

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Who will be liable?

To the Editor:

Washington is getting involved in California's Eel River plans and I think that we should all watch carefully. Recent history has shown a great deal of chaos and miscalculations regarding data centers, our allies, the war in Iran, the beautification of Washington, the national debt and the redistribution of the Colorado River waters.

On the other hand, we see positive reports on the restoration of the Klamath, the Colombia River estuary, McKenzie River, and the Snake

River. These projects are correcting mistakes made by earlier bad decisions to reshape geography to fit the needs of some over others.

Geographically, the Eel River runs north through four California counties. Its watershed encompasses 3,971 square miles. Redwoods, salmon, indigenous tribes, bountiful wildlife, and rural communities that were all served by the flow. The decline of the Eel River salmon is symbolic of the effect this has had on all of the watershed and its inhabitants.

Historically, powerful companies and individuals have redistributed the life force of

our rivers for their own purposes. Politicians direct the process by selectively choosing who is involved in decision-making. Public relations gurus distract the issue with confusing labels and misinformation.

Why shouldn't rich counties give up wasteful overconsumption so that poor counties have an opportunity to prosper with the return of their natural resources ... the Eel River, the redwoods, the salmon, recreational and hospitality opportunities, as well as sustainable farms and ranches.

The decision was made to take down the dams. They are near earthquake faults, have design flaws, laughable fish ladders and dangerous siltation. Who will be liable when the dams fail, and why is southern California getting involved?

Dee Mullen, Round Valley

Amateur Radio Field Day, June 27, to focus on 'Skill, Service, Science'

Submitted by **Tim Hanna, WARS**

Members of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be participating in the national amateur radio Field Day exercise, this Saturday, June 27 in the grove at Baechtel Grove Middle School. Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day to showcase the science and skill of amateur radio. This event is open to the public from 11 am to 6 pm on Saturday. Please follow the signs and enter the grove via the gate near the intersection of Magnolia and Madrone streets.

Field Day is a showcase for how amateur radio works reliably under any conditions from almost any location to create an independent communications network. Ham radio functions completely independent of the internet or cell phone infrastructure, can interface with laptops or smartphones, and can be set up almost anywhere in minutes.

In today's connected world, ham radio remains one of the best ways for people to learn about electronics, physics, meteorology, and numerous other scientific disciplines, and is a huge asset to any community during disasters or emergencies when the standard communication infrastructure goes down.

Anyone may become a licensed amateur radio operator. There are more than 750,000 licensed hams in the United States, as young as 9 and as old as 100. And with clubs like the Willits Amateur Radio Society, it's easy for anybody to get involved right here in Mendocino County. For more information regarding Field Day or amateur radio in general, please email Tim at tdhanna@msn.com.

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 25: Chicken Marsala

Friday, June 26: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

Monday, June 29: BBQ w/Sides

Tuesday, June 30: Chicken Salad Sandwich

July Menu n/a

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

Read the rest of

Meals

Over on page 4



Photos by Maureen Jennison



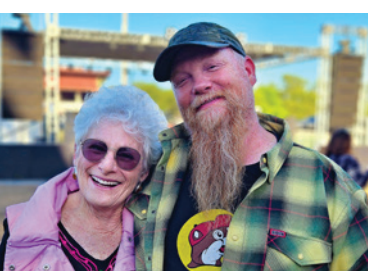
Above, from left: Ned LeDoux playing at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. Hosford brothers Wade, Tate and Daniel had fun running around the grounds and listening to the live music. Bruce Cartwright serves up cups of cold beer from the booth. Below: A full stage set-up was erected in the arena at the Willits Frontier Days grounds for the live concert by Ned LeDoux and opener Buck Ford.



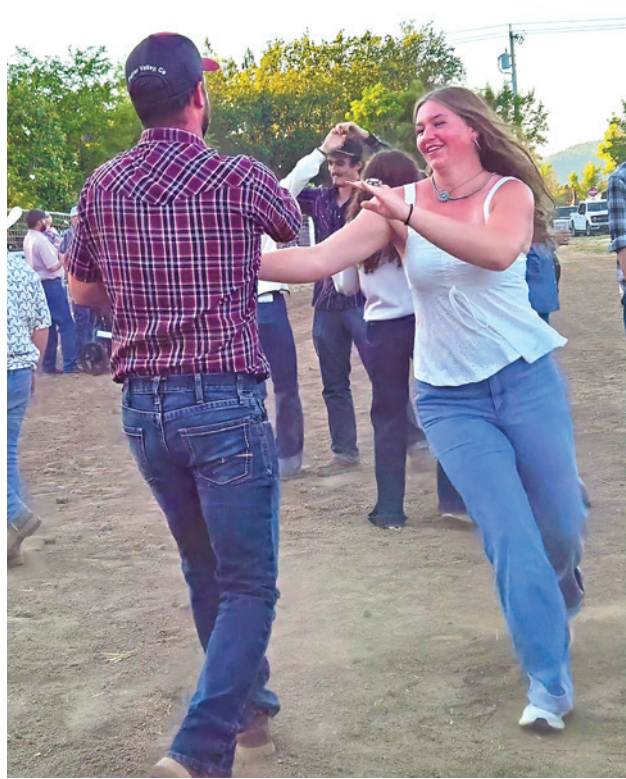
Andrew and Laurin Hosford dance to the songs of Buck Ford, the concert's opener.



Ned LeDoux plays to the crowd at the arena.



Jenn Drew dances with her son Taylor who also expertly keeps his drink handy mid-shimmy. Evelyn Persico and daughter Kathy Graves smile at the concert. Attendees were able to come stand in the arena to get a closer look and listen to the county singers. Pat Persico and Matt Jennison take a quick moment to smile for the camera as they caught up on the gold of days. Below, left: Lisa Arkelian swings around the arena with her dance partner. Below, left: Ned LeDoux performed original songs, as well as singing some of his famous father Chris LeDoux's hit songs, too, and even had a solo drum session where he took over the set and showed off his drumming skills.



The rest of Found

From page 1

Emergency Services was contacted, and mutual aid was requested from outside SAR agencies. In the early morning hours of June 18, 2026, approximately 75 additional searchers arrived and were assigned search areas based on information gathered during the initial operations.

At approximately 8:35 am, a SAR team utilizing electric mountain bikes located the child sleeping in a small, abandoned shack approximately 1 mile from the residence. The child appeared uninjured, was reunited with his family, and was transported by ambulance to a local hospital for a precautionary medical evaluation.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the following agencies and organizations for their assistance in achieving a safe resolution:

- Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue
- California Office of Emergency Services
- Marin County Search and Rescue
- Napa County Search and Rescue
- Sonoma County Search and Rescue
- Humboldt County Search and Rescue
- Lake County Search and Rescue
- CALSAR
- Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit
- Santa Clara County Search and Rescue
- Hundreds of community volunteers

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would also like to thank Harvest Market in Fort Bragg for its generous donation of deli sandwiches to support the search volunteers.

Editor's Note: Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall also posted a thank you on his Facebook page, as follows:

"I wanted to take a moment to thank all of the search and rescue volunteers who came to assist in Mendocino County this morning," Sheriff Kendall wrote. "Members of our teams and several other teams arrived for the 6 am briefing in Fort Bragg ready to deal with whatever was thrown at them. The successful rescue of this lost child was a huge accomplishment."

"I also wanted to thank the community members who assisted with canvassing the neighborhoods on foot and in vehicles. Also a huge thank you to our friends at Harvest Market and several other businesses who made sure the needs of our searchers were met."

"Thank you to our local media who helped get this information out to the public which prompted many folks to assist as well."

"The prayers and outpouring of support for this family was incredible and shows what a solid community does for their members."

"Thank you to all who assisted and to all the folks who were sharing prayers and positive thoughts and support for this family and our personnel. God bless every one of you."

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to 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. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

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Willits Weekly

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Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, left: Aeon Webber lets loose with the vocals for Tangled Ends. Above: Attendees were moved to dance while listening to some of their favorite local groups. At right: Aeon Webber of Tangled Ends was animated in his guitar playing and vocals. At left: Splynter opened the afternoon concert with high energy bangin' music, setting the mood for the rest of the show. At left, below: Friends Anonymous, who won the recent Battle of the Bands at the Grange, were the headliners for the afternoon.



Below, from left: Tommy Kenney is the lead singer and guitar player for Friends Anonymous. Aaron Unroe, of Friends Anonymous, lets loose on the vocals. These two wizards showed up to hear some up-and-coming local bands. At bottom, left: Kelly Viss of Barefoot Forest Homestead had tinctures and salves to sell. At bottom, right: Local musician Simba Souza deftly handled the drums for Friends Anonymous at Punk on the Patio.



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Punk on the Patio

Afternoon concert features up-and-coming punk bands at The Whistle Stop

It was a loud and energetic afternoon on the patio at The Whistle Stop on East Commercial Street last Saturday. Three punk groups of young men blasted their angst and social commentary from 3 to 7 pm on this hot sunny day. A colorful crowd of punk aficionados, friends of the groups, even mothers and fathers of the performers, listened, swayed, danced, and consumed special \$3 root beer floats and other tasty foods from the cafe. The concert was produced as a cooperative effort by Saprina Rodriguez of The Whistle Stop and Tommy G Presents, which has been actively creating different types and genres of concerts in the Willits area.

The intent of the collaboration, producer Tom Girdauskas of Tommy G Presents said, "is to expose people to the amazing restaurant that Sabrina has put up for our community and for us to have this wonderful patio to gather on. It's a really cool mutual event. Amazing food, great drinks, smoothies, coffee drinks, salads, soups. They do a great job, great service, great people. We couldn't do better than having Saprina in town here."

Girdauskas explained that two of the bands at the June 20 show, Friends Anonymous and Tangled Ends, were both finishers at the Battle of Bands in March at the Grange. "Half of the band in Tangled Ends is still in high school," he said. "The other half just graduated. Friends Anonymous are senior citizens. I think they're about 30." The opening band Splynter, he said, is a band of high school kids out of Ukiah.

"We throw parties we want to go to. When we keep the focus on 'if it ain't fun, we ain't doing it,' it really rolls better," Girdauskas said. With co-producers Kelly Viss and Andre Puccio, "we just do what we do and it all gets one."

Talking about Punk on the Patio, he said: "Punk was kind of a loose term.

Read the rest of **Punk** Over on page 11

WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS

2026 Schedule

More info and entry forms: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com
Infants aged 2 and under are admitted for free to WFD events. Prices, dates and events subject to change.

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 Tharp Arena	\$40.00
Fri, June 26	6:00 pm	Truck Pulls	Jack Tharp 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	Free
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 Tharp Arena	\$30 - Box Seats \$25 - Adult \$15 - Child (12 and under) Free - Child (2 and under)
	9:00 pm	Western Dance Chad Bushnell	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	Recreation Grove	Free
	4:00 pm	Western BBQ	Recreation Grove	\$25 - Adult \$15 - Child (3 & up)
	7:00 pm	Water fights	Fire House	FREE
	7:00 pm	CCPRA Rodeo Rockin' M Rodeo	Jack Tharp 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 - Adults \$10 - Child (12 and under)
	8:00 am	Jr. Rodeo (Junior Rodeo ticket price includes entry to Bulls and Broncs)	Jack Tharp Arena	\$20 - Adult \$10 - Child (12 and under)
	6:00 pm	Bulls and Broncs	Jack Tharp Arena	Free
Sun, July 26	8:00 am	Horseshow	Jack Tharp Arena	FREE

Thank you to our major sponsors for 2026

The rest of **Champion** From page 1

Swanton has created THE place in inland Mendocino County for musicians and fans of live music for more than two decades. Shanachie consistently draws bands from all over California and the Pacific Northwest, and their Open Mic night provides a forum for all types of musicians to test out new material and find new audiences.

"Musicians love him," the commenter continues, "because he's fair and generous, and patrons love him because he and his booking staff know that variety is the spice of life. We all know there's not usually a lot happening in our small towns after 7 pm, but at Shanachie Pub you can find live music and good feelings almost every night of the week. Pete has opened many businesses over the years in Willits and Laytonville including the Pub, Main Street Music & Video, and Flying Dog Pizza & Records. All of these businesses have kept culture alive in Willits and have made neighbors friends."

Dr. Wenbo Yin, 2026 honoree in the Artist category, is a saxophonist, wind conductor, and musicians' wellness coach noted for his bold, versatile artistry across a variety of genres. He has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, collaborated with Grammy-winning artists, won the Beverly Hills National Auditions, and played principal saxophone with prominent groups. Dr. Yin is faculty and the director of Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Wind at Mendocino College.

As co-founder of the One Heart Institute, a nonprofit organization that integrates music, wellness, and holistic practices, Wenbo is dedicated to supporting the well-being of musicians and individuals alike. He has facilitated music and mindfulness workshops in the U.S., Bhutan, and China, and continues to develop the Tai Chi for Musicians workshop, offered at various universities and institutions. Wenbo is also a certified wellness provider for music industry professionals with Backline Care and supports wellness work with the Ukiah Parkinson's group.

He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Saxophone Performance, Wind Conducting, and Jazz from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He also embarked on an extended journey of study in Tai Chi, philosophy, and contemplative practice at Dharma Realm Buddhist University in Ukiah, deepening the integration between music-making and inner cultivation.

Chris Pugh, honoree in the Individual category, is a photographer, writer, newspaper editor, and community arts organizer based in Ukiah. He is co-founder of Medium Art Center, a nonprofit community arts organization dedicated to supporting artists through accessible exhibitions, workshops, youth programming, and creative community events. In addition to his work in the arts, Pugh writes the personal-essay newsletter "Incremental Outcome" on Substack where he explores creativity, small-town life, photography, memory, and the complicated experience of trying to live intentionally in a messy world.

Pugh shares: "I've always believed that art matters because people matter. Small communities deserve spaces where creativity, experimentation, and connection can happen without barriers. I'm grateful to be part of a community that continues to support artists and the idea that culture is something we build together."

Marilyn Bohlen Simpson, honoree in the Educator category, was born and raised in suburban Chicago and Keokuk, Iowa. She graduated from Principia College near St. Louis, where she met her husband, Jeff. They returned to their hometown of Ukiah in 1972 and have been here ever since, except for a two-year stint at San Francisco State University, where Marilyn earned her master's degree in Music History and Literature. She began teaching voice at Mendocino College in 1986, and has enjoyed helping students improve their singing and increase their self-confidence ever since, finally retiring from the college this May. Over the years, she sang in and did vocal coaching for a number of musical theater productions at Ukiah Players Theatre and Mendocino College. She is still active singing in several small local groups, and is treasurer of the Ukiah Community Concert Association and of her church. She is continuing to teach voice privately in her home.

Pacific Textile Arts, honoree in the Arts Organization category, is a volunteer-run educational nonprofit existing to support, share and celebrate the fiber arts. This year marks their 30th year! <https://www.pacifictextilearts.org/history/>

An Honorable Mention this year goes to the Lot on Main. Founder Nick Johnson shares: "This is a community space, and in order to make this space special, it truly takes the community. As you can see, there are 'A Lot' (haha) more people in the award picture than just me. We all make this happen, together. The artists, the musicians, the vendors, the visionaries, the vibe setters, the helpers, the supporters, the community, it takes all of us coming together to make this possible. All I did was name a vacant Lot on Main Street."

For more information, please see [ArtsMendocino.org Program](https://www.pacifictextilearts.org/Program) in the Spotlight

The rest of **Breakfast** From page 5

takes to pull the breakfast off. It also takes a few volunteers the day before to transform our dining room. They get a bunch of tables and chairs in there, and they decorate it all up. They make sure the dining room is able to seat about 120 people.

Every seat had a Senior Center-made placemat to set off the holiday. The volunteers were serious in performing their duties, albeit, with a great portion of humor. Carolyn Ponikvar had the drink assignment, wending her way between the tables to find those who were in need. "I'm making Bloody Marys," declared Ponikvar. "We have celery. Some people like celery. We have lots of juices, and we are offering a Screwdriver instead of a Bloody Mary, for the men only. There are women who take the place of men in their families, and they can get a Bloody Mary if we know they are the head of the household. We do the same thing on Mother's Day. If we know they are the head of the household, we give them a Mother's Day drink as well. I see people come in, and I just wait. I'm like a shark. I follow them to their table and make sure they get a drink. Coffee comes shortly thereafter."

It takes a cadre of volunteers to keep non-profits, like the Senior Center, running. "We're always looking for volunteers," said Baker. "We could use a front desk volunteer right now, a few hours a day, a few days a week. You can really make a difference answering phone calls, very easy paperwork, very easy to train for, but it still helps out significantly. We are really in need of a Thursday volunteer Meals-On-Wheels driver. That takes about 2.5 hours of your time. You're going out and delivering meals to homebound seniors. It also gives us a chance to check on these seniors and provides a degree of social connectivity. I believe last year we delivered something like 11,000 meals.

Baker explained that the Senior Center's Outreach Department recently had its funding cut, along with all the senior centers in Mendocino County "because of budget cuts at the county level. The Department of Social Services was also cut. That resulted in all the Senior Centers losing their outreach contracts, which is a loss of \$34,100 a year. We have an anonymous donor who stepped up, very generously was willing to match all donations made to our outreach department, up to \$15,000.... The goal is to get \$15,000 from the community, and she'll match it. That will help significantly with the \$34,100 loss in our outreach department."

Board member Virginia Jorge has been running the special meals, as well as the every-Friday Bingo nights, for several years. She has her job down to run like clockwork with her band of regular volunteers. "We start setting up on Saturday for all of our breakfasts," explained Jorge. "Between Gloria [Westby], myself, and Richard [Baker], we get all the groceries, then we have a crew that comes in on Saturdays, washing down and sterilizing all the tables and chairs, getting the butter dishes filled. We have 13 to 15 volunteers to help us on the Sunday breakfasts. They are people who have volunteered at the Senior Center in many aspects. We have people that fold our newsletters, Diana Mann, who also comes in and sets up. She's a waitress on Sundays. We have Gloria, who cooks our meals and for our snack bar on Friday Night Bingo. She cooks our chili rellenos, the vegetarian casseroles for Sunday breakfast. We have Bob Wagenet who runs our sanitizer, Carolyn, who serves our drinks."

She's a waitress on Sundays. We have Gloria, who cooks

Walter Findley

Walter Dean Findley, age 87, of Willits, passed away peacefully on June 7, 2026, just days before his 88th birthday. Walter was born on June 19, 1938.

Walter proudly served his country in the United States Navy, a chapter of his life that remained a source of pride throughout the years. Following his military service, he worked as a truck driver, a profession he loved and one through which he faithfully provided for his family. He believed in hard work, responsibility, and taking care of those he loved.



Those who knew Walter will remember his sense of humor most of all. He loved teasing people, telling jokes, and finding ways to make others laugh. His quick wit and playful spirit brought smiles to countless family gatherings and everyday moments. Walter enjoyed watching football, relaxing with an ice-cold beer, and spending time with family. Beneath the humor was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, veteran, and provider whose love for his family was evident throughout his life.

Walter leaves behind a legacy of hard work, service, laughter, and love. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Walter was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Ruby Findley, who passed away in 2020. He was also preceded in death by two of his sons, Ron Findley and Howard Findley.

He is survived by his sons, Roger Findley of Sacramento and Tim Findley of Willits, his 10 grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren. Among those are his grandchildren Steven, Sabrina, and Jesse, whom he raised and held a special place in his heart.



'Plant a Seed, Read,' with the Mendocino County Library

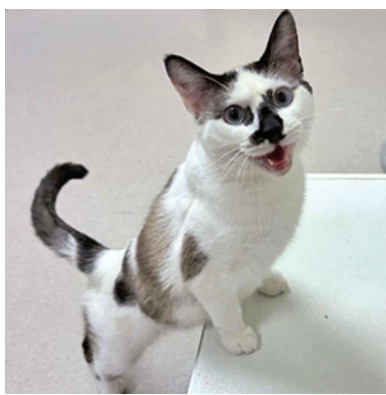
Submitted by Mendocino County Library

Mendocino County Library invites everyone to grow their imagination one page at a time, because every adventure begins by planting a seed of inspiration. "Letting ideas sprout, creativity to unfurl, and supporting the opportunities to read and do math does wonders for keeping kids mentally active and ready to continue their education in the fall," said Mendocino County Librarian Mellisa Hannum. "One of the ways we help prevent summer slide is by

Read the rest of Library Over on page 11

Handsome Elvis

This handsome guy may not be the King of Rock 'n' Roll, but he certainly knows how to steal hearts. Elvis, age 3, is a friendly, sweet-natured boy who loves attention and isn't shy about letting you know when he'd like some pets. He's quite the conversationalist and enjoys chatting with his people throughout the day. Elvis came to us with a broken pelvis, but he's healed up beautifully; he isn't able to jump onto high places like some cats can, so he'll need to be an indoor-only companion where he can stay safe and comfortable.



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

Veronica

For the past several weeks, Veronica's world has revolved around her 10 puppies. She raised them with patience, devotion, and endless love, making sure each one got the best possible start in life. Now that her job as a mom is winding down, it's finally Veronica's turn.



This beautiful girl is about 35 pounds and has a gentle, sweet nature. She can be a little shy when meeting new people, but once she feels comfortable, her affectionate personality shines. She loves spending time with her people and enjoys walks, exploring new places, and outdoor adventures. After a day of fun, she's happiest settling in at home by your side. Could Veronica be the missing piece in your life?

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

Quirky Mango

Warning: Mango may be overripe with sweetness and a serious case of the sillies. This goofy girl is full of fun, always ready for an adventure, and has a special talent for making people smile. Whether she's playing, exploring, or just being her wonderfully quirky self, Mango knows how to brighten every room she enters. If you're looking for a sweet little fruit with a big personality, Mango is ready to be picked!



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.mendohumane.org, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com. Call 707-485-0123 for more information.

The rest of Punk From page 8

I would say that Friends Anonymous is similar to Pop Punk, like Green Day, very tight, amazing lyrics, really great chord structures, great song development. Tangled Ends are more like Psych Rock, grungy, more of a Kurt Cobain energy. The lead singer is just a phenomenal force of nature. Jackson is a phenomenal guitar player. The rhythm section is tight. Splinter won my heart at Bus Fest, when they played "Electric Funeral" [by Black Sabbath]. They did it their way and it was amazing. They are loud and passionate. They speak to their audience and I like that. It's a good triple bill."

Asked why the afternoon show, Giridaskas said: "Our feeling is that day shows are more conducive to our lifestyle. We no longer want to start a show at 9 pm. We're finding that a lot of people feel the same. And there's so much else going on in the evenings. We don't want to step on those toes, and we want to give people an option. They can come to our day show, and then they can go to the Pub to hear a band afterwards," he said.

"What we do at Tommy G Presents is to try to throw iconic events, themed events, like Willits Fest. We're doing our second annual Willits Fest on July 25. We're doing our second Day of the Divine on November 7. We did the Battle of the Bands at the Grange. We did a Disco Party at the Art Center. That was a super hoot. Today is us just throwing a simple concert with three of the loudest bands in Mendocino County."

It was definitely an afternoon kind of show, and it worked for the punk lovers who enjoyed the patio at the Whistle Stop, some great music, and a tasty meal or treat.

Below: The principals of Tommy G Presents, Kelly Viss, Tommy G, and Andre Puccio. Photo by Mathew Caine



The rest of Library From page 10

offering books as prizes throughout the school break. Having a personal collection of books has been shown to support literacy development in children and teens." The learning options include more than books, with professional entertainers and events focused on science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Plus, there will be free lunches during Lunch at the Library, a summer meal program funded by the California Summer Meal Coalition and the California Library Association in partnership with the USDA summer meal program. "Hungry kids can't learn," said Hannum. "Mendocino County Library is pleased to coordinate with community partners once again to offer access to free lunches and library activities to youth 18 and under, helping to make sure their brains stay nourished and strong over the summer."

Building on previous years, both Coast Community Library and Willits Library will again offer lunches in their Community Rooms. Both locations have food and enrichment opportunities every Tuesday through Friday at noon. Lunches are the same balanced, nutritious meals offered through the school districts. Hannum stated that she was grateful for the new and ongoing partnerships with the schools in our county. Look for lunches from June 9 to August 7 in Willits and from June 23 to August 7 in Point Arena.

An exciting addition to Lunch at the Library pop-up programming, Laytonville Branch Library will be hosting three events for youth at Laytonville Elementary. These pop-ups run from noon to 1:30 pm on June 25 and July

9 and 23. Ukiah Branch Library will continue their highly successful weekly pop-up events at Todd Grove Park in Ukiah every Tuesday from 10 am to 1 pm through August 4. Summer lunches will be served, with books and activities provided.

Fort Bragg and Round Valley Libraries will continue participating in Lunch at the Library pop-up programming in their communities. Fort Bragg will be at Dana Gray Elementary from 10 am to noon on June 25, July 2, and July 9. Round Valley will offer events at the Round Valley Library Branch, at Youth Activity Day at Hidden Oaks Park, and events in collaboration with the Tis Bil Education Center. Please check with your library branch for more detailed information. For the Willits Library events schedule, visit <https://www.mendolib.org/events/willits-events>

The Summer Reading Program has already featured fun performers in June. In August, the libraries will be presenting Conservation Ambassadors "Wild Things." Join us on Friday, August 7 at the Ukiah, Willits, and Round Valley branches, followed by an August 8 performance at the Fort Bragg and Coast Community branches. "Wild Things" will discuss the diversity of life on Earth, make science interesting and approachable, and tell the stories of the amazing animals in their care. These events are free and open to the public. Set your curiosity free and see what adventures take root this summer when you plant a seed and read! For more information, please view www.mendolib.org or contact the Mendocino County Library at (707) 234-2873.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Toy Story 5'

The Story: Pixar's high emotion comedy/drama featuring young Bonnie who is a terribly shy little girl. She wants to have friends. But she can't even talk to the little girls who live right next door because she's too shy and she's too afraid of rejection. Her toys don't know what to do to help her. They gather together. Cowgirl Jessie who always thinks positive and her loyal horse Bullseye—who used to be Woodie's horse—round up all of Bonnie's toys for a "group think" including especially Buzz Lightyear along with the noble cowboy Woodie. What Bonnie's toys don't know is all the other little girls are playing electronic games and don't have room in their snotty computer-warped hearts for shy old-fashion Bonnie, and mock her old fashion toys.



Dan Essman Columnist

And then: Bonnie's parents buy her a talking plastic tablet that has a frog face and is irritatingly smug. Will our sweet old-fashion girl survive? It's a test of Bonnie's values and loyalty to the toys that care for, and unfailingly, love her.

My Thoughts: This flick sets love and imagination against artificial intelligence algorithms designed to suck out a little girl's brain with flashing lights and crass electronic beeps and burps and chirpy repetitive brain worms. "Toy Story 5" is one more gift from Pixar to the movie-going public. It's a sentimental and thoughtful "Hooray for our humanity!" Enough said.

Parents: This is a fine movie to watch with your children, and to talk with your children afterward about kindness and thoughtfulness, and "being there!" for your friends when they need you. Also it's a fun movie with some sly silly poo-poo puns and jokes about potty training, all age appropriate, at least for the adults.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Apartment for Rent

Converted master bedroom and bathroom with mini kitchen and separate entrance. \$500/month cash or money order. Located at Golden Rule Mobile Village. You must be 55+. Call Liam at 707-459-2470.

Commercial Space Available

Ranging between 1000 to 12000 sq ft. Small office with heat/ac, bathroom, commercial bay with roll up door, security cameras and locked gate. Rent \$1000 to \$1200 + dep, minimum 6 mo. lease. Lincoln Realty 707-459-4599

For Rent

3 bed 2 bath, fresh paint, new carpet, fenced yard, double car garage, \$1750 + Deposit. 3 bed 2 bath, two-story recently updated with deck, \$1600 + deposit. 2 bed 1 bath, new paint, carpet, appliances, garage included, \$1200 + deposit. Lincoln Realty 707-459-4599

Homemade & Alterations by Teresa

Alterations & seamstress work available locally. Reasonable prices and prompt service. Contact: (707) 472-8787.

Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). Saturday, July 18 - 8 am to 2 pm.

Listen to Your Heart for Healing

Join us for an open spiritual discussion on Tuesday, July 7, at 10 to 11 am at the Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St. Questions? Call Joy 707-367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of CA & NV

Room for Rent

For rent master bedroom and bath. Private entrance, no shared space, includes refrigerator, utilities, internet, AC. 1 person 50 or older, \$800 month; rental referral required. 805 259-9155.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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



WW613 CITY OF WILLITS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Willits has scheduled a public hearing to fulfill the requirements of Government Code Section 3502.3 by presenting the 2026 annual update on current vacancies throughout the City in advance of any Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget action.

The City Council Regular Meeting will be held in Person at City Hall, Council Chambers, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490

Important Notice: The City of Willits shows Video Archive of City Council Meetings over the Internet on the Willits Community Television YouTube Channel. Your attendance at this public meeting may result in the recording and broadcast of your image and/or voice.

The City Council will consider this on: Monday, June 29, 2026 at or after 6:00 pm

Anyone interested may attend in person.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Comments shall be submitted by email to dpetersen@cityofwillits.org or mailed/left at City of Willits, City Hall located at 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490. Comments received after posting of the agenda will be provided to the Council and made a part of the public record.

If you challenge this in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Willits, at or prior to the public hearing.

A copy of the staff report will be available for public review at the City of Willits website.

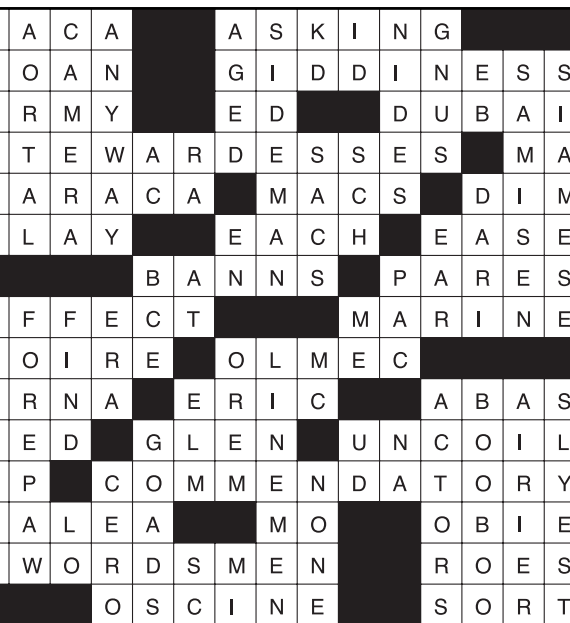
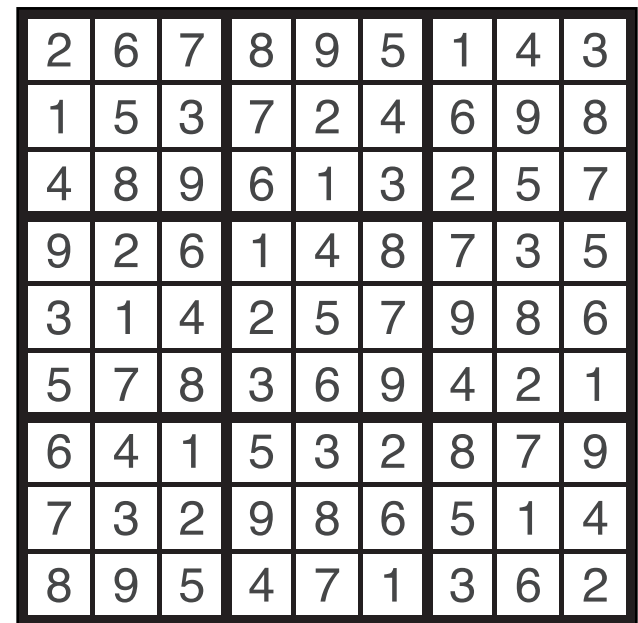
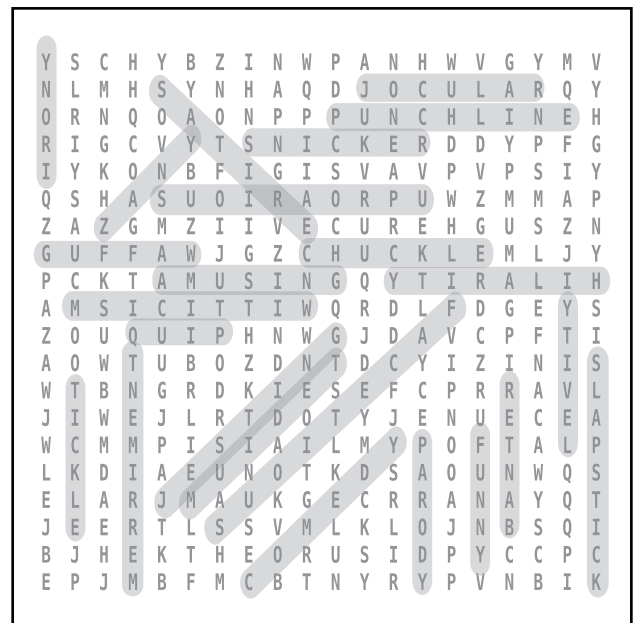
/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk

Publication Date: June 25, 2026

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EXPERIENCE MENDO EXPERIENCE SUCCESS FALL 2026 - NORTH COUNTY CENTER CLASSES ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ANTHROPOLOGY ART AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE BIOLOGY BUSINESS CHILD DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS ENGLISH ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE ETHNIC STUDIES HUMAN SERVICES MATHEMATICS MUSIC POLITICAL SCIENCE PSYCHOLOGY STATISTICS THEATRE WORK EXPERIENCE



WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS 2026 HONOREES

GRAND MARSHAL

LARRY & VIRGINIA STRANSKE



Photos by Steve Eberhard

Larry and Virginia Stranske have long been integral members of our community. They owned a jewelry shop in town, and Mr. Stranske dedicated many years to teaching woodshop. Mrs. Stranske served as our mayor, while Mr. Stranske continues to fulfill his role on the Willits City Council, with her unwavering support. Additionally, Mrs. Stranske operates a charming second-hand store on Main Street; if you have a moment, consider stopping by to say hello.

TOP HAND AWARD HAILEY RILEY

Hailey Riley has been selected as this year's Top Hand, a recognition well-deserved given her extensive contributions to our organization. A former sweetheart in 2017, she initiated the Willits Frontier Days Juniors program that same year, and joined the Willits Frontier Days board in 2021.

Since then, Hailey has held a position on the WFD Board of Directors, and the last two years she has held the position of Secretary. She actively engages in various tasks, from



promoting events to cleaning, planting, and maintaining the grounds through lawn mowing and weed eating.

Her dedication and willingness to help in any capacity have been invaluable, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for her unwavering commitment.



HERITAGE AWARD MAUREEN JENNISON

We are extremely fortunate to have Maureen Jennison officially join our team in 2012. She assumed the critical roles of designing the program, and serving as the official photographer, responsibilities that were previously held by Steve and Lana Eberhard.

Over the years, Maureen has fully embraced these diverse roles within our organization; in addition to her program design duties, she captures all event photographs and secures sponsorships for the annual program. For many years, she has also coordinated the floral arrangements for our Sweetheart dinner and for the horses featured in the parade.

Maureen maintains a website that archives a rich collection of WFD photographs. Her versatility and commitment have been invaluable, and we are profoundly grateful for her contributions.



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 event on Friday, June 26. 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 (Friday, June 26, 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.



Willits Frontier Days Taxi Service

The WFD Beer Crew is pleased to announce that they will be paying to have Gramps' Taxi standing by after the dance on Friday, June 26 from 9 pm to 1 am, to help ensure safe travels home for event attendees. Riders will be responsible for paying their own fares; rates are \$4 per mile, and \$1 per minute of wait time. There's a \$12 minimum fare, and a \$200 clean-up fee, if applicable. Info: Gramps' Taxi: 707-462-9000.

WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS BEER CREW

is pleased to announce we will be paying to have Gramps's Taxi on site
June 26th from 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM
and July 3rd from 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM

Gramps's Taxi
Phone: **707-462-9000**

Rates are **\$4.00** per mile, **\$1.00** per minute wait time, **\$12.00** minimum fare, and a **\$200.00** clean-up fee.

★ Service animals are welcome; no pets. ★

★ You will be responsible for the cab fare. We are covering the standby time. ★

We wish everyone a fun, safe, and memorable 4th of July celebration.

A WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS EVENT | AT THE RODEO GROUNDS ARENA | MAIN GATE OPENS AT 5PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026

TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS

TICKETS AVAILABLE PRESALE FROM SWEETHEARTS OR AT THE GATE

TICKETS: ADULTS: \$25 | Kids: 5-12: \$15

PARTICIPANTS PIT ENTRY: \$20 FOR A PIT PASS \$40 TO PULL - SOLD AT BACK GATE BY MLM

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