A University for Soul  
• Spiritual Living Courses  
• Spiritual Discussions  
• ECK Light & Sound Services  
More information?  
Call 530-224-8703  
www.eckankar.org

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

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. - English  
10:30 a.m. - Spanish  
Confessions on Saturday  
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.  
Or by appointment at  
707-459-2252  
https://saintanthonywillits.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 Bruneau

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Sunday Service  
10:00 a.m.  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
Facebook.com/stjohnswillits  
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

**Willits United Methodist Church**  
Labyrinth and Peace Garden  
A place to find comfort  
where all are welcome  
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
707-459-2855  
wum@outlook.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

Thursday, June 18

**Bit & A Bite at the Museum:** Join the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum for a casual lunchtime history talk by guest speaker Roy Piko, Nom.Laki and Koncow Tribal Member, on Thursday, June 18 at 12:30 pm. Pina will offer a storytelling session, "reflecting on a 5-generation family faith walk and history of the Round Valley United Methodist Church in Round Valley." All are welcome, admission by donation; with refreshments. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits. Also learn about volunteer opportunities.

**Willits Farmers Market:** Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, June 18 from 3 to 5:30 pm, for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

**Avenues to Wellness at WCA:** The Howard Foundation's ATW speaker series presents "Understanding Adult Autism," a free talk by therapist Erin Mendoza, MA, LMFT, on Thursday, June 18, from 6 to 7 pm, at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Mendoza is a late-identified autistic therapist who works with autistic teens and adults in Willits, and virtually throughout California. FREE to the public. Wheelchair accessible. More info: 456-9676.

Friday, June 19

**Hometown Celebration on Main Street:** Willits Frontier Days Hometown Celebration happens downtown on Friday, June 19 from 5 to 9 pm. A free community event featuring live Blues, Southern Rock, and Rock & Roll by the Double Standby band. Also, aerial silk artists Circus Mecca; balloon twisting and face painting by Tiffany's Family Circus; master henna artist Hilary Bocher, artisan vendors, local eats, climbing wall, mechanical bull, and bounce house. Family-friendly fun for all!

**Hillshaker at Shanachie:** Clay Hawkins and Andrew Robertson bring rapid-fire fingerstyle slide guitar and honest, heartfelt songwriting to create a unique brand of acoustic rock on Friday, June 19 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, June 20

**Giant Yard Sale at Willits Mini Storage:** Bring a wagon to carry all the treasure you will find. Saturday, June 20 from 8 am to 2 pm. Willits Mini Storage, 261 Franklin Avenue. Multiple units participating.



**Punk on the Patio at Whistlestop:** Tommy G presents a punk rock show on the patio at the Whistle Stop Cafe, Saturday, June 20, 3 to 7 pm. Featured bands: Splynter, Tangled Ends, and Friends Anonymous. \$15 all ages. 280 East Commercial Street, Willits.

**Ned LeDoux Country Concert:** Willits Frontier Days is proud to welcome back county star Ned LeDoux for a live concert at the rodeo grounds on Saturday, June 20, gates open at 5 pm, show starts at 6 pm, with special guest opener Buck Ford. Tickets are \$40 each and are available from the Sweethearts, at the gate, or online at www.WillitsFrontierDays.com.

**Starlight Lounge Poetry Reading at WCT:** Ukiah poet William Jabez Churchill reads as part of the Starlight Lounge Poetry Reading series at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, on Saturday, June 20 at 7 pm. Churchill, a longtime California Poet in the Schools, "is a multi-cultural and multi-lingual poet who writes equally well in English and in Spanish. He describes himself as an 'activist, single dad and grandfather, instructor in Spanish and French at Santa Rosa, Mendocino and Woodland community colleges.'" Admission to Starlight Lounge Poetry Reading is by donation, but no one turned away for lack of funds.

**Sellassie at Shanachie:** Conscious Hip-Hop artist, social justice activist, and event producer out of the Bay Area. Saturday, June 20 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

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Sunday, June 21

**Happy Father's Day and First Day of Summer!**

**Father's Day Pancake Breakfast at Senior Center:** Good food, great company, \$10 special price for dads, Happy Father's Day, Sunday, June 21 at the Senior Center, 8 to 11 am. Menu: All you can eat Pancakes or Biscuits and Gravy; Scrambled Eggs; Bacon or Sausage; or breakfast special. \$10 for fathers 21+ with a free Bloody Mary; \$13 for adults; \$12 Senior Center members; \$8 children. 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Sip and Paint Brunch at WCA:** This event has been cancelled. Anyone who has already registered

with Willits Center for the Arts for the class, please get in touch with Peter for a refund at manager@willitscenterforthearts.org



**Wednesday, June 24**  
**Dave Pierce at Brickhouse:** Dave Pierce, guitar and vocals, performs a lunchtime solo Wednesday, June 24 from noon to 2 pm, at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

**History Makers Family Activity at the Museum:** Join us on Wednesday in June for a drop-in Family Activity anytime between 2 and 4:30 pm. June 24: Marbled Paper Grey Whales. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street.

Thursday, June 25

**Willits Farmers Market:** Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, June 25 from 3 to 5:30 pm, for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

Friday, June 26

**Willits Frontier Days Carnival opens:** Today is the day for the rides to start and the games to open at the annual carnival located in the old ball fields next to the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds. Presale wristbands will be available until 12 noon sharp on Friday, June 26 at J.D. Redhouse for \$35 each. After, they are available for \$45 each. Carnival Questions: 1-916-761-1722

**Willits Frontier Days Truck and Tractor Pulls:** Come see locals and professionals hook their trucks up and try to pull The Terminator a full 300 feet across the Willits Frontier Days arena during this annual event. Gates open at 6 pm and tickets are available at the gate, or from the Sweethearts; \$25 for adults; \$15 for children 12 and under; children 2 and under are admitted for free.

**Willits Frontier Days Street Dance:** Come dance the night away after the Truck Pulls event (around 9 pm) to the sounds of the Brody Stewart Band at the free Street Dance held on the old tennis courts at the Willits Frontier Days grounds.

**Mudrone at Shanachie:** New band Mudrone plays an assortment of folk, rock and blues tunes. Friday, June 26 at 8 pm. Featuring Jeff Cowin on guitar & vocals, Jim Switzer on guitar, Jeff Martin on guitar & vocals, along with special guests on bass and drums. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, June 27

**Willits Frontier Days Western Art Show:** Today's the opening day at the Willits Frontier Days Western Art Show at the Willits Community Center. The event is free to attend and will showcase works from Western artists in various mediums in adult and youth divisions and the Best in Show winners in each division will receive a custom belt buckle.

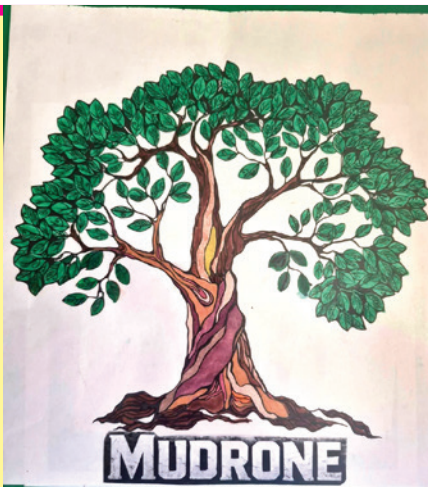
**Mama Circle at Healing House:** Come and join us in our Mama Circle, a nurturing space for mothers & littles hosted by doulas Kaitan and Suraya. The last Saturday of every month, Saturday, June 27 this month, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Healing House, 48 East San Francisco in Willits. Tea & snacks provided. \$5-\$20 suggested donation. Info: 707-599-4207.

**2MuchFun! at Brooktrails Golf:** Dynamic musical duo Paul Haley (Keyboards, Guitar, Vocals) and Dave Pierce (Guitar, Vocals) performs at Brooktrails Golf Clubhouse, Saturday, June 27, 6 to 8 pm. 24860 Birch Street. "Serving up our harmonious, tasty, family-friendly blend of songs."

**Embryonic Devourment in Laytonville:** Willits' own death metal band will play on a bill with Verbal Abuse, Mutate, and more. Saturday, June 27 at the Laytonville Skate Park, 351 Harwood Road, starting at 5:30 pm. \$10 to \$20 donation at the door. Embryonic Devourment, performing for close to 25 years now, will be

leaving a week later to play in the Czech Republic, and want to invite everyone to come out and support the skatepark and our local music diversity.

**Tastes Like Chicken at Shanachie:** a local Willits band putting out an eclectic mix of songs guaranteed to get you moving, Saturday, June 27 at 8 pm. Featuring Charlie Vally on vocals, guitar and keyboard, David Woodle on lead guitar, Kevin Wells on drums and vocals, Joe Swarengin on guitar, keyboard and vocals, and Aaron Luedemann on bass and vocals. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



Sunday, June 28

**Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Dinner:** While not a traditional year for the crowning of the Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart as there are no contestants for the 100th year, just a celebration of all Sweethearts, there still will be a dinner honoring the women, the year's sponsors, the Heritage Award and Grand Marshall winners and more. Dinner has limited tickets and starts at 6 pm at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds.

**Grange Pancake Breakfast:** Join us at the Grange for a wonderful collection of comfort foods —our "scratch" pancakes (sourdough wholegrain, Hank's famous buttermilk, or gluten-free) plus organic, local farm-fresh scrambled eggs, Beeleer's Quality bacon, real butter, juice and organic coffee or tea for only \$13! (\$11 for Senior plate, \$5 for kids under 10). Extra sides of organic fruit, Amish organic maple syrup, fresh fruit syrup or bacon for a small additional fee. Every fourth Sunday, Sunday, June 28 this month, from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Punch cards are available for purchase: \$100 buys 10 months of breakfasts, a savings of \$30 a year.

**Train and Tourism Talk at Museum:** Join us for a lively discussion about early passenger trains and their role promoting Redwood Empire tourism, led by Director Richard Fries of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society. Special ephemera and unique photographs will be shared. Part of the Sunday History and Waffle Club series, last Sunday of the month, Sunday, June 28 this month, at 2 pm, at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Enjoy an afternoon filled with good company, conversation and waffles.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

## 'Disclosure Day'

**The Story:** Steven Spielberg's science fiction, non-stop chase-action thriller based on true events. This flick features extraterrestrial beings, extrasensory mind-reading, car chases, car wrecks, almost-train wrecks, a Kansas City television station, a gorgeous weather lady (Emily Blunt), a sinister and ruthless mastermind (Colin Firth), an ex-con genius hacker (Josh O'Conner), a beautiful Catholic novice in love and gone rogue (Eve Hewson), brutal U.S. government agents who will stop at nothing to guard the very real and explosive revelations about the existence of UFOs. And also the existence of real live alien beings on Earth! Plus, a reindeer, a fox, a chirping cardinal bird, and a couple of real live children. Also, a lot of other characters who look worried, excited, scared and bewildered. Holy moly and wow!!

**My Thoughts:** This is a great movie! We all know that Steven Spielberg loves children and is fascinated by the possibility of alien contact. It has a couple kids and a few aliens. Clearly this movie is a new take on "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." It is inspired by United States research archives that have been more-or-less kept hidden from the public, and quite probably the correlative research of author Professor Jacques Vallée who, in part, inspired the "Close Encounters" flick. Through this movie is quite an edge-of-your-seat chase thriller with a few truly brutal scenes, it has a happy upbeat ending because it's a Spielberg movie. And BTW, I've seen the flick twice. I've enjoyed it both times.

**Parents:** It will probably be a bit confusing for the youngsters and would require a grown-up to provide explanation for what's on the screen, it's clearly aimed at teenagers and adults. But it's all good.

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

## Taste of Redwood Valley 2026, June 20

Celebrate Father's Day weekend at Taste of Redwood Valley, Saturday, June 20, at Frey Vineyards and other Redwood Valley locations. With wine and whiskey tasting from 10 local distilleries and wineries. A family-friendly event: Ring in the summer solstice with live music from The Vultures, wine, and spirits! Free to the public; just bring your own wine glass. Visit www.tasteofrv.com for a full list of participants.

## American Legion Beer Wagon Raffle

American Legion Post 174 offers its annual Beer Wagon Raffle, funding the post's Boys and Girls State and High School Scholarships. Enter to win an all-terrain Radio Flyer Wagon loaded with craft beer, with secondary winners receiving the overflow Tickets \$10 each / 3 for \$25. 21+ to participate. On sale June 13. Drawing July 4. Contact a Post Legionnaire for tickets, mail a check to American Legion Post 174, PO Box 836, Willits CA 95490, or call Roger at 707-456-9858 or Kennedy at 707-327-9372 for assistance.

At right: Hometown organizers Jake Whitehurst and Ashtan Bloomquist. Rides on the Little Lake Fire Department's antique fire truck give a fun view of the festivities. The bounce house/slide. Below: Dorothy Roediger smiles at the Willits Senior Center booth at the 2025 celebration. Further below: The shiny firetruck is always a popular event staple. At bottom, from left: Henna tattoos are usually offered at Hometown. Sidewalks and Main Street are filled with attendees and booths.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



# Hometown Celebration

Downtown event kicks off the 100th annual Willits Frontier Days festivities on Friday, June 19

Submitted by Willits Frontier Days

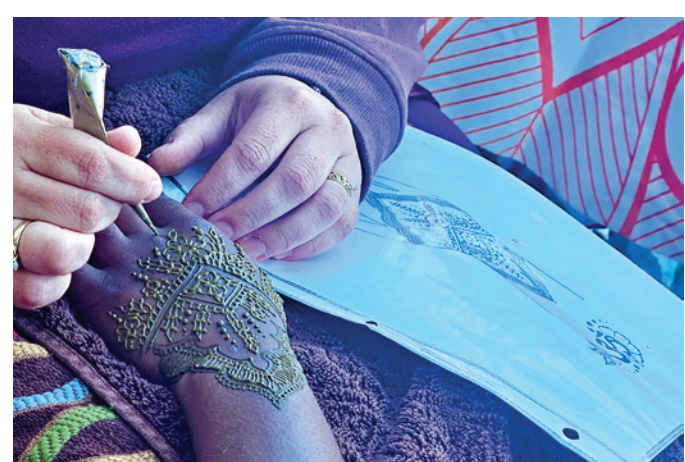
Come out and enjoy the town, the community and the official beginning of Willits Frontier Days, this Friday in downtown Willits when the Hometown Celebration takes over the streets from 5 to 9 pm.

This well-loved free event features food, vendors, booths, sales, activities and more for families, kids and adults. J.D. Redhouse's Ashtan Bloomquist and Jake Whitehurst take the reins of organizing the event, coordinating the bands and the entertainment, signing up and placing the vendors, and making sure everything runs smoothly on the big day.

Live music planned for the event this year includes Double

Standbyrd; and Circus Mecca and aerial silk artists will perform live on the streets. Face painting, a bounce house, a mechanical bull and a climbing wall are also planned, along with lots of fun options at the vendor booths, too.

This event officially begins the 2026 events, and the following day the Ned LeDoux concert will be held (see below). After that, the Truck and Tractor Pulls, street dance and opening of the carnival will happen on Friday, June 26; the opening of the Western Art Show on Saturday, June 27; and then the Sweetheart Dinner on Sunday, June 28. For a full schedule of events, and more info, visit [www.WillitsFrontierDays.com](http://www.WillitsFrontierDays.com)



Ned LeDoux performs in 2019 at the rodeo grounds.



Ned LeDoux.

## Country Concert

Ned LeDoux returns to the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds for June 20 concert

The last time the arena at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds was converted into a stage for a live concert was back in September of 2019, and now, six years later, it's time again to rock the stands.

Country singer Ned LeDoux, the son of 80s/90s country superstar Chris LeDoux, will return to Willits on Saturday, June 20 and perform classic songs, originals and more.

Buck Ford will open for LeDoux with gates opening at 5 pm, and the show starting at 6 pm. Tickets are available in advance of the show, by purchasing online, or from one of the Sweethearts. The \$40 tickets will also be available at the gate.

More info and tickets: <https://www.willitsfrontierdays.com/events.html>

Submitted by Willits Frontier Days



Ned LeDoux performs in 2019 at the rodeo grounds.

## The rest of Curfew

From page 1

lawful custody of minors may be held responsible for allowing these curfew violations to occur.

This reminder is intended to educate the community. The Willits Police Department hopes this reminder will assist adults who are supervising minors to abate occurrences which are negatively impacting our community's quality of life.

## The rest of Election

From page 1

November: Buffy Wright-Bourassa and Eric Hart.

Clay Romero is still in third place with 989 votes, or 22.50%. Russell Green is still in fourth place with 574 votes or 13.06%.

According to the Elections Office's 11:37 am Monday, June 15 update, 4,396 Third District ballots with a vote for supervisor have been verified and counted. There have been an additional 338 ballots processed from voters who live inside the Third District who didn't include a vote in the supervisors race, called "undervotes."

The Mendocino County "Yes" votes for Measure A, the bond measure for the Mendocino-Lake Community College District, have increased to 54.13% of the vote, but Measure A needs 55% to pass. Mendocino County results are currently 54.13% of the vote (12,169 votes) and No votes currently at 45.87% (10,311 votes). According to the June 15 update, there were 1,412 undervotes – ballots processed from Mendocino County voters living inside the college district – that didn't have a vote for the bond measure.

Measure A is doing worse in Lake County, with that county's June 15 update showing 4,683 votes against Measure A, or 53.63% no, and 4,216 votes for Measure A, or 47.38% yes.

## Free Fishing Days on Saturdays, July 4 and September 5, 2026

Posted by CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Free Fishing Days in California for 2026 are Saturday, July 4, and Saturday, September 5.

Have you ever felt the excitement of watching your bobber suddenly jiggle,



then dive out of sight? Or feeling the tap-tap-tap of a bass as it tastes the worm on the end of your line? Or having a salmon practically tear the rod out of your hands as it smashes your lure? What's that? You say you never learned to fish?

If you are new to the sport of fishing, and not sure if you will enjoy it, a great opportunity awaits you. California Department of Fish and Wildlife offers two Free Fishing Days each year. On these days, you can fish without a sport fishing license. Free Fishing Days provide a great, low-cost way to give fishing a try.

While all fishing regulations, such as bag and size limits, gear restrictions, report card requirements (, fishing hours and stream closures remain in effect, there are two days each year when anyone can fish without purchasing a fishing license.

On Free Fishing Days,

every angler must have the appropriate report card – <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing#ReportCards> – if they are fishing for:

- steelhead
- sturgeon

• or salmon in the Smith and Klamath-Trinity River Systems.

**Editor's Note:** More urban areas than Mendocino County have "Fishing in the City" programs and free fishing day clinics designed to educate novice anglers about fishing ethics, fish habits, effective methods for catching fish, how to clean and prepare your catch, and fishing tackle.

But there are resources online. You can see videos on subjects like "How to Tie a Palomar Knot," "How to Clean a Fish" and "The Ethics of Fishing" at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing-in-the-City/Videos>

And there are many educational and informative items on ocean and inland sport fishing in California, posted at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/fishing>

## Howard Forest HQ prescribed burn scheduled

Submitted by CAL FIRE MEU

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit will be conducting a prescribed burn on the Howard Forest Headquarters property. This prescribed burn will treat approximately 100 acres of grasslands, within oak woodlands, creating a mosaic of variously burned vegetation and islands of unburned habitat.

Howard Forest is in the central portion of Mendocino County, along Highway 101, south of Willits and north of Ridgewood.

Burning is set to begin on

Read the rest of **Burn**

Over on page 11



At left: Eight past Willits Frontier Days Sweethearts attended the June 10 Willits City Council meeting to honor WFD's 100th anniversary. At far left: Eight past Willits Frontier Days Sweethearts pose on the steps of the Willits Justice Center, before attending the June 10 meeting where Willits Frontier Days declared June 22 through July 4, 2026 to be "Western Wear Days" in Willits.

## The rest of Staff

From page 1

New Administrative Services Manager Joseph Park spoke about progress with preparing the 2026/27 budget for the City of Willits. "Administrative Services" has replaced the city's Finance Department, and Park has replaced former Finance Director Manual Orozco, who was one of seven city employees who was laid off in March 2026.

Park said new Interim Manager Connor had been "a huge value" even in his first week, "as we're trying to focus on this 2026/27 budget and presenting it on time. That has been our utmost priority."

Park told council members financial consultant Andy Heath would be present at the June 17 Financial Committee meeting, "in which we will gain much clarity on the details of the 2026/27 budget proposal, and then we can move forward at the June 24 City Council meeting to review the 2026/27 draft budget, and then have a June 29 special council meeting for possible adoption of the proposed fiscal year 2026/27 budget."

"Those are magical words to hear," said Mayor Tom Allman. "If we can get a budget adopted by June 29.... I think it's been three years since this council has adopted a budget before July 1."

Park also talked about the continuing task of preparing information needed for the late 2024/25 audit: "Immediately following the budget, we will be looking at the audit."

Interim Manager Connor confirmed that the 2024/25 audit is going to be the priority for finance staff as soon as council has approved the upcoming budget. "The good news, though, is that our process that Joseph has already instituted in the actual financial management, the more regular cash balances, receipt reconciliations, all of the finance stuff, the journal entries that need to go in for this year, is in much better condition. So that by the time we close out this fiscal year, the actual act of getting to

audit should be more closely aligned with best business practices, meaning that, yeah, the 2024/25 audit is still a bit of a pill because we've got more extra work to do on it, but the 2025/26 audit should be much easier, and hopefully we should be able to get that done much quicker and in what we would consider best business practice time frames."

## Western Wear Days in Willits

Willits City Council welcomed eight past Willits Frontier Days Sweethearts to their June 10 meeting to honor the 100th anniversary of Willits Frontier Days. The annual "Western Wear Days" Proclamation (see Page 2), declaring June 22 through July 4, 2026 Western Wear Days in Willits, was read out loud and passed, and the Sweethearts were called up front for a photo, and to tell attendees their name, and the year they were Sweethearts.

Longtime Willits Frontier Days board member Jeff Cook came up to the mic, guitar in hand. "This is my 25th year on the board and so being the 100th year, it's a really special time for us," he said. "It's always a great time, but this is extra special. This is that's been 100 years of this whooping and hollering and everybody having a good old time. And so we're happy to be here tonight to wish you a big old western holiday and invite you to come out to all the events.

"There's something for everybody, you know, and every year, all the money we make, we give it back to the community. We've been doing it for 100 years."

Cook then played a song with lyrics about people in Willits – he asks them about how they'd gotten here. One says the car broke down on a road trip; another says: "The people here sure are nice. I think I'll stay and bring my wife"; and a third says "I was born here."

Date	Time	Event	Location	Admission
Fri, June 19	5:00 pm	Hometown Celebration	Main Street Willits	Free
Sat, June 20	6:00 pm	Ned LeDoux Concert	Jack Sharp Arena	\$40.00
Fri, June 26	6:00 pm	Truck Pulls	Jack Sharp Arena	\$25 - Adults \$15 - Child (12 and under) Free - Child (2 and under)
	9:00 pm	Street Dance Featuring Brody Stewart Band	Tennis Courts	Free
		Carnival Opens	Old Ball Field	
Sat, June 27	5:00pm	Western Art show Show closes on July 5th	Community Center	Free
Sun, June 28	6:00 pm	Sweetheart Dinner	Rodeo Grounds	\$30 - Adult (limited tickets) \$10 - Child (12 and under)
Friday, July 3	7:00 pm	CCPRA Rodeo Rockin' M Rodeo	Jack Sharp Arena	\$30 - Box Seats \$25 - Adult \$15 - Child (12 and under) Free - Child (2 and under)
	9:00 pm	Western Dance Chad Bunker	Tennis Courts	Free
Sat, July 4	10:00 am	Horseshoe Competition	Rec Grove	\$75 Entry Fee Free to watch
	11:00 am	Main Street Parade "Year of the Sweethearts"	North Main Street	Free
	12:00 pm	Country Music Rodeola Western BBQ	Recreation Grove	Free
	4:00 pm	Water fights	Fire House	FREE
	7:00 pm	CCPRA Rodeo Rockin' M Rodeo	Jack Sharp Arena	\$30 - Box Seats \$25 - Adult \$15 - Child (12 and under) Free - Child (2 and under)
Sun, July 5	7:00 am	Lions Club Cowboy Breakfast	Recreation Grove	\$15 - Adult \$10 - Child (12 and under)
	8:00 am	Jr. Rodeo (Junior Rodeo ticket price includes entry to Bulls and Broncs)	Jack Sharp Arena	\$20 - Adult \$10 - Child (12 and under)
	6:00 pm	Bulls and Broncs	Jack Sharp Arena	FREE
Sun, July 26	8:00 am	Horseshow	Jack Sharp Arena	FREE

Thank you to our major sponsors for 2026





## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

### Lovely Lassi

Looking for a weekend adventure buddy? Meet Lassi. Walks? Yes. Hikes? Absolutely. Snacks afterward? Her favorite part. Lassi is a sweet, affectionate girl who loves being outdoors and spending time with people. She's currently waiting at the Milo Sanctuary outside Willits and would love a family of her own. Could your next adventure include Lassi?

To learn more about Lassi, 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.

Meet Angie, a 5 month old cattle dog mix weighing in at 36 pounds of pure sweetness. This bright little pup already walks beautifully on leash, knows "sit," and is working hard on "down." Angie loves to play, explore, and learn – she's the kind of dog who wants to be part of everything her people do.

She's hoping to find a family with children she can grow up alongside. Angie thrives on companionship, adventure, and affection, and she's ready to become someone's loyal best friend for life.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com). Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

### Smart Angie

### Sweet Raven

Raven, age 5+, is the sweetest, most easygoing kitty around! She takes life right in stride and is always up and ready to greet you the very second you look her way. Be sure to listen closely for her purrs; they might be quiet, but she will absolutely show you how happy she is to see you. If you are looking for a relaxed, loyal companion whose love shines through in the gentlest ways, Raven is ready to welcome you home. Adoption Fee: \$50.

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 (closed select Thursdays, check website for details). 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). Call 707-485-0123 for more information.



### Willits Rotary: Making wishes come true

Willits Rotary President Cathie Gernhardt, at right, just presented three checks in the amount of \$12,313.50 each to, from left, Richard Baker, director, Senior Center; Cindy Savage, executive director, Willits Daily Bread; and Wendy Copperfield, director, Willits Community Services & Food Bank. Proceeds are from the Willits Rotary's Grill & Give fundraiser in February – proof that Rotarians make wishes come true!

### Congratulations to the 12th grade graduates from La Vida Charter School

Below, from left: Chace Fales, Savanna Miller, Justin Zapanta, Desiree Hanover, Hector Gaspar-Lopez, Shaun Diaz and John Dick. Photo by Cynthia Raiser Jeavons



### OBITUARY |

## Sheryl Smith

We are saddened to share that Sheryl Xeres Smith, age 84, of Hearst, passed away on March 25, 2026.

Sheryl excelled in school, despite missing many months due to Valley Fever (a lung infection). Her grandparents and aunts were important influences in her life. They taught her how to read music, play instruments, cook, and garden. She loved hearing stories about her pioneer heritage.

Sheryl earned her master's in English at Arizona State University. She began her career teaching communication skills in Arizona public schools. In 1970, she took a teaching job near San Francisco. Later, she moved to Mendocino County. There, she taught at Vineyard School, a necessary small school at Emandal in 1984. She also taught a creative writing class at Mendocino College. In both roles, she thrived on sharing her passion for writing.

She always wanted to build her own home. Sheryl studied adobe construction techniques and began building small



projects. Her skills and confidence grew as word of her accomplishments spread. After she finished her home and other adobe buildings, she wanted to do more for her community. Sheryl and a friend founded a nonprofit organization named Adobe Rose. Their workshops and demonstrations were successful throughout California.

Sheryl was undeterred by aging and breathing difficulties. Each day she aimed to improve

her health. She always looked forward to working on new art projects. At the top of her list was traveling to study ancient languages and architecture.

Sheryl was generous beyond measure with family, friends, community and worthy causes. Cooking special recipes for friends and family brought her great joy. She had a lifelong love for dogs, adopting several pets from the local humane society. She could often be found working the land on her tractor with a dog by her side.

Her passion for art, cooking, literature, live theatre, storytelling, music and merrymaking was inspirational.

Her spirit will forever resonate in our hearts, as we cherish the memories she created with us.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**  
 11:00 AM TO 9:00 PM  
**ON SUNDAY, JUNE 21**  
 100 TODAY'S POINTS EARN AND GET \$5 FREE PLAY AND 50% OFF MEAL.

**WINNERS**

**BARBECUE SET GIVEAWAY**  
 Drawing at 9:30 pm on Sunday, June 21  
 50 Points Per Entry After earning 300 points.

**SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO**

Smoke-Free Gaming 100 Kawi Pl Willits, CA Open 24/7 Hours a Day SVRCasino.com 707-459-7330

**B THE ANTIDOTE**

Great writers are indecent people  
 they live unfairly  
 saving the best part for paper.  
 good human beings save the world  
 so that bastards like me can keep creating art,  
 become immortal.  
 if you read this after I am dead  
 it means I made it.

-Charles Bukowski-

Be the Antidote  
 Be the Antidote - Willits  
 btheantidote@gmail.com