

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Power outage

To the Editor:

This morning's 5.6 magnitude earthquake came as a surprise – it seems that they always do, but we know that we have more coming our way. A 5.6 quake is considered moderately strong and is expected to cause some damage and possible injuries.

Here in Northwestern California, we have had much stronger earthquakes in the past and, unfortunately, we are sure to have more in the future. Which brings me to the point of this letter.

This morning's quake hit about 8:10 am and it's now roughly 5:45 pm, and we are still waiting for PG&E to get our power restored. When the 6.1 or larger strikes, and it will, how long will the power be out? Days, weeks, how long? We pay some of the highest rates for power in the nation and in exchange get some of the poorest services.

Frank Sanderson, Brooktrails

2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury issues report on BOS oversight

Submitted by 2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury

The 2025-2026 Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury has issued a new report, "From Policy to Practice: Digging Deeper into the Board of Supervisors Oversight of Planning and Building Services."

The report examines Mendocino County's limited formalized policy and procedures, specifically in the Planning and Building Services' Building Division. Furthermore, there is a substantial disconnect between the Board of Supervisors, the County Chief Executive Officer, and Planning and Building Services management.

The Grand Jury found that the lack of clear direction and oversight continues to compromise public safety, sound administrative practices, and public trust in county governance. Ultimately, this lack of structure undermines confidence in local government and compromises the County's ability to protect its communities fairly, lawfully, and effectively. The full report lays it out in detail and can be found at: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury

Prior to publication, each Civil Grand Jury report is reviewed and approved by the full panel of seated jurors, by the Mendocino County Counsel's Office, and by Judge Ann Moorman of Mendocino County Superior Court.

It is a misdemeanor for individual jurors to discuss grand jury reports or the internal process through which a particular report was developed. Please address any inquiries to the Civil Grand Jury Pro Tem, Redhawk Pallesen, who serves as this jury's sole spokesperson and is available for contact until August 14, 2026 at 707-463-4320 or redhawk@mendocinograndjury.org.



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.

Willits Weekly
A Strategic & Media Board of Community and Life in Willits

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Limited services offered by county libraries during software update

Submitted by Mendocino County Library

The Mendocino County Library is entering an exciting new phase of modernization this summer with the implementation of a new integrated library system, Polaris. This upgraded system will be shared through our regional consortium of Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino County libraries, helping to streamline library operations and improve services for patrons.

As part of this upgrade, the Mendocino County Library will also launch a new online catalog and mobile app. These tools will make it easier to discover new titles, browse our audiobook and DVD collections, and explore staff-recommended reading through a new Staff Picks feature. Another new feature, called "roll-up," will allow patrons to view all available formats of a title – including print books, audiobooks, and eBooks – in a single search result.

To complete the transition, the Library will migrate data from the current system to Polaris from July 27 through August 4. During this period, some library services will be temporarily unavailable.

During the migration:

- Patrons must bring their library card to check out materials.
- The online catalog will be unavailable.
- New library cards cannot be issued.
- Materials cannot be checked in.
- Renewals will not be available.
- Fines and fees cannot be paid.
- New holds cannot be placed.

To minimize inconvenience, during the period of June 29 to July 26 all due dates will be extended to six weeks. Patrons are welcome to keep their checked-out materials until the new system is fully operational. Please note that the last day to place holds will be July 13.

All services are expected to return to normal on August 5, when Polaris, the new online catalog, and the mobile app officially go live.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make these improvements. We apologize for any temporary inconvenience and look forward to providing an enhanced library experience.

For more information, please view www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Mendocino County Library at (707) 234-2873.

Zero tolerance for illegal fireworks in California

Submitted by CAL FIRE Sacramento

Editor's note: All fireworks are illegal in Mendocino County, see "Fireworks are illegal in Mendocino County" from CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit in this edition, but for readers' information, here's the press release from CAL FIRE HQ in Sacramento about how it works in counties where "Safe and Sane" fireworks are legal.

CAL FIRE reminds all Californians that there is zero tolerance for illegal fireworks, which includes the sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or use of any device that does not carry the State Fire Marshal-approved "Safe and Sane" seal. This year, CAL FIRE partnered with local Sacramento area fire departments, law enforcement agencies, and Shriners Children's to host a regional fireworks safety press conference, highlighting the dangers posed by illegal fireworks, the risks associated with purchasing them online or from unlicensed sellers, and the importance of community vigilance.

Fireworks purchased online, shipped from out of state, or bought from unlicensed sellers or stands are illegal and often extremely dangerous. Only fireworks sold through permitted "Safe and Sane" fireworks booths in approved communities within California are legal to purchase.

Possessing or using illegal fireworks or using any type fireworks in communities where they are prohibited can result in fines of up to \$50,000 and up to one year in jail.

Illegal fireworks include:

- Metal Core Sparklers
- Skyrockets
- Bottle rockets
- Roman candles
- Aerial shells
- Firecrackers
- Sparklers

Read the rest of **Zero** Over on page 13

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

July 2026

By Supervisor John Haschak

It is great to see the civic pride and number of people who come home to enjoy the 100th Anniversary of Willits Frontier Days. Along with the parade, rodeo, BBQ, and all the Frontier Days festivities, the County Museum is open to explore the history of our County. Happy Birthday to the United States on its 250th birthday!

The Board approved a balanced budget. Unknowns at this point include the costs of negotiations, federal freeze on In Home Support Services, having to hire more eligibility workers for MediCal eligibility requirements, increased retirement fund contributions, and indigent care.

For the last few years, annexation has been a big topic. A Master Tax Sharing Agreement was approved by the cities and the County (I was the lone dissenting vote). The agreement has been very controversial. Last year, the Board decided to work with the City of Ukiah instead of withdrawing from the agreement. The City and the County disagree on the impact of Ukiah's current proposal. I proposed, and it was approved by the Board, that we agree to a neutral expert who can look at the numbers and services and help us get to an agreed-upon understanding. If we can't, then we can certainly opt out of the agreement.

On July 7, I am bringing forward an agenda item to direct staff to return to the Board with an urgency ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium on the processing and approval of new data centers. Right now, data centers may be permitted without any discretionary approval in certain zoning districts, which limits the ability to condition or prevent data center construction. Certainly, the exorbitant use of water is a prime concern. A temporary moratorium would prohibit new data centers from being developed pending the consideration and study of the land use activity, including looking at various issues such as water and energy consumption, noise pollution, neighborhood compatibility, etc. County staff would return to the Board with recommendations for addressing the permitting of data centers after studying the issues.

If you stay at a hotel, motel, or short-term rental in Mendocino County, there is a transient occupancy tax and a 1% tax called a Business Improvement Tax (BIT). This is used to promote tourism. Visit Mendocino County has had the contract. Hoteliers in the inland area have felt that the inland portion of the County has not been properly promoted. The Board approved an ad hoc committee of me and Supervisors Cline to explore other contract options. There is a newly formed Inland Mendocino Tourism Council that wants to have fiscal and marketing control of the inland area in partnership with VMC. If the old way isn't working, let's look at new approaches.

CEO Sara Pierce has been appointed the Acting CEO starting on July 13. Ms. Pierce has been the Assistant CEO and was the replacement for the Auditor/Controller Treasurer/Tax Collector for a year and a half. She is very competent and knows the fiscal side of County operations very well.

There will be a Talk with the Supervisor on Thursday, July 9, from 10:00-11:00 at Brickhouse Coffee. You can always contact me at haschak@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-972-4214.



Truck and Tractor Pulls

Arena transforms into track for annual loud, dirty, and heart-pounding event

There's not just bulls, broncs and roping going on at the Willits Frontier Days arena;

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
willitsweekly@gmail.com

for one night, it transforms into a compact track where locals and professionals can hook up to The Terminator and try for a full pull.

The Truck and Tractor Pulls challenges several classes of drivers to test their nuts and bolts against an interactive weight sled, pulled behind the vehicles which can adjust the weight and downward force against each puller to accommodate a range of engines and pulling power.

The idea is to get your vehicle to the 300-foot full-pull finish line, or the closest to, in order to win your class. Some blow past the line, leaving quite the ruts and divots for the skilled backhoe and steamroller operators to flatten back out for the next driver.

This year's placings include:

5,500-pound Street Truck Class: First place went to Willie Nelson and driver Dean Allen with a pull of 215.34 feet; second to Rust Bucket

and driver Jeff Whitby with a pull of 173.66 feet; third to Family Ties and driver CJ Jewell with a pull of 149.83 feet; and fourth place to Lil' Betty, also driven by CJ Jewell, but which only made it 5.9 feet.

6,500-pound Street Truck Class: First place went to Willie Nelson and driver Deal Allen with a pull of 236.81-feet; and second to GMC driven by John Retzlaff with a pull of 229.21 feet. Black Betty and driver Jeremy Dailey was disqualified.

Country Modified Trucks Class: The Advisor, driven by Scott Layne, took first place with a pull of 265.55 feet.

6000-pound Modified Tractors Class: First place went to Mustang Legacy and driver Maxon Landon with a pull of 282.17 feet; second place went to White Lightning and driver David Leinfelder with a pull of 262.06 feet; and third place went to Bail Out and driver Mark Zohns with a pull of 245.05 feet.

Work Stock Diesel Trucks Class: First place went to White Hammer and driver Jason Soiland with a pull of 282.24 feet; second to Silver Bullet and driver Dean Anrig with



Photos by Maureen Jennison

At top, from left: Jeff and Terry Whitby of Jeff's Gas and Appliance are main staples at the Truck Pull event, with Jeff and his truck Rust Bucket placing second in the 5,500-pound Street Truck class with a pull of 173.66 feet. The American Legion men came to help raise the oversized American flag during the singing of the national anthem at the start of the Truck Pulls. Ear protection is a good idea for big ears, and little ears, too, as the trucks can get LOUD during their pulls. Above: Bodashus and driver Bob Morrill placed second in the Pro Modified Trucks class with a pull of 273.4 feet. Below, left: The Whip and driver Kevin Massetti won the 7,400-pound Modified Tractors class with a pull of 273.4 feet, but got a little squirrely at the end of the track, making a photographer particularly nervous – zoom out!! Jason Soiland drove White Hammer which won the Work Stock Diesel Truck class with a pull of 282.24 feet. At bottom, from left: Young spectators hang over the edge of the rail to get a closer look at the action. Trucks come in for a lap through the arena before lining up for their pull. Traction Control and driver Donnie Reeve took first place in the Pro Modified Truck class with a pull of 292.73 feet. See these and many more photos from all the events from 2012 through 2026 online at <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/willitsfrontierdays>



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Happy 4th of July, y'all!
Photo by Maureen (Maere) Jennison
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TIME: 8:00 AM
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The 2026 honorees were announced: Grand Marshals Larry and Virginia Strancke; Heritage Award, Maureen Jennison; and Top Hand, Hailey Riley, and all were given commemorative gifts, including silver engraved coffee cups for the Stranckes, a silver cuff for Jennison, and a silver buckle for Riley.

The Willits Frontier Days Juniors club raised over \$2,600 for their upcoming projects, and \$500 towards their scholarship fund raised by proceeds from silent and live auction items, including a quilt made by Diane Ford which was bought by Bouthillier Construction for \$1,900 and a handmade wooden bench bought by Cody Goss for \$550.

Willits Mayor Tom Allman helped auction off the first of only 100 commemorative coins made to celebrate this year's event, bought

by the 1970 Sweetheart Kam Maize LaLaguna for \$550, and a special Sweetheart quilt bought by the Rileys for \$2,300, together raising \$2,850 for Willits Frontier Days.

The dinner is sponsored by J.D. Redhouse, and June Sizemore is the head cook for the giant undertaking. Beef, fruit, greens, pasta, potato salads, macaroni, baked potatoes, rolls and more were served to the 500 or so guests in attendance, and individual Kemmy's Pies dotted tabletops for patrons to take home, including everything from apple to blackberry, to chocolate to lemonade pies.

The dinner is always a fun time to reconnect with family and friends and see familiar faces, and event is a great opportunity to reminisce with one another about Willits, the history and the years at the rodeo grounds, and celebrating our local heritage and an organization which was started to fund a hospital, and has now become a beloved tradition. Here's to another 100!

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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 Carnival Opens	Tennis Courts	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	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	Horseshoe	Jack Tharp Arena	FREE

Thank you to our major sponsors for 2026



At right, above: Willits Frontier Days Juniors members stand with buyer Jenn Drew and the special Juniors quilt made by Diane Ford. At right: Mary Anne Underhill of Underhill's Western Craft, center, stands with recent WFD Sweetheart winners who received custom leather sashes made by Underhill, including, from left: Danielle, Lisa, Hazel and Elena.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Upcoming Willits Frontier Days Events

FRIDAY, JULY 3:

Willits Frontier Days CCPRA Rodeo, part 1: Come see the first-half of the professional cowboys and cowgirls compete in a host of rodeo events on Friday, July 3, including roping, barrel racing, bull and bronc riding and more. The show starts at 7 pm and tickets are available at the gate for \$30 for box seats; \$25 for adults; \$15 for children 12 and under and children 2 and under are free.

Willits Frontier Days Western Dance: Around 9 pm, the old tennis courts by the Tin Can Saloon will be transformed into a live stage show with music performed by Chad Bushnell. The event is free to attend.

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, July 3 from 9 am 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

SATURDAY, JULY 4:

WFD Horseshoe Competition: annual Willits Frontier Days contest, Saturday, July 4 at 10 am at the Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street. \$75 entry fee; free to watch.

Willits 4th of July Parade: annual Willits Frontier Days 4th of July Parade, North Main Street. Starts at 11 am; Staging on East Commercial Street; turning south on to Main Street. 2026 theme is "Year of the Sweethearts".

WFD Country Music Rodeola: annual free Willits Frontier Days musical event. Saturday, July 4 at the Rec Grove Park, East Commercial Street, at 12 noon.

WFD Western Barbecue: Willits Frontier Days annual 4th of July beef barbecue feast, Saturday, July 4 at noon at the Rec Grove Park. Tickets: Adult: \$25; Child, 12 & under: \$15.

Willits Frontier Days Waterfight: When lunch has settled, and everyone is really ready for a cool down, come by the Little Lake Firehouse at 4 pm on Saturday, July 4 to watch teams of firefighters try to use hoses to spray a metal barrel across the other team's line. Splash zone and non-splash zone seating available, depending on your preference. Event is free to attend.

Willits Frontier Days CCPRA Rodeo, part 2: Come see the second-half of the professional cowboys and cowgirls compete in a host of rodeo events on Saturday, July 4, including roping, barrel racing, bull and bronc riding and more. The show starts at 7 pm and tickets are available at the gate for \$30 for box seats; \$25 for adults; \$15 for children 12 and under and children 2 and under are free.

SUNDAY, JULY 5:

WFD Lions Club Cowboy Breakfast: Willits Lions Club members serve up the Willits Frontier Days Cowboy Breakfast, Sunday, July 5 at 7 am at the Rec Grove Park, East Commercial Street. Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, and more, Tickets: \$15 adult; \$10 child (12 & under).

WFD Junior Rodeo: Willits Frontier Days Junior Rodeo, Sunday, July 5 starting at 8 am, at the Jack Tharp Arena, East Commercial Street. Tickets: \$20 adults; \$10, child 12 & under. Junior Rodeo ticket prices includes entry to Bulls and Broncs. Events for Junior contestants include: Team Roping, Barrels & Poles, Calves To Bulls, Mystery Scramble, and Steer Daubing.

WFD Bulls and Broncs: Sunday, July 5, at 6 pm, at the Jack Tharp Arena on East Commercial Street. Free admission.

See full schedule at left, and online at www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

WFD LIVE MUSIC WITH CHAD BUSHNELL

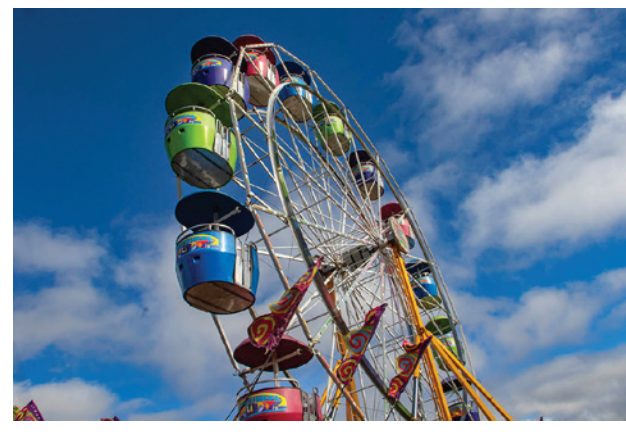
Posted at chadbushnell.com

If there was a true authentic spirit to cross the threshold of Country Music with Christian standards, it would be Chad Bushnell. His roots date back down his family lineage the past 4 generations made of cowboys and singers, some of which shared the stage with the late Bob Hope. He exudes the Americana spirit wrapped up into his lyrics and melodies.

Chad has opened for country legends such as Kris Kristofferson, Dwight Yoakam, Scotty McCreery, Lee Brice, Neal McCoy, Billy Currington, Mark Wills, Collin Raye and many others over the years. His first Christian Country single "What Would Jesus Do" hit #1 on the Christian Music Weekly charts right by George Strait and Lauren Alaina. His latest Christian Country single "Imperfect Prayer" recently hit #1 as well following the premiere of his first documentary on KIXE PBS titled "North State Roots". His latest record "Whiskey to Work" was produced by Nate Coon (Rosewood Studios in Tyler, TX), Derek Boone (Edgewater Studios in Houston, TX) and Dave Gibson (Beard Music Group in Nashville, TN). It features songs written by Chad himself, songs co-written with some of his favorite songwriters and even a few written by hit songwriters out of Nashville, TN.

Chad has participated in a number of contests such as American Country Star in Nashville, TN, where he became a top 3 finalist and won the Horizon award. He was the Contemporary Country Vocalist of the Year at the Josie Music Awards for 2020 in Pigeon Forge, TN and recently won Country Artist of the Year for 2025 at the Grand Ol Opry. He was the "1st" place winner of the Inspirational Country Showdown in "Yuba City, CA" and won New Artist of the Year for Inspirational Country Music Association. He was recently nominated by Country Evolution as one of the Artists to Watch. You may have also caught a glimpse of Chad on TV shows such as The 700 Club and Universal Huntress.

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Above, from left: The Ferris Wheel, the staple ride of almost every carnival, gives kids a chance to soar high into the sky and wave down to mom and dad. One of the three main attractions, along with rides and games, of a carnival is the food: cotton candy and corn dogs. To run the Super Slide, you just climb to the top, sit on a cloth, and speed down the ramp - maybe with a kid in hand.

Photos by Mathew Caine



At far left: Quinn, who was running the Tornado ride, just started with the carnival on its first day in Willits. At left: The tightly spaced balloons make it difficult to miss at this game - especially if you stand where this young girl is. Below, left: Michael helps his mom Savannah at the Goldfish game. He will tell you the best method to get the ping pong ball into the bowl and bring home a fish.

CARNIVAL HOURS POSTED ONLINE BY JOHNSTON AMUSEMENTS:
 6/28 - 7/3: 5 pm - 10 pm | July 4th: 12 pm - 10 pm | 7/5: 12 pm - TBD

Carnival Fun

Johnston Amusements brings its family-friendly and family-run fair to Willits for Frontier Days

Kids love to be scared. They also love speed. And they love to eat strange foods and play games and win prizes. With the annual visit of the Johnston Amusements Carnival, in town for Willits Frontier Days, all of these wishes can become a reality.

The Johnston family has been operating their special brand of excitement and family entertainment since the 1940s, when the father of the current owner, Ken Johnston, began the enterprise. The current Johnston runs the operation along with his wife, Denise, and they are currently grooming the next generations of Johnstons to take over the business.

To say it is a family-run business is an understatement. In speaking with the ride and operators, it becomes evident that several generations of families work together in the venue. Denise, the granddaughter of the owners, has worked many of the games and rides, but prefers her current post, the Chase Combo, with cars and other vehicles that go around in a tight circle. "I've been with the carnival for 33 years," she said. "I've worked all of these attractions. I like this one because the kids don't have attitudes yet. If kids are grumpy, they're having a bad day, and you can change that. I wouldn't work any place

else if somebody paid me \$5 million. My grandpa owns this carnival, Mr. Johnson. I've tried to do other things, couldn't really picture myself staying with them. This is 100% fun."

Patricia runs the Duck Pond, where every player is a winner. She stated: "Eight bucks, you pick up a duck. There's letters on the bottom of the duck that reveal the prize you get." Jessica works at the Water Race. Her family is very much a part of the Johnston group. "My whole life, I was born and raised here. My mom works here, and my dad is on that golf cart over there. He manages the rides. My stepmom, also on the golf cart, is manager of the food part," Jessica said.

Young Michael, about 10 years old, was working the Goldfish game, where a player will attempt to throw a ping pong ball into a fishbowl. His mother, Savannah, was nearby with Archie, another of her young children. Michael let Willits Weekly in on his secret to success in the game: "What you have to do is you aim at the side and you underhand it. If you get the ball in one of them, you get a fish, not to eat but to keep," he said. Michael's grandmother works in the food concession.

Read the rest of Carnival Over on page 11



Above, right: Zinnia, like most kids at the carnival, loves the texture and sweetness of the cotton candy. At left: Granddaughter of Ken and Denise Johnston, current owners of the carnival, Desiree has been with the carnival most of her life and loves it. Below, left: Everybody who is a winner at Patricia's Duck Pond game. Just pick any duck and turn it over to read your prize. Below, right: Maya and Ayla love the fun food. Maya borrowed some cotton candy, and Ayla has her funnel cake.



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Family Tree is proud to be a local employer of over 130 community members. As your local primary utility contractor since 2003, we put the safety of our team and you, the property owner, above all other priorities. Our employees are skilled professionals who support and maintain clearances around power lines, manage special vegetation management projects for state and federal agencies, and respond to storm-related outages 24/7.

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803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023

Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:00 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
• 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 Anron 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://santhonywillits.org/
santhonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

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

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

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort
where all are welcome
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook willits umc

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

Thursday, July 2

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, July 2 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.

Willits Frontier Days Carnival: Johnston Amusements returns to Willits for the 100th anniversary of Willits Frontier Days, at the old ball field next to the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds. From classic carnival games and delicious fair food to rides for all ages, including the heart-pounding Zipper if you're feeling adventurous, or the Expo Wheel where you can enjoy breathtaking views of Willits from the top of the ride, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Continues Thursday, July 2 and Friday, July 3, from 5 to 10 pm. Saturday, July 4 from noon to 10 pm. Sunday, July 5 from noon to TBD. Unlimited ride wristbands for \$45 or enjoy rides by the ticket.

Friday, July 3

Senior Center 4th of July Bake Sale: Stop by and pick up something delicious for your Independence Day celebration. Friday, July 3 from 8:30 am to 1 pm at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Homemade goodies of all kinds: Cookies, Brownies, Cakes, Pies, Breads, Seasonal Treats, Sweet Surprises and more. Come early for the best section.

July Exhibit Reception at WCA: Join us at Willits Center for the Arts for a festive summer opening featuring Ukiah metal artist Kate Gibbs and Willits own Laura Wiecek and Sandy Strong, with paintings, works on paper, book arts, and collage. Celebrate local artists and community at this free event with refreshments, and fine art, on Friday, July 3, from 6 to 8 pm. This exhibit will run through Sunday, July 28, with gallery hours Fridays through Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm, 71 East Commercial Street. More info: visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Willits Frontier Days Carnival: Johnston Amusements returns to Willits for the 100th anniversary of Willits Frontier Days, at the old ball field next to the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds. Friday, July 3, open from 5 to 10 pm. See July 2 listing for more details.

4th of July Jam at Area 101: Runaway Planet Productions presents, 6 pm to midnight at Area 101, 54895 Highway 101, Laytonville. featuring Days of Haman, plus Cameron Damm MacDonald, The White Lies, and surprise guests. DJ from 10 pm to midnight.

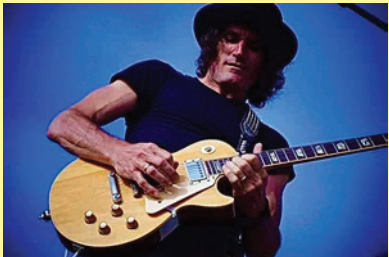


WFD CCPRA Professional Rodeo:

California Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association presents the 4th of July Rodeo at Willits Frontier Days 2026. With Rockin' M Rodeo. Saturday, July 4, 7 pm, at the Jack Sharp Arena on East Commercial Street. Tickets: Box: \$30; Adult: \$25; Child, 12 & under: \$15; child, 2 and under: Free.

Sequoia Rose Band at Shanachie:

Celebrate the 4th of July with award-winning all country multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Sequoia Rose and his band, playing hard-driving bluegrass tunes, psychedelic jam band instrumental breaks, and innovative original country songwriting. Saturday, July 4 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



virtuoso guitar-playing that makes audiences get up and dance. Friday, July 3 at 8 pm. Debuting new live album "Keep Hope Alive," co-produced and engineered with legendary recording engineer Oz Fritz. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

WFD Western Dance: Willits Frontier Days presents the free Western Dance, featuring Chad Bushnell, Wednesday, July 3 at the Tennis Courts; starts around 9 pm, after the rodeo ends.



Saturday, July 4 Happy Independence Day!

WFD Horseshoe Competition: annual Willits Frontier Days contest, Saturday, July 4 at 10 am at the Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street. \$75 entry fee; free to watch.

Willits 4th of July Parade: annual Willits Frontier Days 4th of July Parade, North Main Street. Starts at 11 am; Staging on East Commercial Street; turning south on to Main Street. 2024 theme is "Year of the Sweethearts".

Willits Frontier Days Carnival: Johnston Amusements returns to Willits for the 100th anniversary of Willits Frontier Days, at the old ball field next to the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds. Saturday, July 4, open from 12 noon to 10 pm. See July 2 listing for more details.

WFD Country Music Rodeola: annual free Willits Frontier Days musical event. Saturday, July 4 at the Rec Grove Park, East Commercial Street, at 12 noon.

WFD Western Barbecue: Willits Frontier Days annual 4th of July beef barbecue feast, Saturday, July 4 at noon at the Rec Grove Park. Tickets: Adult: \$25; Child, 12 & under: \$15.

WFD Water Fights: Little Lake Firefighters Association hosts annual water fights with the fire hoses at the Willits Firehouse, Station 54, 74 East Commercial Street. Saturday, July 4. Free.

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Sunday, July 5

WFD Lions Club Cowboy Breakfast: Willits Lions Club members serve up the Willits Frontier Days Cowboy Breakfast, Sunday, July 5 at 7 am at the Rec Grove Park, East Commercial Street. Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, and more. Tickets: \$15 adult; \$10 child (12 & under).

WFD Junior Rodeo: Willits Frontier Days Junior Rodeo, Sunday, July 5 starting at 8 am, at the Jack Sharp Arena, East Commercial Street. Tickets: \$20 adults; \$10, child 12 & under. Junior Rodeo ticket prices includes entry to Bulls and Broncs. Events for Junior contestants include: Team Roping, Barrels & Poles, Calves To Bulls, Mystery Scramble, and Steer Daubing.

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WFD Bulls and Broncs: Sunday, July 5, at 6 pm, at the Jack Sharp Arena on East Commercial Street. Free admission.

Thursday, July 9

Lunch with Laytonville Library: Meet the Laytonville Branch Library for lunch at the Cafeteria at Laytonville Elementary School, 150 Ramsey Rd, Laytonville, CA 95454

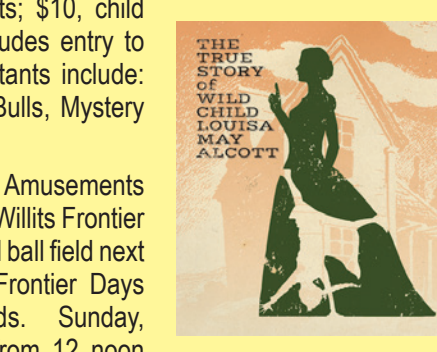
Ramsey Road, followed by a fun activity. Thursday, July 9 and Thursday, July 23 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm. All 18 and under can receive a free meal.

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, July 2 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.



"Adornment" at Ridgewood Ranch: A community art exhibition featuring works by Willits artists, makers, and everyday creatives curated by Renata Abbade. The show takes its name and its inspiration from one of the oldest human impulses: the desire to beautify. Accepted work includes paintings, drawings, printmaking, photography, fiber arts, make-up, sculpture, jewelry, decorative objects, videos, digital works, and performance art. Opening reception is Friday July 10 at 6:30 pm. "Adornment" will run through September 11 at Ridgewood Ranch, 11800 Orchard Lane, 7 miles south of Willits off Highway 101.

Art Talk at WCA: This month's Art Talk at the Willits Center for the Arts is on "Michelangelo," one of the most influential figures of the Italian Renaissance, on Friday, July 10 at 6:30 pm. The presentation, by Gary Martin, M.A., will explore Michelangelo's remarkable career as a sculptor, painter, and architect, tracing his development from his early years in Florence to his later achievements in Rome, and highlighting major works, including "David," "Pieta," the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, and "The Last Judgment." 71 East Commercial Street.



"Louisa@Fruitlands" at WCT: the world premiere of acclaimed writer Daniel Rover Singer's remarkable new play, "Louisa@Fruitlands," the true story of wild child Louisa May Alcott drawn from her memoir, "Transcendental Wild Oats." Saturday, July 11 at Willits Community Theatre, at 7 pm. See Friday, July 10 listing for details.

Blue Luke at Shanachie: Prodigy guitarist "Blue Luke" Andrews takes the soul of the blues, the groove of funk, the grit of rock & roll, and the harmonies of jazz into the modern world. With special guests on Friday, July 10, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

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Saturday, July 11
Entries due for Redwood Empire Fair: All entries for the 2026 Redwood Empire Fair must be postmarked on or before Saturday, July 11. Premium books have been mailed out, and digital

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Saturday, July 11
Entries due for Redwood Empire Fair: All entries for the 2026 Redwood Empire Fair must be postmarked on or before Saturday, July 11. Premium books have been mailed out, and digital

forms and the Exhibitor Guidebook are available online at www.RedwoodEmpireFair.cm. The fair will be held August 6 to 9, 2026 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. More info: 707-462-FAIR.

1st annual Gem Show at Willits Community Center: Willits Gem & Mineral Society presents its 1st annual Gem Show, Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12, 10 am to 6 pm, at the Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Crystals, minerals, jewelry, beads and glass. Presentations on local geology and crystal healing. Snack and food vendors. Tickets: \$5, children under 12 free.

Sherwood Valley Big Time: Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians presents their 33rd Annual Big Time Saturday, July 11 from 11 am to dusk, at 190 Sherwood Hill Drive in Willits. Salmon BBQ, Native Dancers, Food & Craft Vendors, Health & Wellness booths, Fry Bread Cook-Off. This is a drug, tobacco, and alcohol free event. For vendor applications or more info: call Jodi Sjoland at 707-354-2892 or jodisjoland1970@gmail.com. Applications can be picked up at the Sherwood Tribal Office or found at www.sherwoodvalleybandofpomo.com



Library Story and Playtime at Rec Grove: Willits Branch Library's storytime in the Park set for Saturday, July 11 and Saturday, July 25 this month, 11 am to noon, at Rec Grove Park. Bring the kids for a story read by a librarian followed by fun outdoor games.

"Louisa@Fruitlands" at WCT: the world premiere of Daniel Rover Singer's remarkable new play, the true story of wild child Louisa May Alcott drawn from her memoir, "Transcendental Wild Oats." Saturday, July 11 at Willits Community Theatre, at 7 pm. See Friday, July 10 listing for details.

Back Porch Trio at Shanachie: fun-loving sound, original songs and covers, influenced by folk, blues, classic rock, jam band, americana, and bluegrass. BPT is Rosie Wetzel (ukulele and vocals), Steve Hamm (acoustic guitar and vocals), and Jeff Taylor (bass). Saturday, July 11 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, July 12

"Louisa@Fruitlands" at WCT: the world premiere of Daniel Rover Singer's remarkable new play, the true story of wild child Louisa May Alcott drawn from her memoir, "Transcendental Wild Oats." Sunday, July 12 matinee at Willits Community Theatre, at 2 pm. See Friday, July 10 listing for details.



Little League All Star games need volunteers

Willits Redwood Little League is hosting five League All Star games here in Willits this week. Please consider coming to watch some of our games! Volunteers are also needed; see the game schedule below. Some of the games coincide with the 4th of July festivities, so we need your help! These are the final five games we will host all season. And a great way to keep our kids playing locally!

- Game 1 - 10U July 2, 5:30 pm
- Game 2 - 12U July 3, 5:30 pm
- Game 3 - 12U July 4, 10 am
- Game 4 - 12U July 4, 1 pm
- Game 5 - 12U July 5, 11 am

We are looking for Snack Shack Help(x2), Game Announcer, Score Keeper, Field Maintenance (x2) for each game, and potentially traffic/parking directors on July 4. Please direct message us at "Willits Redwood Little League" on Facebook, if you are can help with any of those games.

4th of July Fireworks Displays

For fireworks enthusiasts, there are safe, organized, professional fireworks displays scheduled for Independence Day 2026, in Fort Bragg, Point Arena, and Ukiah.

Fort Bragg Independence Day Fireworks: Saturday, July 4, at Todd Point in Fort Bragg. Parking starts at 5 pm.

Point Arena Fireworks Extravaganza: Saturday, July 4, at Arena Cove, 810 Port Road, Point Arena. 4 pm.

Ukiah Fireworks Extravaganza: Saturday, July 4, at Ukiah Speedway, 1055 North State Street. Gates open 3:30 pm.

FORT BRAGG
NORTH COAST CALIFORNIA
Independence DAY
Fireworks
SATURDAY, JULY 4

PARKING STARTS AT 5 PM.

WATCH FROM:
• South Coastal Trail at Noyo Headlands
• Pomo Bluffs Park
• Todd Point Parking Area (handicap parking only)

* Parking at Noyo Headlands lot \$20.
* Vehicles with handicap placards may park in the Pomo Bluffs Park parking area free of charge.

Willits Lions Club ANNIVERSARY PICNIC
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM RECREATION GROVE PARK

Join us for our ANNIVERSARY PICNIC! Celebrating 100 YEARS OF SERVING OUR COMMUNITY!

ENTERTAINMENT:
• Fire Safety Demos
• Scouts Rope Climbing Presentation
• Fire Department Boats Race

LIVE MUSIC BY WAREHOUSE 21
FREE ADMISSION

WILLITS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
1ST ANNUAL GEM SHOW
@ THE COMMUNITY CENTER
111 EAST COMMERCIAL STREET, WILLITS, CA
SATURDAY 7/11 & SUNDAY 7/12
65 ADULT TICKET 10AM-6PM Kids under 12 FREE

PRESENTATIONS ON LOCAL GEOLOGY & CRYSTAL HEALING

CRYSTALS & MINERALS JEWELRY BEADS & CABS SNACKS PROVIDED BY MOMMY'S PIES

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
ART TALKS
Presents
Michelangelo

It will also examine his artistic techniques, such as his deep study of human anatomy, his sculptural approach to painting, and his use of unfinished surfaces to convey expressive

Friday, July 10 6:30

71 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490
www.willitscenterforthearts.org

43rd Annual Round Valley Covelo, Ca Blackberry Festival
August 15-16, 2026

Saturday 10am - 6pm
Sunday 10am - 5pm

Music, Arts & Crafts • Wine Tasting • Food • Kids Activities • Blackberry Delicacies

Sunday: Car Show

Sponsored by the Friends of the Round Valley Public Library
www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com

POINT ARENA INDEPENDENCE WEEKEND CELEBRATION

Fri. 3rd STREET FAIR FIREWORKS AT THE COVE 4PM

Sun. 5th PARADE MAIN ST. NOON

ADMISSION \$12 (CASH ONLY, ATM ON SITE)
PARKING \$10 (W/SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM CITYHALL & TRACTS' INVERSE LOT FROM 3PM-10PM)

NO DOGS! / NO ROCKWALL LOT PARKING!!

Garrake Karaoke
Presents
WHISTLE STOP SUMMER SERIES
KARAOKE EVERY 1ST 3RD, AND 5TH WEDNESDAY

\$5 Cover

All Ages Karaoke - 5pm to 9pm

280 E Commercial St. Willits CA 95490

WILLITSFEST LOCAL ARTISTS SHOWCASE
SATURDAY, JULY 25 2026
WILLITS RECREATION GROVE PARK
9 LENORE AVE, WILLITS, CA

LOCAL ARTISTS SHOWCASE:
• HALI-LIYAH - KINGDOMS - BAMUNIN
• MARIAMAH - MARIAMAH - MARIAMAH
• CARLIN DIAMOND - CARLIN DIAMOND
• SOUL CIRCLES - BLUE LUKE
• LUPINE DRIVES - LA ONDA
• SOUL CIRCLES - BLUE LUKE

WILLITSFEST SCHEDULE:
• 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: ARTISTS' RECEPTION
• 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM: LUNCH
• 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM: ARTS & CRAFTS
• 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: MUSIC & DANCE
• 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM: FIREWORKS & CELEBRATION

DEAR FOUNDATION: SHIRAZ ROY WILLITS, AND FIRE CONTRIBUTION
MENDOCINO COVERS BUILDING CO. EVENT

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
presents
KATIE GIBBS

METALWORK
COLLAGE
PAINTING

LAURA WIECEK
SANDY STRONG

Opening: FRIDAY July 3, 2026
Fine Art, Community & Refreshments from 6-8pm FREE
Exhibit runs thru Sunday July 29, 2026
Fridays- Sundays 11-5pm
71 E. Commercial St., Willits

ALMUEROZO EN LA BIBLIOTECA
Biblioteca Cultural de Laytonville
¡Apunta estas fechas en su calendario para este verano!

¡Reúnete con la biblioteca en la escuela primaria Laytonville para almorzar y luego participar en una actividad diversificada. Acompañados en la cafetería, todos los niños menores de 18 años pueden recibir una comida gratis.

jueves, 25 de junio
jueves, 9 de julio
jueves, 23 de julio

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Laytonville Elementary School
150 Ramsey Rd, Laytonville, CA 95454

Flynn Creek Circus
Cricket & Wren
Daring - Original - All-human
Anacroticfairytale

Mendocino
July 2-12

101 W. 2nd St. Ukiah, CA 95501
916-448-9929

BASKETMAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday, July 25
10am-1pm or 1:30pm-4:30pm

Make your own woven basket with Corrie Pearce, Pomo cultural educator and basketweaver. Both classes are suitable for beginners and all ages 8+. This program is \$10/person. Native people are free and scholarship spots are available, simply ask.
Call 707-467-2836 or email gminista@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

4TH OF JULY FIREWORK EXTRAVAGANZA!
A BIGGER SHOW FOR THE
UKIAH SPEEDWAY 250TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

PRESALE TICKETS BUY EARLY & SAVE!

★ ADULTS \$18
★ CHILDREN 6-17 \$12
★ SENIORS \$12

SPECTATOR PRICING
★ ADULTS \$20
★ CHILDREN 6-17 \$14
★ SENIORS \$14

PRESALE ENDS JULY 3RD AT 11:59PM

GATES OPEN 3:30 PM

FAST CARS. BIG FIREWORKS. UNFORGETTABLE FREEDOM.

LET'S CELEBRATE THE 4TH THE RIGHT WAY!



Above, from left: Kiohma explains the intricacies of this piece of the still, known as the onion, and what its function is in the process. The attendees get prepared to form the elements into incense cones and sticks. Some of the attendees volunteered to "garble" the lavender, grinding it with their hands to get it ready to go into the still. Motherland's Donna d'Terra addresses the attendees prior to the beginning of the lavender demonstration. Below: Lavender Day Motherland boxes were provided for the attendees to take their incense home for drying.



Meals On Wheels VOLUNTEER
Make a difference—one meal at a time.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED
1st & 3rd THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

MEALS ON WHEELS
HARRAH SENIOR CENTER

Willits Route
In town
Help local seniors

10:30am-2:00pm
Meals on Wheels truck used for deliveries.

DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIRED

WILLITS SENIOR CENTER
1501 Baechtel Rd.
Willits, CA 95490

For more information please contact Joliana (707)-459-6826 Ext. 6

VOLUNTEER. CONNECT. IMPACT LIVES.
Thank you for supporting our local seniors!

The mission of the "Be the Antidote" project is to support the artistic community in Willits, with a strong emphasis on creating access to and participation in every kind of artistic expression the children and young people in our community are capable of.

Do you know a dynamic kid who is bursting with talent? Is there a budding actor or musician in your life? A dancer? A singer? Painter or cartoonist?

Let us know by joining and posting a pic or a story to our Facebook page:
Be the Antidote - Willits.
Or, reach out to us at BtheAntidote@gmail.com.



Lavender Day

Motherland hosts workshop by Kiohma of Kilted Dog Farm on the fragrant purple herb

Lavender is the "Swiss Army knife of herbs," or so it's been said. The versatility of this plant makes working with lavender an eclectic experience with beautiful aromatic results. On a lovely cool morning last weekend, a group of esoteric herbal practitioners and curious gardeners assembled high on a mountain in the Spring Creek area, a magical place called "Motherland." Motherland is the home and garden of artist and herbalist, Donna d'Terra, off the grid but very much on the Earth in terms of her relationship with the planet. D'Terra loves to share her knowledge and her herbs and her generous being.

On Saturday, about 15 people made their way up a couple miles of steep road

to hear lavender entrepreneur Kiohma of Kilted Dog Farm speak and demonstrate her method of extracting the goodness from the plant, and to utilize the result in making incense.

"I've been doing this for about 12 years now," Kiohma said, "and I use a copper alembic still. These come from Portugal. They are made out of copper which is an amazing heat conductor and is the best for avoiding scorching. It also has anti-fungal properties. It pulls the goods from your plant like no other metals do."

Kiohma explained how the still worked, as she put the pieces of it together. "This is the body.... This is the swan neck. Some people call it an onion. This is our condenser. What is going to happen is that everything is going to come to a boil in the



Above, from left: Kiohma loads the garbled lavender flowers into the copper still. She will also include stems for added sweetness. These elements, combined with the lavender hydrosol, come from Kiohma's property, and are used to make incense. Kodiak has been coming to Motherland since he was very young and accompanied his handyman father.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home



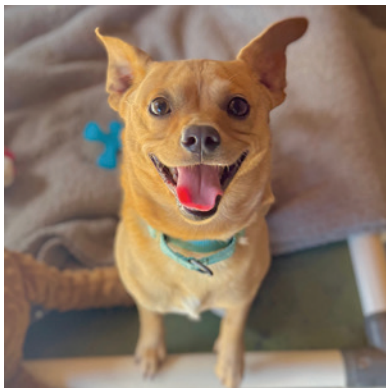
Handsome Rusty
If you're looking for a confident, entertaining cat with personality, Rusty has plenty of it! This handsome 2-year-old orange tabby is adventurous, curious, and always on the lookout for his next exciting discovery. Rusty is highly treat-motivated and quickly makes friends with anyone carrying snacks. He enjoys attention on his own terms and has a bit of that classic orange-cat spice, and would likely do best in a home with older, cat-savvy family members.

His beautiful medium-length coat gives him that extra handsome look, but it can also collect stickers and develop tangles if he's spending too much time outdoors. For that reason, Rusty would be happiest as an indoor companion where he can stay safe, comfortable, and looking his best.

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.

Happy Love Bug

This short-hair chihuahua is a true little sweetheart! Love Bug, 2+ years old, is all about playing, kisses, and being the happiest while wrapped up in your arms. He is the kind of dog that will stick by your side and bring love and happiness into your life. Love Bug, who is new to the shelter, has lived with other dogs. Love Bug's adoption fee is fully sponsored! \$0 cost adoption fee!



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed on Wednesday and Friday, 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm. Thursdays by appointment only: Please call 707-485-0123 or email info@hsmic.org for an appointment. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com. Call 707-485-0123 for more information.

37 Rescued Pups

Milo Sanctuary is the safety net for many moms and puppies rescued from euthanasia at shelters across Central and Northern California. There are 37 rescued pups currently at Milo Sanctuary! Here's three of them, Piñon, Adobe and Black Iris, from the Georgia O'Keefe litter of pups.

As an organization Milo has a fantastic network of foster homes, but we often find it necessary for larger-breed moms to come raise their pups at the Sanctuary until they can leave and go to foster homes in smaller groups, and of course get adopted! Adopters are welcome to come here, or to Milo Pt Richmond, or to foster homes.

To learn more about adoptable animals at Milo, 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 Sanctuary at 707-459-4900.



At left, from top: This young girl tried, but didn't measure up to the height required to ride the Zipper. As the evening falls over the carnival, the lights on the rides come on. The kids love the Yoyo ride, which flings them around in an ever-widening circle. Jayden worked in the food concessions for four years and now tends to the Super Slide.

Photos by Mathew Caine

The rest of **Carnival** | From page 7



The rest of **Lavender** | From page 10

bottom of the body, and it's going to release the steam which is going to get into this onion. Then it comes down and hits the condenser, which has a big coil on the bottom. This condenser is filled with ice water. It's going to take the oil out of the hot steam, and it's going to separate the water from the oil. You'll be able to see the water come out, but the oil has been separated from it. You'll see the water and the oil at the same time. The water [hydrosol] will come down here and all the essential oil will come down the neck. Then, you can pull the oil off the top with a turkey baster."

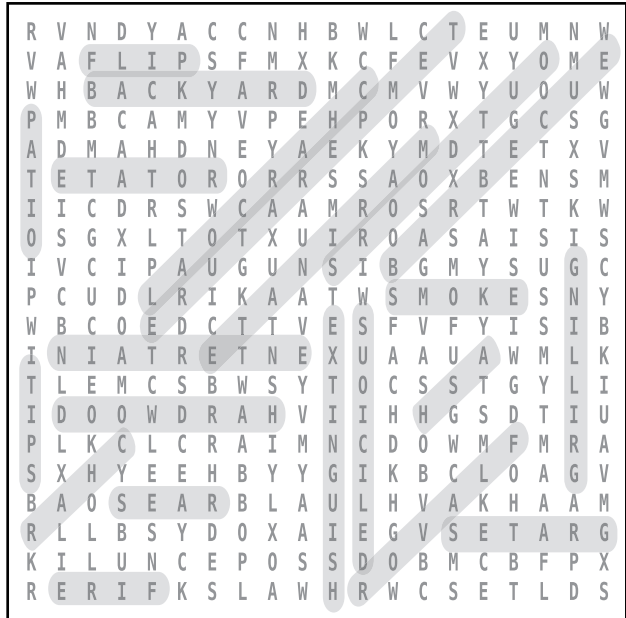
Kiohma had the attendees "garble" the lavender, roll it in their hands so the dry flowers created a grainy consistency. She then explained that the stems are also to be used to add a sweetness. She placed the mixture of flowers and stems into 3 gallons of water inside the still and began to apply heat. As the process was going to take a while, d'Terra took the people on a tour of her gardens, which are extensive on the hillside, and explained the properties of each of the herbs she grows.

While the attendees were on the tour, the condensation process proceeded, with the mixture being separated into the watery hydrosol and a thin layer of essential oil, both of which can be utilized in many preparations. "Hydrosol is amazing," Kiohma said. "It used to be considered a byproduct but, for me, the essential oil is the byproduct because I don't make massive amounts of it, just enough for my products at home. Hydrosol was considered floral water or bathing water that people used to bathe in.... It smells good for a long time ... maybe two years before it starts to just be nothing. You want to put your hydrosols in glass to avoid chemical reactions with metal. The hydrosol is safe for consumption. I will use it as a base for a lot of my teas. I like to make lavender popsicles."

Upon their return from the tour, Kiohma treated the group to a lesson in making incense, utilizing some lavender hydrosol which had previously been created. It was time for everyone to get their hands dirty to make the incense cones and sticks. "I used to buy all the binders and then I started thinking I didn't want to spend money for my projects and then I found all the things growing in my front yard," she said. "All of these things came from my farm."

"Don't wear gloves when you make the incense," Kiohma advised. "This is a symbiotic relationship plant. All of these were harvested, grown from beautiful plants. These are massive good-energy things. You are getting the medicine from your plants through the biggest organ on your body, your skin. You're absorbing that goodness into your body through the smellings, the pores on your skin. You're also transferring everything from your hands, from your breath, everything into the incense you're making. It's just this beautiful culmination of goodness."

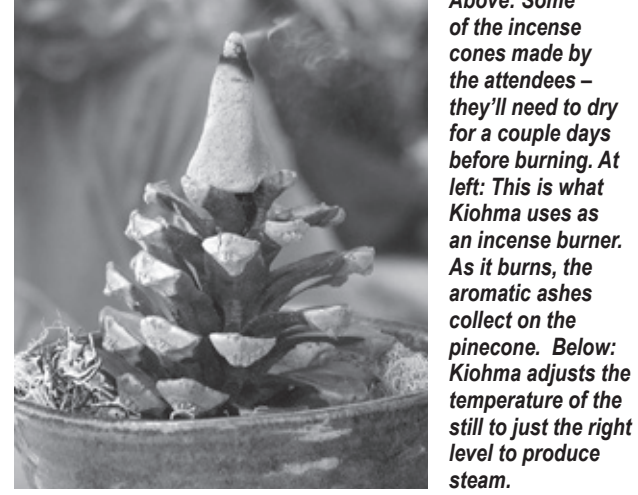
Everyone left at the end of the day with a commemorative Motherland Lavender Day box with their incense, a chart of things to do with herbs, recipes, and an appreciation of all that lavender has to offer.



Opening night was Quinn's first day with the carnival. This local Mendocino man works with a safety checklist to ensure that the Tornado is safe to ride. He wants to continue with the carnival when they move up to Fortuna next. Jayden, who was working the huge Super Slide, has been with the carnival for four years and has worked with the food concessions for most of his time. Melissa, who oversees the Kiddie Train, also enjoys working with the Super Slide. Manuel works with the Ferris Wheel, keeping it balanced so it rides smoother.

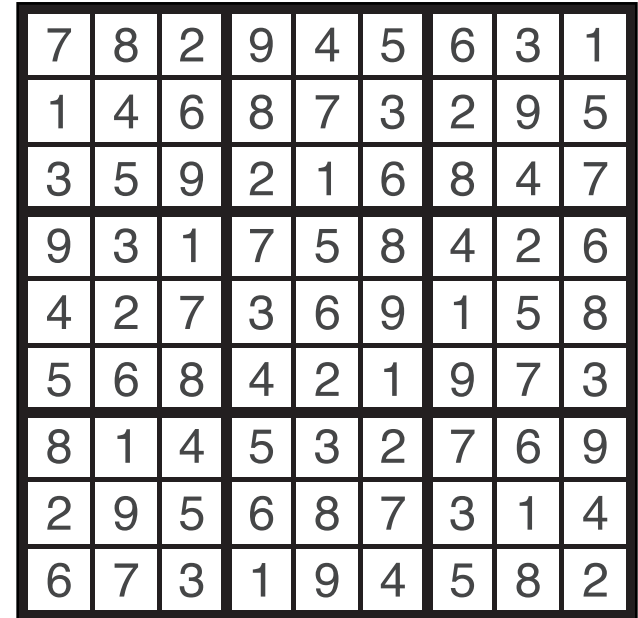
Opening night, last Friday, June 26, was also the night of the Truck Pulls. The roar of the over-powered engines, the faint smell of fuel, and the black smoke rising from next door at the Jack Tharpe arena did nothing to daunt the excitement of the kids running from one attraction to the next, or the families' desire for carnival food treats. Corn dogs and sweet cold drinks are some of the favorites. Of course, that sweet, sticky, fibrous treat known as cotton candy is the fun food found at fairs that the kids love to play with as much as to eat. Funnel cakes, made by pushing dough through a funnel into hot oil and then sugaring the fried treat, create a sweet confection.

As night fell, the temperature dropped to a pleasant degree as the lights on the rides lit up, creating a whole different look to the grounds. There is always something more to do at the carnival, so much so, that most families bought unlimited passes for the kids so that they could ride as long and as much as they desired, never tiring of the thrills, the games, and the food that they could not get anywhere else.



Above: Some of the incense cones made by the attendees - they'll need to dry for a couple days before burning. At left: This is what Kiohma uses as an incense burner. As it burns, the aromatic ashes collect on the pinecone. Below: Kiohma adjusts the temperature of the still to just the right level to produce steam.

Rotary Club of Willits *People of Action*
Serving our Community Since 1948
www.willitsrotary.org
WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com



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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

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Available July 1st. Office space in healing arts complex. Shared waiting room with access to larger community space. Off street parking, centrally located. All utilities included. \$300/mo. 707-354-2473

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.oakrivine.net/tp>

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



LEGAL NOTICES

WW614 **CITY OF WILLITS NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, on Tuesday, the 3rd of November, 2026, at which election the following offices will be filled: **Two (2) City Council Members**

NOMINATION PAPERS will be available at the Office of the City Clerk, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**, Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Please contact the City Clerk to make your appointment at (707) 459-7113.

First day nomination papers will be issued: **July 13, 2026**
Last day to file nomination papers (by 5:00 p.m.): **August 7, 2026, By Appointment Only**
Last day to file nomination papers (by 5:00 p.m.) if an incumbent fails to file: **August 12, 2026**

FURTHER NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
Publication Date: July 2, 2026

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Paul Hayden Bennett

Paul Hayden Bennett, age 75, known affectionately as "Sleepy" in the music world, passed away on Wednesday, June 14, 2026, in the early afternoon. His wife, Marcia, and a friend from the Lutheran Church were by his side. In the final hours, Paul was baptized, confessing his faith in the Lord with quiet sincerity and peace.

Paul was a gifted and soulful musician whose talent seemed limitless. Even as a teenager, his musical aptitudes were clear; at just fourteen, he played trumpet with the Oakland Youth Symphony. Over the years he performed with groups including Shake'n Snakes and Cherie Sheraque's band, bringing his unmistakable tone, creativity, and warmth to every stage.

Although mostly known for his trumpet, he could sit down at a piano and play anything, Classical, Jazz and Blues, and he was known for improvising with ease, instinct and joy. He sang with remarkable soul – a depth of feeling his wife cherished, especially because he sang only for her.

Paul's curiosity and sense of adventure carried him far beyond the music world. As a young man, he hitchhiked across the country to the East Coast, stopping in small towns to work as a cook when money ran short. He later traveled through Europe, visiting several countries and collecting stories along the way. One of his favorites was from Wales, where he once won a where he once won a turning – making the "strangest face" – a memory he shared with laughter.

A lifelong reader, Paul especially loved European history and often told Marcia vivid stories about the people and events he had studied. His compassion extended to all living creatures; he adored animals and would have risked his own safety to protect any of his beloved pets.

Paul was preceded in death by his father, who passed away at age 42, and by his mother, who lived well into her eighties. He was deeply loved and appreciated by many, and his kindness, humor, and musical spirit left an imprint on everyone who knew him. Those who loved him will carry his memory and feel his presence in spirit always.

He is survived by his wife, Marcia; his two stepsons, Anthony and David; and seven step- grandchildren: Marie, Michael, Judah, Annie, Andrew, Peter, and Jean Luc. He is also survived by his sister Marilyn and several cousins.

A graveside service will be held at Willits Cemetery – 1200 Fort Bragg Road in Willits on July 10, 2026, at 11 am, with a reception to follow at St. John Lutheran Church, 24 Mill Creek Drive in Willits.



Above: Willits Rotarians in their superhero cloaks with outgoing President Cathie Gernhardt (with the wand).

Willits Rotarians celebrate outgoing president Cathie Gernhardt

Submitted by Willits Rotary

Willits Rotarians donned Superhero capes at the recent Debunking (end of leadership) meeting for President and Fairy Godmother Cathie Gernhardt for making so many wishes come true this past year.

Incoming Rotary President Alexander Rich recapped the past year's accomplishments in Disney songs. He recounted how Cathie started her year by walking in the 4th of July parade as the Fairy Godmother with the song "Bippity Boppity Boo," then he highlighted our three major fundraisers, Claws for a Cause, Crab Sale, and Grill & Give with a rendition of "Under the Sea." He then sang "Be Our Guest" to acknowledge our monthly evening Meet and Eat socials at different restaurants in town.

Other accomplishments in the last year included reviving the Interact Club at Willits High School, with the song "A Whole New World." Next, he sang the song "You're Welcome, to acknowledge the donation of supplies to the Mendocino County Jail Garden Project, contributing funds along with South Ukiah Rotary to purchase all-weather pants for the Mendocino County Search & Rescue Team, and donating \$12,313.50 each to the Willits Senior Center, Willits Community Services and Food Bank, and Willits Daily Bread, with the song "You're Welcome." Alexander completed his presentation with the song "Hakuna Matata."

Carroll 'Tuck' Mathis

October 2, 1933 – June 14, 2026

It is with heavy hearts yet profound gratitude for a life well-lived that we announce the peaceful passing of Carroll Dean Mathis, affectionately known as Tuck, on June 14, 2026, at the age of 92. Tuck was surrounded by the warmth and love of his family at Ukiah Adventist Hospital, departing this world with the same grace and dignity with which he lived.

Born on October 2, 1933, in Lakeport, California, Tuck was the beloved son of Jim and Margaret Mathis. Growing up, Tuck demonstrated an early penchant for bringing joy and laughter to those around him, a gift he carried throughout his entire life. After attending Laytonville High School, where he graduated in 1951, Tuck set the foundation for a remarkable journey both personally and professionally.

It was in Laytonville, California, where Tuck met the love of his life, Marva Lee Myers. High school sweethearts, they married on July 3, 1951, embarking on a magnificent 73-year journey of love and companionship. Together, they raised four wonderful children: Laurinda Waddington, Yvonne Redding, Carolyn Caron (Dave Moore), and Greg Mathis (Sue Mathis). Tuck and Marva's enduring love story was a testament to their commitment and devotion to each other and their family.

Tuck was a dedicated and hardworking man who spent over five decades as the owner and operator of CD Mathis Trucking and Logging in Laytonville, retiring in 2003. His work ethic and integrity earned him the respect of his peers, throughout the logging community and timber industry in Mendocino County.

Though Tuck worked tirelessly, he always found time for leisure and enjoyment. His love for the great outdoors was evident in his fondness for camping and hunting trips with friends and family. In his later years, Tuck and Marva embarked on adventures in their motorhome, creating cherished memories and delighting in games of Keno on their trips to Tahoe.

Tuck's quick wit and warm smile were his trademarks. Known for his ability to lighten any mood with a well-timed joke, he possessed a unique gift for making everyone feel welcome and valued. His kindness and generosity left an indelible impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Tuck's legacy lives on through his family, including his nine grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, eleven great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews who carry forward his spirit and values. Though predeceased by his wife, Marva, his parents, and his sister Claudine Houx, Tuck's memory will forever remain a source of inspiration and love for his surviving family.

As we bid farewell to Tuck, we celebrate a life of love, laughter, and unwavering dedication to family and community. His presence enriched countless lives, and his spirit will continue to guide and comfort those he leaves behind.

A memorial service to honor Tuck's life will be held at a later date, with details to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to be made to a charity of your choice in Tuck's memory.

Rest in peace, dear Dad. Your legacy of love and laughter endures, lighting the way for all who knew you.

Eversole Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

The rest of Recovering

From page 1

"Fortunately, Willits did not experience the level of damage we often fear after an earthquake of this magnitude," said Willits Community and Economic Development Director Dusty Duley. "City staff, along with our partner agencies, quickly assessed critical public infrastructure, including our water and wastewater treatment plants, bridges, and other essential facilities. I'm pleased to report that those facilities have been inspected and cleared for continued operation.

"While the overall impacts appear to be limited," Duley continued, "we know that some residents and businesses experienced property damage, personal property losses, cleanup costs, and business interruptions. We encourage anyone who sustained earthquake-related damage to complete the Damage Assessment Form available at MendoReady.org."

Duley, along with Interim City Manager James Conner, and other city department heads at the Willits City Council meeting the evening of the earthquake, wanted to recognize "the incredible response" from community members, first responders, City of Willits staff, utility providers, and local businesses. "Time and again," Duley said, "Willits proves what makes it such a special place. Neighbors checked on neighbors, businesses supported one another, and people stepped up to help friends, family, and anyone who needed assistance. That willingness to take care of each other is one of our community's greatest strengths."

The rest of Trucks

From page 3

a pull of 281.87 feet; and third place to The Nuisance and driver Christopher Flores with a pull of 269.76 feet.

Pro Modified Trucks Class: First place went to Traction Control and driver Donnie Reeve with a pull of 292.73 feet; second went to Bodashus and driver Bob Morrill with a pull of 290.29 feet; third to Show No Mercy and driver Wade Bradshaw with a pull of 288.74 feet; fourth to Vindicator and driver Mike Roberts with a pull of 287.4 feet; fifth to Triple Throw Down and driver Garrett Reeve with a pull of 286.45 feet; sixth to Yellow Fever and driver James Massetti with a pull of 281.54 feet; and seventh to Code3 and driver John Boer with a pull of 274.82 feet.

7400-pound Modified Tractors Class: First place went to The Whip and driver Kevin Massetti with a pull of 273.4 feet; and second to Git R Done and driver Clarence Correia with a pull of 260.72 feet.

Limited Pro Stock Diesel Trucks Class: First place went to Panda and driver Dustin Smith with a pull of 276.93 feet; and second to American Addiction and driver Everett Powell with a pull of 270.81 feet.

6,000-pound Super Stock Trucks Class: First place went to Farmer's Toy and driver Steve Jenkins with a pull of 247.07 feet.

Stock Diesel Trucks Class: First place went to The Nuisance and driver Christopher Flores with a pull of 311.11 feet; second to Connor Basler with a pull of 294.88 feet; third to The Wrench Rat and driver Bryson Prock with a pull of 278.2 feet; fourth to Whiskey Dent 2.0 and driver Kyle Field with a pull of 247.67 feet; fifth to Ford and driver Trenton Herrera with a pull of 239.7 feet; sixth to Old Blue and driver Isaiah Shattuck with a pull of 202.03 feet; and seventh place to The 12 Valve and driver Matt Harbour with a pull of 192.52 feet.

OMG Class: First place went to Tow Pig and driver Adrian Barozza with a pull of 256.76 feet; second to Black Beauty and driver James Jewell with a pull of 162.21 feet; and third to Family Ties and driver CJ Jewell with a pull of 134.71 feet.

Pro Stock Diesel Trucks Class: First place went to Smokin' Max and driver Rebekah Esteves with a pull of 320.28 feet; and second to Maxed Out of Money and driver Jordan Taylor with a pull of 270.61 feet.

Damage at the Willits Senior Center Thrift Store was immediate – with much of the stock thrown on to the floor, and a lot of breakage of more fragile items, including glassware, although there were no injuries. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the Thrift Store staff and volunteers, the Thrift Store was able to open the next day.

Senior Center Director Richard Baker reported that the fish tank in the lobby cracked and broke and spilled 29 gallons of water all over the floor, but "we saved all the fish," he said. Baker commented that the standby generator – which the community helped raise money for a few years ago – "kicked on immediately when the power went out which allowed us to continue providing all services without interruption. Our Meals on Wheels driver was doing wellness checks on seniors when she was delivering meals on Wednesday.

"Word spread pretty quickly that we were serving food," Baker said, "and I received a few calls from people that asked if we could deliver meals to their home, which I did. A lot of people showed up at the Senior Center the day of the earthquake to charge their cell phones so they could stay connected to friends and family and grab a bite to eat because there wasn't a lot food options because of the loss of power."

The June 24, 2026 earthquake – the biggest in the area for nearly 90 years – was epicentered in Redwood Valley, seven miles south of Willits. A number of smallish aftershocks have registered, but most have gone unfelt by area residents.



Above: Most of the book section was on the floor. The books had to be entirely re-sorted. Below: Fragile glass and ceramic items didn't stand a chance against a 5.6 earthquake.



At left: Almost all of the CDs and VHS tapes needed to be resorted and put back on the shelves. Below: Shelves of glassware were lost to the 5.6 quake. At bottom: Very few items stayed on the shelves at the Senior Center Thrift Store.



Photos by Mathew Caine

The rest of Burn

From page 1

this occur," the statement continues. "While prescribed fire remains one of the most effective tools for reducing hazardous fuels and protecting California's communities from catastrophic wildfire, all of these incidents are taken very seriously."

The multi-agency vegetation management project is designed to reduce unwanted ignitions, hazardous fuels, improve public safety, and lessen the risk of future wildfires, treating about 400 acres of grass within Caltrans' right of way along U.S. Highway 101.

CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, Caltrans, and surrounding local government fire agencies are conducting the burn, set to start at Nelson Ranch Road south of Ukiah, and finish at the top of Ridgewood Grade south of Willits.

CAL FIRE MEU announced on Facebook Monday afternoon that: "Tonight CAL FIRE MEU along with Caltrans District 1 and cooperating fire agencies will be burning on the east side of Highway 101 on the Ridgewood Grade, south of Willits."

Burning was set to begin June 29 around 5 pm. "Please drive with an abundance of caution," advised CAL FIRE MEU. "Smoky conditions may be present. CHP will be patrolling the area heavily. Thank you for your continued support!"

For updates, follow "CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit" on social media or visit fire.ca.gov.

Coyote Valley burn

CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, conducted a vegetation management prescribed burn starting at 6 pm on Sunday, June 28 at the Coyote Valley Dam.

This prescribed burn treated about 23 acres of grass along the face of Coyote Valley Dam, to facilitate the annual geological survey and required earthquake inspection of the dam structure. "This reduction of vegetation will also help reduce the chance of catastrophic wildfires in the future," CAL FIRE MEU posted, "while providing firefighters with live fire training opportunities."

Mendocino Action News on Facebook posted a brief video of firefighters working on the Coyote Valley Dam burn at www.facebook.com/groups/mendocinoactionnews/posts/2010930886209947

The rest of Election

From page 1

candidates – in this contest, Wright-Bourassa and Hart – go on to compete in the November general election.

Third District Supervisor candidate Clay Romero is in third place with 1,030 votes, or 22.55%. Candidate Russell Green is in fourth place with 597 votes or 13.07%.

The bond measure for Mendocino College, Measure A has not reached the 55% it needs to pass. "Yes" votes in the Mendocino-Lake Community College District have increased a tiny bit more to 54.22% of the vote. "No" votes for Measure A in Mendocino County are at 10,541, or 45.78%, and there are 1,468 undervotes – ballots processed from Mendocino County voters living inside the college district – that didn't have a vote for the bond measure.

In the Lake County part of the Mendocino Lake College District, Measure A looks to have failed outright, with 4,714 "No" votes, or 52.50% no, and 4,265 "Yes" votes, or 47.50% yes.

The rest of Zero

From page 2

Any devices that explode, launch into the air, or move on the ground in an uncontrolled manner

"Each year we continue to see how illegal fireworks – especially those bought online or shipped into California – pose a major risk to our communities," said Chief Daniel Berlant, California State Fire Marshal. "By partnering with our local Sacramento area agencies and our burn prevention partners, we are sending a unified message: purchasing fireworks online or outside of licensed "Safe and Sane" booths is illegal, dangerous, and contributes to injuries and destructive wildfires."

Soman Sen, MD, Assistant Chief of Burns at Shriners Children's Northern California, emphasized the devastating impact a fireworks-related burn injury can cause. "Every year, we see firsthand the life changing burn injuries caused by fireworks," Dr. Sen said. "We always urge families to keep children away from any type of fireworks and ensure that only responsible adults are using legal fireworks – even then, exercising caution to prevent harm."

For a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July, Californians are urged to know and follow their local fireworks laws. Many communities prohibit all fireworks, while others only allow "Safe and Sane" fireworks sold through permitted booths.

The safest way to celebrate is to leave fireworks to the professionals. Attend a licensed public fireworks display conducted by trained pyrotechnic operators licensed by CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal.

To watch this year's Northern California Fireworks Safety Press Conference, visit <https://vimeo.com/event/5946119>.

To learn more about fireworks safety, visit readyforwildfire.org/prevent-wildfire/fireworks-safety/

The rest of Illegal

From page 1

Children are at the greatest risk of injury. Any person can be held liable for the firefighting costs as well as property damage costs associated with the start of a wildfire. Often, these costs are in the hundreds of thousands and sometimes, millions of dollars. For information and tips to prevent wildfires, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org, and download the ReadyForWildfire app at Google Play or the App Store to receive alerts for wildland fires in your area. Have a safe Fourth of July and help prevent unwanted fires: One Less Spark means One Less Wildfire.

For fireworks enthusiasts, there are safe,

California launches statewide Mass Timber Coalition

Posted by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Sacramento – On June 11, the State of California announced the formation of the California Mass Timber Coalition, a new public-private partnership designed to accelerate the adoption of mass timber construction, drive forest health and wildfire mitigation efforts, and accelerate economic development across the state's rural and urban communities.

The Coalition brings together state and federal agencies, county and local governments, research institutions, industry representatives, forest sector organizations, non-profit organizations, and community partners to support the establishment of an in-state mass timber industry, advancing manufacturing and climate-smart construction with the goal of building resilient communities and advancing California's forest health goals and climate initiatives.

The Coalition will also work to establish state policy and regulations that drive positive outcomes for both utilization and manufacturing of in-state mass timber, as well as industry development and market growth.

Mass timber – engineered wood products such as cross laminated timber, dowel laminated timber, and nail-laminated timber – offers a low-carbon alternative to traditional construction materials. By utilizing wood sourced from sustainable forest management practices, mass timber can help reduce carbon emissions, support forest restoration, and create new jobs in local manufacturing and construction industries.

As a construction material, mass timber offers a range of benefits, combining sustainability with practical performance advantages. Because it is lightweight yet remarkably strong, panels can be manufactured off site and installed rapidly, reducing construction timelines and on-site disruption. Its renewable nature and ability to store carbon make it a climate forward alternative, and its natural thermal properties improve energy efficiency.

"The establishment of the California Mass Timber Coalition marks a significant step forward in our efforts to advance sustainable building practices while improving the health of California's forests and landscapes," said Terry O'Brien, chair of the state Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. "This collaborative approach will help California leverage innovation, reduce wildfire risks, and support economic opportunities for communities throughout the State."

The Coalition's work will help boost California's broader climate and forest resilience goals, including expanding sustainable wood markets, reducing the amount of forest fuel and woody biomass that contributes to catastrophic wildfires, and promoting lower carbon construction materials in both public and private development.

More information about the Coalition and its upcoming initiatives will be released in the coming months. To learn more about the Board's wood and biomass-related work, please visit the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation page at <http://bof.fire.ca.gov/board-committees/joint-institute-for-wood-products-innovation>

For more information on the California Mass Timber Coalition, contact Katie Harrell at (916) 698-1035 or katie.harrell@bof.ca.gov.

organized, professional fireworks displays scheduled in Fort Bragg, Point Arena, and Ukiah.

Fort Bragg Independence Day Fireworks: Saturday, July 4, at Todd Point in Fort Bragg. Parking starts at 5 pm.

Point Arena Fireworks Extravaganza: Saturday, July 4, at Arena Cove, 810 Port Road, Point Arena. 4 pm.

Fireworks Extravaganza at Ukiah Speedway: Saturday, July 4, at Ukiah Speedway, 1055 North State Street. Gates open 3:30 pm.



WISHING EVERYONE A VERY

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



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