



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Beer Wagon Raffle winner

To the Editor:  
The American Legion, Willits Post 174 sincerely thanks our community members who participated in our annual Beer Wagon Raffle fundraising activity. Your continued support allows us to fund our programs for children and youth, community giving and veterans.

This year's grand prize winner of the Radio Flyer "All Terrain" Wagon, loaded with craft beer, was Willits resident Carolyn Ponikvar. We had two secondary winners as well who each "trucked off" a pile of beer. Thank you, community, for your support.

Roger Ham, Willits Post 174 adjutant

## 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. To-go lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, in front of the main desk, 1501 Baechtel Road. Due to increasing food costs, dine-in and to-go meals are now \$9.

**Thursday, July 9:** Ortega Chicken w/Sides

**Friday, July 10:** Meat Loaf w/Sides

**Sunday, July 12:** Pancake Breakfast

**Monday, July 13:** Fish Tacos w/Sides

**Tuesday, July 14:** Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce

**Wednesday, July 15:** Chicken Caesar Salad

**Thursday, July 16:** Ground Beef Stroganoff

**Friday, July 17:** Chicken Tacos

**Pancake Breakfast:** every second Sunday at the Willits Senior Center, on Sunday, July 12 this month, 8:30 to 11:30 am. Menu Choices: All You Can Eat Pancakes or Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon or Sausage, Coffee, Orange Juice or Milk; Breakfast Special TBD. \$13 adults; \$12 Senior Center members; \$8 children. 1501 Baechtel Road.

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

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

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

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



## 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

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## Willits City Pool closed to the public this weekend

Posted by City of Willits Community Development

Please note that the Willits City Pool will be closed to the public on Saturday, July 11, and Sunday, July 12, as the Willits Otters Swim Team hosts a regional swim meet.

We appreciate the community's understanding and support as our local athletes compete. Please join us in wishing all of our Willits Otters swimmers the very best of luck at the meet!

Thank you for your patience, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to the pool after the event.

## Adventist Health hosts free sports physicals, July 11

Adventist Health Howard Memorial in Willits is having FREE Sports Physicals on Saturday, July 11, from 7 am to 12 noon – and the Back-to-School Fair is back.

This free community event at Redwood Medical Clinic, 3 Marcela Drive, helps students get ready for the upcoming school year and sports season with:

- Free sports physicals for school-aged children
- Backpacks and school supplies
- Free health screenings
- Community resources and information booths
- Family-friendly activities and more!

No appointment is needed. Sports physicals are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and a parent or guardian must be present to provide consent.

Getting ready for the new school year starts here! Mark your calendars for this Saturday, and share with families who may benefit.

For more information about the event in Willits, please contact Adventist Health Howard Memorial Redwood Medical Clinic at 707-459-6115.

## Caltrans Open House in Ukiah on plans for Highway 101

Posted by Caltrans District 1

Caltrans District 1 staff will host an open house in Ukiah on Wednesday, July 15 to discuss transportation plans and projects along the U.S. 101 corridor. Be part of our conversation about what's next for transportation along U.S. 101.

The event will highlight efforts to improve infrastructure resiliency, public transit, connectivity, mobility, and safety. Community members are welcome to attend between 5:30 and 7 pm at the Mendocino County Office of Education Cedar Building, River Room, 2240 Old River Road, Ukiah.

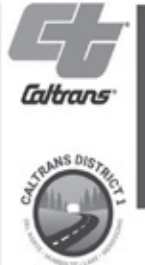


## U.S. 101 OPEN HOUSE

Attend our open house to learn about transportation plans and projects along the U.S. 101 corridor to enhance infrastructure resiliency, public transit, connectivity, mobility and safety.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15  
DROP IN 5:30 TO 7 P.M.

Mendocino County Office of Education  
Cedar Building, River Room  
2240 Old River Road, Ukiah



JOIN US!



## Humane Society's statement in regards to Miranda's Rescue

Posted by HSIMC

In recent weeks, our community has been processing the heartbreaking events surrounding the investigation at Miranda's Rescue in Fortuna. At the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, we are grieving alongside our supporters, fellow rescue organizations, and everyone whose lives have been touched by the animals involved. Like so many others, we are saddened, shocked, and searching for understanding.

As these events continue to unfold, we believe it is important to share our own history with Miranda's Rescue and reaffirm the values that guide our work.

Looking back through our records, HSIMC transferred two dogs to Miranda's Rescue: Miracle in 2016 and Roger Rabbit in 2018. HSIMC was told that Miracle was euthanized due to cat aggression and Roger Rabbit was adopted, however we do not know what ultimately happened to either dog. Following those transfers, members of our team experienced concerns regarding communication and transparency. Those concerns led HSIMC to discontinue transferring animals to Miranda's Rescue, and no additional animals have been sent there since 2018.

The investigation has deeply affected our staff, volunteers, adopters, fosters, donors, and the community we serve. Just weeks ago, we dedicated our Rainbow Bridge as a place of remembrance. A peaceful place where people can pause, reflect, and honor the animals who have touched their lives. In light of recent events, it has also become a place where members of our community have gathered to grieve the animals recovered during this investigation and to remember that every life matters.

This tragedy has reinforced something we have always believed: Every animal deserves to be treated with dignity, compassion, and respect.

At HSIMC, our commitment is to pursue the best possible outcome for every animal in our care. We work toward reunification with owners, placement into foster homes, adoption, or transfer to trusted partners whenever appropriate. When an animal is suffering from an untreatable medical condition or has behavioral challenges that cannot be safely or humanely resolved, humane euthanasia may become the most compassionate option.

HSIMC never makes those decisions lightly, nor are they made by one person alone. Every case is reviewed through a collaborative process involving our shelter staff, veterinary professionals, and our behavior team, which includes three certified canine behavior professionals. Together, we carefully consider the animal's medical condition, behavior, quality of life, prognosis, and the safety of both the animal and the community before making what is often the most difficult decision in animal welfare.

The events surrounding Miranda's Rescue have prompted many organizations, including ours, to reflect on the responsibility we share in protecting animals beyond our own walls. Strong partnerships require transparency, accountability, and trust. We remain committed to carefully evaluating those partnerships and continually strengthening the practices that help safeguard the animals we serve.

Our promise to this community is simple: We will continue to lead with compassion, operate with transparency, and place animal welfare at the center of every decision we make.

Thank you for continuing to support the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County and for standing with us as we work toward a future where every animal receives the care, dignity, and respect they deserve.

## Have something to say?

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



Above, from left: Mike and Mary Anne Trevey smile after watching the parade. This float showcased Chuck Ream of Windswept Ranch who is a Grand Champion Suffolk sheep breeder, and FFA mentor and high school and college instructor. American Legion members smile together including, from left: Roger Ham, Carolyn Ponikvar, Curtis Doshiell, John Frankum, Darrel George, and Kennedy Cooper. Photo courtesy American Legion. Gary Martin waves a flag as he rides down the parade route. Torrey Blake and mom Donna smile with their Willits Walk'n Wag float before the parade. Below: Rachel and Chad Hill toss rubber ducks from their Overland Build Jeep. "Chad and Rachel are representing the California dream. They love to fish, hike, and drive the backroads of Mendocino County and are proud to call this place their home," noted the parade announcer. Next row, below: left: The Affordable Plumbing truck drove down the parade route sporting plungers out of the ends of the long-horned hood ornament, while also dragging plungers "Just Married" style behind. Next row below, at right: Members of the Roots of Motive Power group stand with one of their antique 1926 Mack AC, 5-ton, chain-drive dump trucks, including from left: Joe Smith, Bruce Patterson, Troy James, Michael Hamman, and Basil Frew.

# Main Street Parade

### Floats, autos, riders and more celebrate the 4th of July during annual parade

"We have a lot more entries this year," said Willits Frontier Days parade committee chair Mattie Owen as she gazed down Commercial Street at the receding view of entries lined up along both sides of the street. "We usually have them from Humboldt Street to Mendo Mill, but never usually so far past that! We're happy to have so many people enjoying participating this year!"

Once the parade started, entries were welcomed around the Commercial Street intersection, and onto Main Street where spectators lined the streets to see the decorated cars, horses and people.

The parade was sponsored by Adventist Health Howard Memorial and was announced by Kathy Goss. The "Star Spangled Banner" started the event, and the American Legion and Boy Scouts followed. After them came the lights and sirens of the EMS trucks, then the parade sponsor's hospital crew carrying a banner, then the Willits Frontier Days crew and a large group of past Sweethearts. The Grand Marshal, Heritage Award and Top Hand winners came next, and were followed by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Willits Police Chief Brian Fay, and the City of Willits truck, including Interim City Manager James Conner, his wife, Fran, and fur baby Matilda; City Council members Bruce Burton and Gerry Gonzalez; Mayor Tom Allman; City Clerk Delores Pederson; and Vice Mayor Matthew Alaniz.

Parade floats and groups then followed, including entries from: Willits Lions Club; Willits Wild Bunch; Chuck Ream at Windswept Ranch; Roots of Motive Power; Ridgewood Ranch; Chris Orr; Willits Walk'n Wag; Lucia Meza; ML Performance Horses; The Velvet Rebellion Collective; All In Heating and Cooling LLC; Fernley McKemy; Macy Lawrence and Sarah Fonsen; Redwood Collision Co.; Willits Junior Horsemen; Steven Silveria Landscaping; REACH; Willits Senior Center; Mendocino Transit Authority; Friends of the Mendocino County Museum; Bouthillier's Construction/ Moon Lady; Supervisor John Haschak and Assemblyman Chris Rogers; GOTSOLAR707; Roadrunner Driving School; Sparetime Supply; LUV Carwash; Windsor Mill; Dan Lewis; Garrett Lewis; Agape Bible Church; Mendocino Composite Mountain Bike Team; Steve Quinliven; Brayden Sylstra and Brandon Washburn; McFarland Trucking, Inc.; Les Schwab of Willits; Redwood Waste Solutions; Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center;

Read the rest of **Parade** | Over on page 13



Proud supporter of the 100th Annual **Willits Frontier Days**

261 Franklin Avenue  
Willits  
707-459-2529

Happy 4th of July, y'all!

Photography by Maureen (Moore) Jennison

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maurengetsmail@gmail.com | www.mphotographress.com  
707-972-7047

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# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

## HOW TO SUDOKU

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

## ON THE FARM WORD SEARCH

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

- AGRICULTURE
- AUTOMATIC
- CANAL
- CHANNELS
- CONSERVATION
- CROPS
- DISTRIBUTION
- DRIP
- EFFICIENCY
- FARMING
- FLOW
- HYDRATION
- MOISTURE
- PIPELINE
- PRESSURE
- PUMP
- RESERVOIR
- SATURATION
- SOIL
- SPRAY
- SPRINKLER
- SYSTEM
- VALVES
- WATER

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12		
13								14						15	
16			17					18						19	
20		21				22				23			24		
25					26					27			28		
29				30					31		32			33	
		34	35							36			37		
38	39												40		
41				42					43						
44				45		46			47				48	49	50
51				52		53			54				55		
56				57		58							59		
60				61		62							63		64
65				66									67		68
				69									70		

## CLUES ACROSS

- Mended
- Hymns
- Commercial transport of goods
- Poked holes in the ground
- They precede C
- Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
- Larry and Curly's pal
- Injured
- Popular type of dance
- Moon crater
- American state
- Places to lock valuables
- Stalk that supports the capsule
- Keyboard key
- '\_ death do us part
- A type of cage
- A place to sleep
- Annual music awards show
- Made over
- Hard, stony substance
- Incantations
- Long-legged, wading bird
- Breathe noisily
- Congressman
- Rip off

## CLUES DOWN

- Hard things to kick
- Collective of countries
- Letter of Hebrew alphabet
- One-time Alabama running back Eddie
- One's sense of self-esteem
- Of the teeth
- Treat with care
- Type of whale
- Curved structure
- Emits coherent radiation
- One of the Gospels (abbr.)
- Smallest interval in western music
- Netherlands seat of government
- Gives to charitably
- Lout
- Pastas
- Release from restrictions
- Female sibling
- Title of respect
- Silver coins
- Region in India
- Partner to cheese
- Dark or dusky
- Pacific Northwest tree
- Exaggerate
- Toddler
- Touch lightly
- Fundamentals
- Jeopardies
- Curved structures
- Isolated, flat-topped hills
- Forming the bottom layer
- Reciprocal of sine
- Genus of Old World birds
- New York college
- Cloak
- Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
- Vietnamese offensive
- 'The Great Lakes State'
- '\_' myself and I'

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

June 8 to June 14

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **101 incidents** in this 7-day period.

## Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

**June 15**  
 12:21 am: AGUILARHERNANDEZ, Jose Antonio (48) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.  
 6:03 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of South Main Street.  
 4:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 4:57 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.  
 5:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a warning.  
 5:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Commercial Street and School Street and issued a warning.  
 9:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Walnut Street and issued a warning.

**June 16**  
 6:37 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.  
 1:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Madrone Street and issued a warning.  
 4:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of West Commercial Street and issued a warning.  
 5:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.  
 11:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 19000 block of North Highway 101 and issued a warning.

**June 17**  
 12:37 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1600 block South Main Street.  
 12:57 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 12:59 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 8:02 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Highway 20 and issued a warning.  
 8:27 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.  
 10:58 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of East San Francisco Avenue.  
 2:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.  
 2:38 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.  
 5:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 5:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1100 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.  
 11:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Blosser Lane and West Highway 20 and issued a warning.  
**June 18**  
 8:29 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.  
 8:46 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.  
 8:55 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.  
 9:17 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.  
 9:21 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.  
 9:46 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 9:57 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.  
 11:07 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.  
 12:52 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.  
 7:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 600 block of Hawthorn Lane.  
 9:02 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 10:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 10:40 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.  
 10:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Humboldt Street and East Valley Street and issued a citation.

**June 19**  
 3:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of West Highway 20 and South Main Street.  
**June 20**  
 3:02 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.  
 4:07 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1600 block of Camellia Circle.  
 4:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of South Main Street.  
 8:30 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
 9:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
**June 21**  
 4:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Brothers Lane and Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

The rest of **Arrested** | From page 1

search of the vehicle was conducted pursuant to the terms of her probation. During the search, the deputy located a canister of pepper spray beneath the driver's seat.

A review of Schmitt-Feliz's criminal history revealed she was prohibited from possessing pepper spray due to prior criminal convictions. Additionally, the pepper spray was determined to be a dangerous weapon, constituting a violation of the terms and conditions of Schmitt-Feliz's probation.

Based on the investigation the MCSO deputy established there was probable cause to arrest Schmitt-Feliz for 1203.2 PC – Violation of probation, 22810(a) PC – Prohibited person in possession of pepper spray, and 14601.1(a) VC – Driving on a suspended license. Schmitt-Feliz was placed under arrest without incident and transported to the Mendocino County Jail where she is being held on a no bail status.

Anyone with information related to this incident is requested to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office at 707-463-4086 (option 1). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling the non-emergency tip-line at 707-234-2100.



Above, from left: The tethered barrel is moved by hose power. Kids and adults line the sidewalk of Humboldt Street waiting for overspray. The warm weather was perfect for splashing in the water while watching the waterfight. Below: Little Lake Fire Department's Pablo Avalos, left, Manuel Orozco, and Philip Laurent, right, smile together before the waterfight. At right: The CAL FIRE and Little Lake Fire Association firefighters who participated in the fight pose together for a group photo. At right, below: Kids enjoyed running back and forth in front of the fire truck's on-board sprinklers during a quick water hose break.



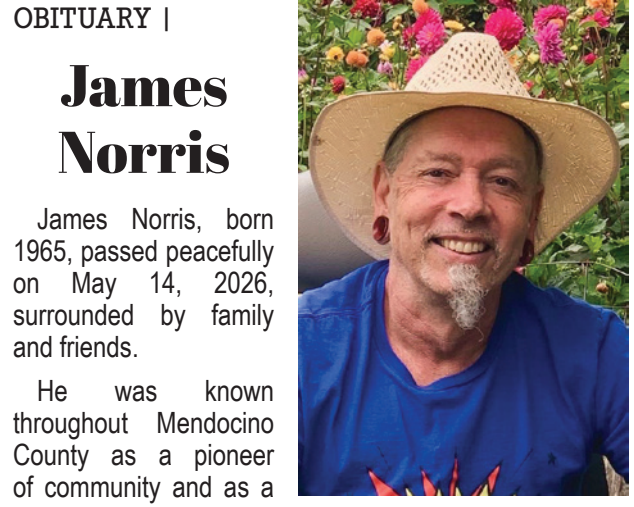
## Little Lake Fire Department Waterfight: Fun for firefighters and watchers alike

"The fire department water fight is a common competition pitting teamwork against teamwork," explained Little Lake Fire Department's Harry So. "The tradition of the water fights builds camaraderie not only within each team but brings the different departments together for jovial fun. Little Lake Firefighters Association had the pleasure to compete against CAL FIRE MEU's E1152 crew! Both departments put up a fierce battle against each other and had pure enjoyment cooling the crowd off during and in between matches! It's not about competition, jurisdictions, or "State" vs. "Local" departments, it's about the "Brotherhood" coming together. "Non Sibi Sed Omnibus" = "Not for ourselves, but for all."

CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit was excited to participate in the fire department water fights for the first time in 10 years," said CAL FIRE's Sherri Wise. "It was a great opportunity to be part of a long-standing community tradition and share some friendly competition with our local fire service partners. Little Lake Fire Department came ready and won almost every round, proving their skill, teamwork, and competitive spirit. We give them a well-deserved salute and look forward to the rematch."



Little Lake Fire Department Team 1: Manuel Orozco, Philip Laurent, and Pablo Avalos. Team 2: Mathew Orozco, Harry So, Ryan Tennon, and Rex Davidson, who was from Brooktrails Fire Department. CAL FIRE firefighter participants included: Hunter Duncan, Adan Rivera, and Ron Burias.



**OBITUARY | James Norris**

James Norris, born 1965, passed peacefully on May 14, 2026, surrounded by family and friends.

He was known throughout Mendocino County as a pioneer of community and as a person you could count on for advice and help. He has traveled, flown airplanes, and in 1998 James moved to Willits ready to settle down and raise a family with his wife. They bought land and created gardens where they raised and homeschooled their two children.

James lived with multiple sclerosis for 34 years. Due to complications from that, the summer heat of Willits drove him to seek a milder climate on the coast, and for the past 11 years he lived in Fort Bragg. He found and built an incredible community on the coast, making friends and sharing stories everywhere he went. He enjoyed spending time at the farmers market and CV Starr Center every week when he could. As his health declined, he kept pushing through to get out and live life, and he and his family are grateful for everything this community did to support him.

James is running along some beach or doing loop de loops in the sky somewhere in the great beyond. His legacy is that when we share knowledge and work together, we can accomplish great things. Live life to the fullest and squeeze every drop out of every moment!

James' family has no plans for a memorial service at this time but we encourage people to celebrate and honor him in any way they see fit.

# FAMILY TREE SERVICE

LICENSED · INSURED · ACCREDITED · FREE QUOTES

## (707) 984-6629

**Mission Statement**  
 Family Tree strives to be a leader in the tree care industry by providing safe and professional tree pruning and removals while utilizing ANSI A300 and Z133 tree care standards. Our company operates with integrity while respecting customers, protecting the environment, and fostering working expectations that encourage leadership, accountability, and ownership.

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.

Safety is our first concern and an integral part of our daily work culture. Crew members begin a structured safety training course immediately upon hire. Employees continue training as part of each individual's career plan to enhance knowledge in major aspects of tree care, including tree biology, cabling, planting, pruning, and safety.

All employees are trained in Minimum Approach Distances to energized lines and are encouraged to further their knowledge base by obtaining TCIA (Tree Care Industry Association) and ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certifications. Family Tree is also accredited in Utility Line Clearance work practices by the Tree Care Industry Association.

We strive to be YOUR premier tree service company by empowering our employees and embracing a professional, collaborative approach to business needs, changes, and growth through planned implementation.

Family Tree Service continues to support Utility Line Clearance for our community, and supports tree services for residential, commercial, municipalities, and state agencies in Mendocino, Humboldt, Lake, Sonoma, Napa, and Marin Counties. Our services include tree removal, trimming, hazard tree removal, storm damage cleanup, arborist evaluations, and insurance reports.

Do you want a career with a company that strives to put employees first? Visit: [www.familytree-service.com](http://www.familytree-service.com) to download an application today or stop by our offices located in Laytonville and Willits to pick up an application in person.

Lic. 640013

just say 10% to cut in their own department's budgets. Without that, he said, "I'm not going to support this budget."

"You know, I am not opposed to staff coming back to us with any more ideas," said Councilmember Gerry Gonzalez. "But just for the purpose of tonight, I'm willing to say [this budget] has some flaws and it's not perfect, but I do see some areas where there's some unknowns, and I'm assuming that some of those will be known here shortly. So I'm not opposed to staff coming back to us, maybe at the first or second meeting in August ... to look at the budget again."

The city's financial consultant Andy Heath described this budget as "a barebones budget" several times as he spoke to the city council. "There are no big bells and whistles built into this budget and rightfully so," he said. "Your general fund is still not balanced completely. You're still relying on reserves to balance your general fund budget. But that's where we're at."

"And please keep in mind where we were just three to six months ago," Heath continued. "We had a \$2.4 million gap in the general fund alone without looking at Measure K. And that was real. It wasn't fake. It was a real number. Your costs in the general fund were simply \$2.4 million higher on an ongoing basis every year than the revenues you were bringing in. So staff's goal was to come up with as many strategies as possible to try to reconcile and balance things moving forward, and they've done a commendable job."

The city's new Administrative Services Manager Joseph Park started his staff report on the budget Monday evening with a reminder that "on March 9, 2026, the City Council declared a Fiscal Emergency based on significant funding imbalances and deficits – particularly in the city's general fund. Declaration of the Fiscal Emergency effectively put into motion several strategies aimed at reducing current and future deficit spending, while mitigating the exposure of expenditure cuts on city services and programs. Over the last three months, staffing reorganizations and alternative approaches to the city's budgetary framework have been implemented."

"Although the city continues to be in a deficit position," the staff report continued, "considerable progress has been made to close the funding gap. The budget presented herein has been prepared without any significant one-time or extraneous budget alternatives, with the goal of working towards little to no impacts on programs and services delivered to the community."

Measure K was a City of Willits bond measure passed in November 2020, enacting a ¼ cent sales tax, "providing \$1,000,000 annually for 10 years, to prevent the elimination of police services; street and sports field maintenance; closing of city facilities; and loss of other essential city services."

Consultant Heath also noted that reliance on Measure K revenues was not sustainable into the future, particularly as the ¼ cent sales tax was only approved for 10 years.

There was also discussion regarding the possible future increase in various fees, ensuring cost recovery to the city, but no fees were increased in the 2026/27 budget.

legal, regulated cannabis market, and we have a responsibility to make sure it works as intended," Gov. Newsom said in the press release. "That means continuing to crack down on illegal cannabis operations that threaten public safety, exploit workers, damage the environment, and undercut legal businesses that follow the rules. This funding gives local communities the resources they need to strengthen enforcement, prevent youth access, improve public health outcomes, and make neighborhoods safer."

Mendocino County has been awarded \$7.23 million in this latest round of Proposition 64 funding to support local efforts addressing the public health and safety impacts of cannabis legalization.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office requested and was granted \$4.5 million to address extensive illicit commercial cannabis cultivation across more than 3,500 square miles of remote terrain."

"Illegal grows drive local homicides, human trafficking, and severe environmental damage, disproportionately impacting rural communities," said the MCSO grant application for the "Mendocino Illicit Cannabis Enforcement Project." "Over 80% of the funds will expand enforcement of illicit commercial cannabis operations through essential personnel, specialized vehicles, and equipment otherwise unattainable within the county's limited budget. Additional resources will support investigations directly linked to illicit commercial cannabis-related violent crime, environmental remediation, and coordinated operations with partner agencies. This investment will reduce community harm, protect natural resources, and strengthen long-term public health and safety."

Mendocino County Public Health requested and was granted \$2,733,260 in Proposition 64 funding for the "Youth VAPE SAFE: Cannabis Prevention & Education" project, which aims to reduce youth cannabis use in Mendocino County through a comprehensive, culturally responsive prevention strategy, targeting youth ages 12-20 and their families, and integrating community education, parental engagement, responsible vendor training, and accessible cannabis support. Activities include school-based programs, culturally relevant outreach, and partnerships with local organizations, healthcare providers, and law enforcement. The project also addresses environmental health by providing safe disposal options for vaping devices and batteries on school campuses.

Guided by an Adult-led Cannabis Coalition and an active Youth Coalition, Youth VAPE SAFE leverages community assessments and existing resources to deliver impactful, sustainable interventions. Expected outcomes include decreased youth cannabis use, increased awareness of risks, and improved environmental safety.

The Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program was established in 2016 through the voter-approved Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act. These awards were made across a variety of size-based categories, with all funded projects addressing one or more of four cannabis-related focus areas: public safety and enforcement, youth prevention and intervention, public health, or environmental impacts.

A full list of project summaries is available at [https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Attachment-E-3\\_Project-Summaries.pdf](https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Attachment-E-3_Project-Summaries.pdf)

A full list of grant awards is available [https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Attachment-E-2\\_Proposals-Recommended-for-Funding.pdf](https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Attachment-E-2_Proposals-Recommended-for-Funding.pdf)

## Jackson Advisory Group seeks members

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Jackson Demonstration State Forest, invites public involvement in the management of JDSF through participation on its Jackson Advisory Group. The JAG advises CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on forest management at JDSF.

CAL FIRE is seeking three JAG applicants to provide expertise in one or more of the following forest management categories identified in the JAG Charter:

- Licensed Timber Operator
- Botanist and/or Ecologist
- Physical Scientist (e.g. hydrology, geology, etc.)
- Forest Conservation
- Local Tribal Representative
- Outdoor Enthusiast/Land Use Consultant

Interested persons should apply by submitting a letter of interest and resume. This is an ongoing recruitment effort, and interviews will be held periodically. Applications should be sent to: Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 802 North Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; (707) 964-5674; JDSF@fire.ca.gov

### Background

JDSF, the largest of 14 Demonstration State Forests in California, is in Mendocino County. The 48,652-acre forest fills a unique niche to advance research, demonstration, and education on sustainable forestry practices to help maintain California's leading role as an innovator in solutions to difficult resource

management challenges.

The Jackson Advisory Group provides advice to CAL FIRE and the board on management of the forest. It also is intended that interactions among the advisory group, the department, the board, and the public will help to ensure transparency and create trust regarding JDSF management.

The Advisory Group will meet four to six times in a typical year. Meetings are generally from 9 am to 4 pm, in Fort Bragg, Ukiah, or on the forest. Additional preparation time between meetings will typically be necessary. There is no compensation for service on the Advisory Group.

The Jackson Advisory Group members represent a range of local, regional, and state interests and areas of technical expertise such as forestry research, forest conservation, ecology, environmental education, environmental protection, fisheries, forest management, physical sciences, recreation, timber operations, and wildlife. Members are to represent the public. Meetings of the advisory group are public and subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

New appointees will serve a term of three years. Interviews for these three positions will be conducted periodically in 2026-2027 as applications are received. The director's appointees are subject to the approval of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

General Information regarding JDSF can be found on our website here: [www.fire.ca.gov/jdsf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/jdsf) Both the Charter for the JDSF Advisory Group and the draft JDSF Forest Management plan are also available at that link.

## Transportation Commission approves Blues Beach land transfer

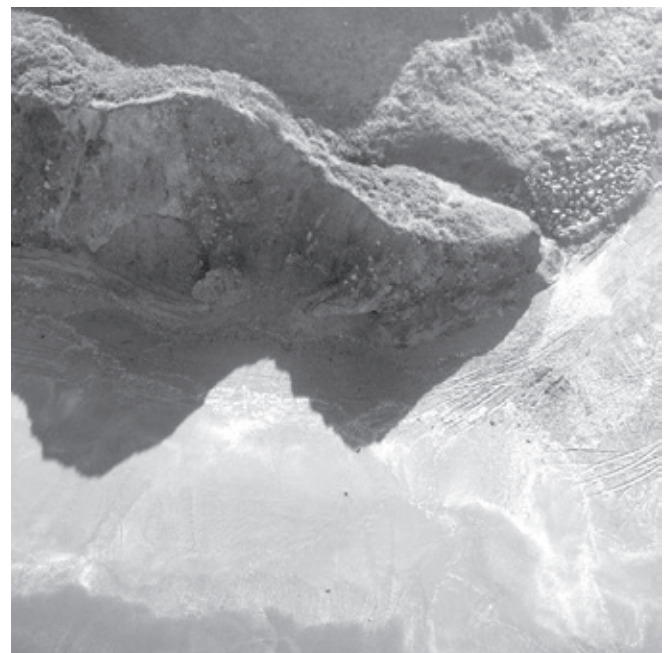
Submitted by Caltrans District 1

The California Transportation Commission on Friday, June 26 approved the land transfer of Blues Beach, marking a significant milestone. For the first time in California's history, state-owned land managed by Caltrans has been transferred to Kai Poma, a nonprofit established by three local Native American tribes with ancestral ties to the region.

Through legislation from Senator Mike McGuire's office, Caltrans District 1 collaborated with Kai Poma, founded by representatives of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, to facilitate the transfer of Blues Beach near Westport in Mendocino County.

During this interim period, in cooperation with Kai Poma and the California Coastal Commission, Caltrans will be closing the beach to vehicle access. Pedestrian access will remain available. Once transferred, Kai Poma will own and maintain the 136-acre site and protect sensitive natural resources and Native American cultural resources.

Contact: [manny.machado@dot.ca.gov](mailto:manny.machado@dot.ca.gov)



Two aerial photos of formerly state-owned Blues Beach near Westport, ownership of which has just been transferred to the Kai Poma nonprofit established by three local Native tribes.

Photos courtesy CTC



Photos by Matthew Jennison and Maureen Jennison

# Rodeo Results

### Local cowgirls run barrels in July 3 and 4 CCPRA rodeos

21 riders from the Lake and Mendocino county areas competed for the title of Local Barrels winner in the July 3 and 4 CCPRA rodeos' special event, and Serenity Shores of Lakeport came in first place with a time of 17.725 seconds. Second place was awarded to Emma Johnson of Ukiah with a time of 17.928 seconds; third place went to Kelly Munk of Hidden Valley Lake with a time of 17.992 seconds; fourth place went to Triniti Freudenberg of Willits with a time of 18.116 seconds.

Other riders included: Jodie Neese and Hailey Silva of Potter Valley; Mikayala Black and Karlie Johnson of Redwood Valley; Faith Parlee, Tina Herman, Adeline French and Elaina French of Lakeport; Bianca Andrea Molina of Kelseyville; Alisha Mackey of Middletown; Riley Schreiner, Zoey Schreiner, and Canyon Darger of Ukiah; Raylene Sizemore and Moorea Agnoli of Laytonville; Dana Arkelian of Willits; and Amanda Hiatt of Boonville.

Results provided by Riata McKemy, local barrels chairperson

### Professional cowboys and cowgirls compete in July 3 and 4 CCPRA rodeos

First-place winners in each class included:  
**Calf roping:** Riley Currin earning \$992.64 with a time of 11 seconds.  
**Steer wrestling:** Ryan Wells earning \$992.64 with a time of 6.3 seconds.  
**Breakaway roping:** Kylyn Watkins earning \$1,104.78 with a time of 3.1 seconds.  
**Barrel racing:** Jordyn Staley earning \$1,158.74 with a time of 17.38 seconds.

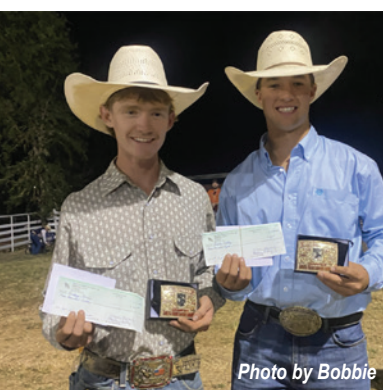
**Team roping:** Bryor Minton and Dusty Bravos each earning \$845.06 with a time of 6.3 seconds.  
**Bareback riding:** Quentin Personeni earning \$761.40 with a score of 76 points.  
**Saddle bronc riding:** Wyatt Beauchamp earning \$1,037.76 with a score of 74 points.  
**Bull riding:** Chase Barnes earning \$1,116.72 with a score of 74 points.

For a complete list of results, see <https://www.ccpa.com/2026-rodeos>

### Young cowboys and cowgirls compete in July 5 Junior Rodeo

First-place winners in each class included:  
**Senior pole bending:** Laela Stewart earning \$192 for her time of 20.86 seconds.  
**Senior steer stopping:** Jackson Bacon earning \$198 for his time of 4.370 seconds.  
**Senior steer daubing:** Lisa Arkelian earning \$201.60 for her time of 2.53 seconds.  
**Senior tie-down roping:** Jackson Bacon earning \$144 for his time of 15.440 seconds.  
**Senior barrel racing:** Madilyn Casarotti earning \$183.40 for her time of 17.760 seconds.  
**Senior bull riding:** Richie Ferri earning \$600 for his score of 67 points.  
**Senior saddle bronc:** Cash Parker earning \$100 for his score of 68 points.  
**Senior breakaway roping:** Alexis Yanez earning \$249.60 for her time of 3.870 seconds.  
**Senior chute dogging:** Jordan Shull earning \$129.60 for his time of 2.610 seconds.  
**Senior goat tying:** Alexis Yanez earning \$166.44 for her time of 9.560 seconds.

Read the rest of Results Over on page 11



Above, from left: Flying high on this bucking bull, the cowboy tries to stay on for the full 8 seconds to earn a score. A bronc rider keeps one hand on the rope, and one hand high as he rides. A cowgirl team catches the head, and hopes for the heels in this Team Roping run at the July 3 CCPRA rodeo.

Photos by Matthew Jennison and Maureen Jennison

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# SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
805 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**  
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• Spiritual Discussions  
• ECK Light & Sound Services  
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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://stanthonywillits.org/  
sainstanthonywillits@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/stjohnswillits  
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

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

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

## Thursday, July 9

**Talk with Your Supervisor:**  
John Third District Supervisor  
John Haschak at Brickhouse  
Coffee, 3 South Main Street,  
on Thursday, July 9 from 10 to  
11 am to discuss local issues  
or ask questions.

**Lunch with Laytonville Library:** Meet the Laytonville  
Branch Library for lunch at  
the Cafeteria at Laytonville  
Elementary School, 150  
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 9 from 3 to 5:30 pm, for the  
fresh produce available, local meat, farm fresh  
eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along  
with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly,  
and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and  
matches benefits to double your dollars.

## Friday, July 10

**"Adornment" at Ridgewood Ranch:** A community  
art exhibition featuring works by Willits artists,  
makers, and everyday creatives curated by Renata  
Abbate. 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,"  
"Pietà," 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." Directed by Eric  
Ward. Starring Desa Holt  
stars as the vibrant young  
Louisa, with her real-life  
mother Haley Morse as the  
grown-up Louisa. The  
cast includes Phaedra and  
Joe Swearingin, Schuyler  
Marcier, Prana, Garrett Moore,  
Hiram "Jonesy" Jones,  
Jeff Shipp, Joshua Holt, and  
Jeremy Daw. Opens  
Friday, July 10 at Willits  
Community Theatre, 37 West  
Van Lane, and plays Fridays  
and Saturdays at 2 pm,  
and Sundays at 2 pm,  
through July 26. Tickets: \$7;  
available at wctperformingartscenter.org

**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.

## Saturday, July 11

**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.  
Coffee, Orange Juice or Milk;  
Breakfast Special TBD.  
\$13 adults; \$12 Senior Center  
members; \$8 children.

**Library Story and Playtime at Rec Grove:** 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.

**Sherwood Valley Big Time:** Sherwood  
Valley 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.

**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 Hahn (acoustic guitar and  
vocals), and Jeff Taylor (bass).  
Saturday, July 11 at 8 pm  
at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main  
Street.

**Friday, July 17**  
"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." Friday, July 17  
at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, July  
10 listing for details.

**Luna Worldcast at Shanachie:** New Jersey-  
based Singer/  
Songwriter Luna  
Worldcast returns  
to Shanachie Pub  
on a Western  
tour. Friday,  
July 17 at 8 pm. Luna captivates  
audiences with  
her haunting vocals  
and droning folk  
rock melodies.  
Joined by Hunter  
Cory. 50 South Main  
Street.

**Saturday, July 18**  
**Earthquake Workshop at Flourish & Flow:** Join  
us for an Earthquake Preparedness Workshop led  
by a local geologist, on Saturday, July 18 at 6 pm  
at Flourish & Flow, 1726 South Main Street, Ste B,  
in Evergreen Shopping Center. You'll learn what to  
do before, during, and after an earthquake, how to  
build an emergency kit, create a family communication  
plan, and better understand the geology of our region.  
You'll leave with practical tools and simple steps to  
help you feel more prepared and confident. Reserve  
your spot at: www.flourishandflowmendo.com/faulttalk



## Thursday, July 16

**Willits Farmers Market:** Join your neighbors at  
Summer Market outdoors at City  
Park on Commercial  
Street, Thursday,  
July 16 from 3 to  
5:30 pm, for the freshest produce  
available, local meat, farm fresh  
eggs, hot and cold food from local  
businesses, along with crafts, live  
music, the new edition of Willits  
Weekly, and more. The market  
honors EBT and WIC cards and  
matches benefits to double your  
dollars.

## Friday, July 17

**"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." Friday, July 17  
at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, July  
10 listing for details.

## Saturday, July 18

**Earthquake Workshop at Flourish & Flow:** Join  
us for an Earthquake Preparedness Workshop led  
by a local geologist, on Saturday, July 18 at 6 pm  
at Flourish & Flow, 1726 South Main Street, Ste B,  
in Evergreen Shopping Center. You'll learn what to  
do before, during, and after an earthquake, how to  
build an emergency kit, create a family communication  
plan, and better understand the geology of our region.  
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**"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 18 at  
7 pm at Willits Community  
Theatre. See Friday, July  
10 listing for details.

**PostModern Prometheus at Shanachie:** A musical  
journey through space  
and time, with spiritually  
charged vibrations. Your  
psychedelic navigators,  
Kage on guitar, Structure  
on bass, and Professor Box  
on drums, will accurately  
align your chakras and  
kundalini. Saturday,  
July 18 at 8 pm. 50  
South Main Street.

## Sunday, July 19

**"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  
17 matinee at 2 pm at  
Willits Community Theatre.  
See Friday, July 10 listing  
for details.

**EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS & FAULT TALK**  
with a Local Geologist  
FREE Community Workshop  
July 18, 2026  
6-7pm  
Living in Northern California means earthquakes are a part of life, but being prepared can make all the difference.  
Join us for this free educational workshop with a local geologist focused on earthquake readiness, safety, and practical preparedness steps.  
You'll learn simple, actionable ways to prepare your home, create an emergency plan, and know what to do before, during, and after an earthquake.  
Everyone is welcome. Bring your questions and invite a friend!  
\*Space is limited  
\*Please register in advance so we can prepare enough printed materials for everyone  
\*Chairs are limited  
\*Comfortable floor seating is welcome.  
1726 S. Main Street, Willits

**COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES**  
**'Minions and Monsters'**  
The Story: A full-length comedy/action cartoon featuring, of course, the Minions, who are relentlessly silly little yellow fire-hydrant-shaped cartoon characters from the "Despicable Me" movie franchise. The Minions are, until quite recently, servants to Gru, who is cinema's most despicable villain, but Gru has left the scene. As this flick begins, the Minions are looking for a new respectably despicable leader.  
And then, as if this weren't enough, the Minions become involved with the Hollywood movie business. The Minions want to produce and direct and star in a monster flick. Unfortunately they don't have a monster. But they do have a book of sorcery, so they conjure a monster. But then, the monsters invite the most monstrous of monsters: the terrible "IRENE"  
But that's enough spoilers. Mayhem and destruction and mass foolishness ensues...  
**My Thoughts:** This flick has an extra feature: the movie is stuffed with visual homages to other classic motion pictures. So, if movie trivia is your thing, check out 'Minions and Monsters' and have fun catching the movie references. It's kind of a side game that's worth your while, or at least it was to me.  
**Parents:** This movie is fun and foolish and, and kids will love it.  
Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

**Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians**  
Presents  
**33rd Annual Big Time Fry Bread Cook-off**  
1st PRIZE \$300 CASH  
2nd PRIZE \$100 FREE PLAY  
Saturday, July 11, 2026  
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
190 Sherwood Hill Dr., Willits, CA 95490  
MUST PROVIDE YOUR OWN INGREDIENTS AND COOKING STATION. DOUGH MAY BE PREPARED BEFOREHAND.  
For more information contact Talisha Melluish at (707) 354-2270.  
For more information or to register your dance group contact our office at (707) 459-9690.

**Basketmaking Workshop at Grace Hudson, July 25**  
Make your own twined basket with Corine Pierce, Pomo cultural educator and basketweaver Corine Pearce at Grace Hudson Museum, 431 South Main Street, Ukiah. Saturday, July 25 10 am to 1 pm or 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Both classes suitable for beginners and ages 8+. \$10. Native people are free, scholarships available on request. Contact 707-467-2836 or ghminsta@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

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SOUL CIRQUE • BLUE LUKE  
WINDYARD BALANCERS  
SATURDAY, JULY 25 2026  
WILLITS RECREATION GROVE PARK  
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CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS  
COMMERCIAL TIRES  
TIRES ON RIMS  
WILLITS TRANSFER STATION:  
350 Franklin Avenue  
WILLITS CITY HALL: 111 EAST COMMERCIAL STREET  
Contact for details:  
Custackcity@willits.org

**THE MUNCHERY**  
TRIVIA NIGHT  
at The Munchery  
Thursday, July 9  
General knowledge!  
July theme  
Thursday, July 23  
Shrek theme  
Dress up encouraged!  
Doors Open at 5PM  
Trivia Begins at 6PM  
Trivia happens the 2nd & 4th Thursday of every month!

**MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM**  
History Makers!  
JULY - Celebrating Our Nation:  
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Anytime between 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
July 1: 4th of July Star Festive Crowns  
July 8: Patriotic Paper Bracelets  
July 15: Bald Eagle Collage  
July 22: Statue of Liberty Torch & Crown  
July 29: Vote to Craft! Craft-A-Palooza  
400 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490 | (707) 234-6566  
Museum hours: 10am-5pm, Tuesday - Sunday  
Telling Our Story

**Free Sports Physicals & Back to School Fair**  
Saturday, July 11 7 am - 12 pm  
Adventist Health Howard Memorial  
3 Marcela Drive in Willits

**LOUISA @ FRUITLANDS**  
A NEW PLAY BY DANIEL ROVER SINGER  
DIRECTED BY ERIC WARD  
JULY 10-26 | 2026  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7PM - SUNDAY 2PM  
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Sunday 9 am - 5 pm



Above: District 2 Assemblymember Chris Rogers, left, marched in the Willits 4th of July parade on Saturday, with Mendocino County Third District Supervisor John Haschak. In this photo, Rogers and Haschak stand in front of the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum's float, which carried a wagon from the Mendocino County Museum's collection which rolled in past Frontier Days parades.

The rest of Rogers From page 1

250th year is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together. I was especially proud to walk with Supervisor Haschak, who has done so much for Mendocino County."

Supervisor Haschak told Willits Weekly he enjoyed marching with Assemblymember Rogers in Willits on Independence Day. "The parade is always a great time to connect with friends and neighbors," Haschak said. "The diversity of the parade entrants and people is heartwarming and shows the strength of our community. I appreciate our state Assemblymember Chris Rogers walking the parade route with me."

Assemblymember Rogers represents District 2 in the California Assembly, which encompasses the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Trinity – including Willits, Laytonville, Covelo, Ukiah, Fort Bragg, the City of Mendocino, Gualala and the rest of Mendocino County.

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Above, left: More kids enjoying a dance at Willits Frontier Days' Country Music Rodeola at the Rec Grove after the 4th of July parade. Above, right: The Rodeola concert and BBQ were well-attended after the 4th of July parade. Below, left: Mitchell Holman, veteran of It's a Beautiful Day, creates his own instruments – this one, an electric bass violin. Below, right: Charlie Von, on the cajon, helped keep the beat in the Cosmic Family Band's performance at WFD Rodeola in the Rec Grove.



Photos by Mathew Caine



# Music Rodeola

Local Willits bands play sets in the shade after the 4th of July parade

Perseverance and grit pay off. After a technical hiccup or two, the Frontier Days Rodeola came to life, with several local bands providing the best in county and folk rock tunes to enjoy with the annual barbecue in Recreation Grove Park, following the well-attended 4th of July parade. Some attendees came just to listen to the music organized by WFD board member Jeff Cook.

Mathew Caine  
 Features Writer  
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

First up, was a band known as Hal A Looya, the current group featuring Willits local Hal Wagenet, a veteran of It's a Beautiful Day ("White Bird" was a big hit for them). Hal A Looya was able to get started after a substitute sound person was contacted to fill in due to a last-minute illness. Larry Thompson and Gary Miller of the Funky Dozen Band came to the rescue and salvaged the sound system for the remainder of the performances.

Hal A Looya, with songstress Necole Aguilar, played some popular folk rock selections, Ringo Starr's "Act Naturally," "Ghost Riders in the Sky," "Ring of Fire," "Your Mama Don't Dance," "Mama, Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys," "Summertime Blues," and "Falling." They played "Two Americas," by Mitchel Holman, Wagenet's bandmate in It's a Beautiful Day. The band finished with a paean to Mendocino County by Wagenet.

"Some of us never left. Some of us left and decided it wasn't so wonderful out there and came back. Some people came here from somewhere else and discovered it's pretty cool. This next song is a love song to our county," said Wagenet, to introduce the song.

In between and during sets, a couple hundred people, many dressed in patriotic flag-themed garb, sat, ate, and listened, while their colorful kids ran around and/or danced to the music. Many parents took the opportunity to dance with their children. After the first set, an award was given to Niko Steffen for winning the Willits Frontier Days' Wiskerina contest by growing the most beard from a clean-shaven start on May 1.

Willits Mayor Tom Allman addressed the crowd, thanking them for their participation. "Frontier Days is 100 years old. Our country's 250 years old. I am so happy you're here. My name is Tom Allman. I'm lucky enough to be mayor, and on behalf of the City Council and on behalf of the City of Willits, we so much appreciate you being here to celebrate the 4th of July. This is a big day. So, keep enjoying the music. Go to the rodeo. If you're a drinker, keep buying a beer, because we love to support Frontier Days. And for goodness sakes, happy birthday America and happy birthday Frontier Days."

Next up was the ever-changing Cosmic Family Band, fronted by the multi-talented Chris Cichacki, on guitar and vocals. The set was reminiscent of the stylings of the Grateful Dead with long breaks and easy beats.

After the Cosmic Family Band, a group known as JP Worthless played mostly country songs. The aforementioned Mitchell Holman brought one of his homemade bassy instruments up on stage, an electric bass violin, played with a bow. The low mournful sounds fit nicely with his lyrical stylings and songs of loss. The concert ended with Mudrone, a folk rock group, fronted by Jeff Martin, with Jeff Cowin and Jim Switzer on lead guitar.

Willits is a town with a multitude of talented musicians which makes it a place to come to hear some quality music, much of the time for free at outdoor concerts in outdoor venues like the bandstand at the Rec Grove. July 4th was no exception.



Above, left: Necole Aguilar belts out a song with the rest of the Hal A Looya band. Above, right: Niko Steffen won the WFD Wiskerina contest by growing the most beard from a clean-shaven start. Below: Chris Cichacki played guitar and sang as part of the Cosmic Family Band with Sam Fry on bass.



# LEGAL NOTICES

WW617

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to the voters of the following districts of the County of Mendocino, State of California, that an election will be held on November 3, 2026, for the purpose of electing the officers indicated below:

### Brooktrails Township Community Services District

Office	Number	Elected	Qualifications
Director – Full Term	3	At Large	Must be a registered elector residing in the district

### Covelo Community Services District

Office	Number	Elected	Qualifications
Director – Full Term	3	At Large	Must be a registered elector residing in the district

### Covelo Fire Protection District

Office	Number	Elected	Qualifications
Director – Full Term	2	At Large	Must be a registered elector residing in the district

### Little Lake Fire Protection District

Office	Number	Elected	Qualifications
Director – Full Term	2	At Large	Must be a registered elector residing in the district

### Round Valley County Water District

Office	Number	Elected	Qualifications
Director – Full Term	2	At Large	Must be a registered elector residing in the district

Official Declaration of Candidacy forms for eligible candidates desiring to file for any of the elective offices may be obtained from the office of the County Clerk, 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, Ukiah, (234-6819) on or after July 13, 2026 and must be filed not later than 5 p.m. on August 7, 2026, provided if declaration of candidacy papers for an incumbent are not filed by the latter date and hour, any person other than the incumbent, shall have until 5:00 p.m. on August 12, 2026 to file a Declaration of Candidacy for such elective office.

Publication Date: July 9, 2026

WW618

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to the voters of the following districts of the County of Mendocino, State of California, that an election will be held on November 3, 2026, for the purpose of electing the officers indicated below:

District	Office	Number	Elected
Willits Unified	Gov. Brd. Mbr.	3 Long Term	At Large
Round Valley Unified	Gov. Brd. Mbr.	3 Long Term	At Large
County Board of Education-TA3	Member	1 Short Term	Trustee Area

Official Declaration of Candidacy forms for eligible candidates desiring to file for any of the elective offices may be obtained from the office of the County Clerk, 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, Ukiah, (234-6819) on or after July 13, 2026 and must be filed not later than 5 p.m. on August 7, 2026, provided if declaration of candidacy papers for an incumbent are not filed by the latter date and hour, any person other than the incumbent, shall have until 5:00 p.m. on August 12, 2026 to file a Declaration of Candidacy for such elective office.

In the event there are no nominees or an insufficient number of nominees for such office and a petition for an election is not filed by August 12, 2026, an appointment to each elective office will be made pursuant to Elections Code Section 10515.

Publication Date: July 9, 2026

The rest of Results From page 7

**Junior/Junior team roping:** Jackson Bacon and Mason Henderson each earning \$108 for their time of 24.220 seconds.

**Junior/Senior team roping:** Lucas Hilton and Willie Worley each earning \$108 for their time of 10.460 seconds.

**Junior steer riding:** Beau McPherson earning \$270.40 for his score of 64 points.

**Junior pole bending:** Madisyn Murray earning \$166.40 for her time of 22.100 seconds.

**Junior steer daubing:** Braelynn Bartow earning \$172.80 for her time of 3.7 seconds.

**Junior barrel racing:** Keirra Felton earning \$192 for her time of 18.160

seconds.

**Junior goat tying:** Nya Martinez earning \$192 for her score of 11.290 seconds

**Young guns dummy roping:** Colten McCready earning \$84 for his score of 4 points.

**Young guns barrel racing:** Riley Grube earning \$120 for their time of 20.760 seconds.

**Young guns mutton bustin:** Hunter Sizemore earning \$122.40 for his score of 80 points.

**Young guns single stake:** Riley Grube earning \$120 for their score of 6.370 seconds.

**Young guns goat tail un-tying:** Colten McCready earning \$120 for his score of 14.230 seconds.

**Junior breakaway roping:** no qualified times.

**Junior steer stopping:** no qualified times.

**Overall Girls Saddle winner:** Braelynn Bartow

**Overall Boys Saddle winner:** Jackson Bacon

For complete results, see the posts on the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Facebook page.

### Bulls and Broncs

First-place winners in each class included:

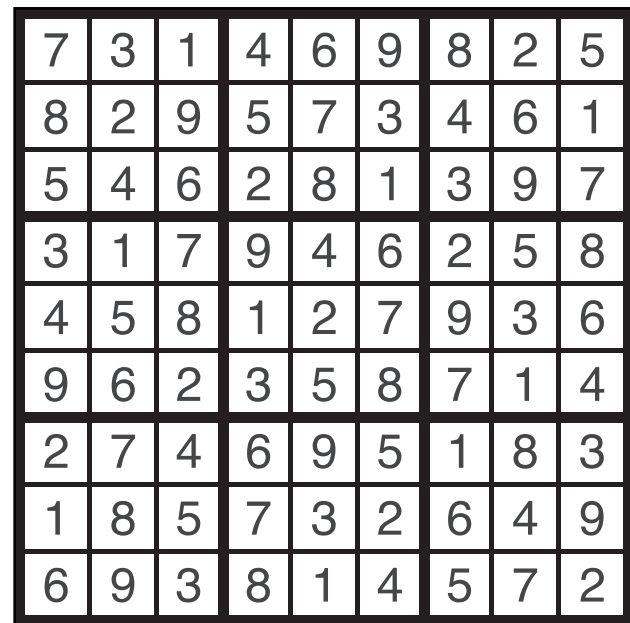
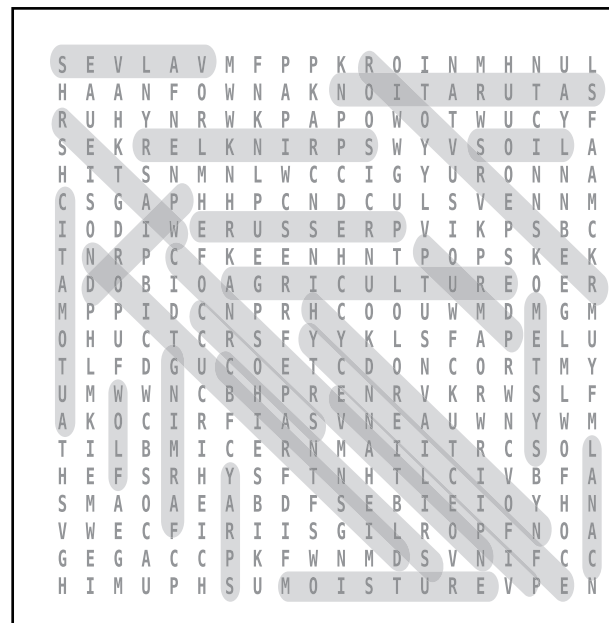
**Breakaway:** Kylyn Watkins

**Mutton Bustin:** Hunter Sizemore

**Ranch Bronc:** Wacey Vann

**Bulls:** Milo Dillard

**Calcutta Winner:** Sam Martisius who took home \$2,300.



# CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent Available July 1st access to larger room

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

**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

**Do you need food?**  
 Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 11 am to 4:30 pm. New Client Choice model where you select your own items. Bring shopping bags, Bring an I.D. Info: (707) 459-3333

**For Rent**  
 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

**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.

**For Rent**  
 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

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

**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.oakvine.net/tp

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

# LEGAL NOTICES

## Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0231  
 The following person or persons are doing business as RDM Print & Promo, 25189 Blue Jay Pl., Willits, CA 95490; 707-799-4707.

Registered owner: Robyn Cabrera, 25189 Blue Jay Pl., Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on June 29, 2026.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on June 29, 2026.

/s/ Robyn Cabrera  
 Publication Dates: July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026



## Fun Freckles

Looking for a fun-sized adventure buddy? Freckles is your girl! This happy, medium-sized terrier mix is full of personality and loves being around people. She already knows "sit," is highly food motivated, and would love to learn even more tricks for a tasty reward. If you're looking for an all-around great companion with a wagging tail and a zest for life, come meet Freckles!

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.

## Mama Whiskey

Meet Whiskey, a mom of three beautiful kittens! Whiskey is Lynx point and is very pretty, but she is also fearful and takes a long time to adjust to new environments. With a long-term, calm and quiet home to decompress in, she could open up more and potentially become more friendly, but at the moment she is stressed out about all the change she's been through.

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.

## Big Bwennen

Bwennen is a big, goofy boy guaranteed to keep you smiling! Bwennen loves adventures, long walks, and showing off his hilarious personality once he's back home. If you're looking for a fun-loving, lovable best friend, Bwennen is ready to steal your heart. His adoption fee is fully sponsored – adopt him for \$0! Come meet this silly sweetheart today!

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, 11 am to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm. Thursdays by appointment only. Please call 707-485-0123 or email info@hsmc.org for an appointment. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Fill out a foster or adoption application on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.





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have to do  
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**August 2**  
at 2 pm

**Willits Community Theatre**  
37 W. Van Lane  
www.wctperformingartscenter.org

**Farmstand Friday**

When that Friday after July 4 comes around, you know it's also time for the Commonwealth Garden's Farmstand to start back up for the season, and this Friday, July 10, from 10 am to 1 pm is the first official event of 2026. The garden is located just south of Howard Hospital on Marcela Drive in the Haehl Creek subdivision.

Garden manager Mellisa Bouley noted that shoppers should expect lettuce, summer squash, basil, kale, chard, garlic, last of the broccoli, beets, donut peaches, plums and more at this first market. A raffle will also be held this week, for plants and certificates to be used later for Farmstand shopping.

Laytonville Indian Blood peach starts will also be available for sale at the market; this special variety is one that has been

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

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.**

# July at WCA

'Metalwork, Collage, Painting' exhibit features three local artists

The only similarities between the three artists represented at the current 'Metalwork, Collage, Painting' show at the Willits Center for the Arts is their love of beauty and their ability to render their individual visions with great expertise. Occurring on a Friday, due to the Willits Frontier Days activities on Saturday, July 4th, the WCA opening reception hosted three very different artists, each proficient in rendering their own voices in ways that showed how their varying mediums could be utilized to express an artistic voice, whether they worked in paint, collage, or metal.

Katie Gibbs, working with her plasma torch and steel, creates some recognizable shapes, both in color and in the natural sheen of the metal. Like Japanese artists, Gibbs makes many of her images with the thought that they will be changing their surface looks as they age, tarnish and rust. The Japanese call this wabi-sabi, a term that expresses the impermanence in their ever-changing art. Her forest of trees in the front gallery expresses that concept with her steel sculptures in various levels of rust and sheen.

"I do like trees and dinosaurs, other things too," explained Gibbs. "I started with valley oaks, the very first tree I ever made. I'm surprised by how beautiful the shapes are. I started out as an architect, but never really practiced that art. I like structure and shape. I like to see how things work and how they go together. That's how the trees started. I live with a wonderful man who likes color. He said, 'why don't you put color in these things?' I told him I didn't want to color my trees. So, I started making little things that were colorful."

Gibbs likes the way her tree sculptures age: "There are a couple of those trees that are stainless steel. If you polish them regularly, you can keep them like that [shiny], otherwise they will tarnish. They won't be rusty, but they will tarnish. The other ones, they've become a very dark rust. You never know which way it's going to go. This is a new one. It's just starting to rust."

Longtime Art Center board member Laura Wiecek decided to show a plethora of varying styles and genres, most in muted colors. She had collages, paintings, woven pieces, and paper art from books. "I work in all those genres at the same time," said Wiecek. "I'll be working on a paper project, and then I'll look at a painting, study it, go back and forth, working. I think my favorite medium of all I do is collage."

"For these collages," Wiecek explained, "I paint on paper, cut them into strips, weave them together, then I put them on a canvas, and paint around them. I start with one big piece and just have fun, 'ooh, I like this.' Sometimes, I'll cut it in half or find a section that works. It all depends on what I have to work with. I use maps. I use candy wrappers."

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

## The rest of Garden

From page 12

successful in the area and offers gardeners a good chance at growing a harvestable stone fruit.

"This first market is always a little sparse," Bouley said, "but we'll have lots of good things coming and things will pick up quickly."

Quickly is the name of the game if you have hopes of scoring some of the good stuff each week; shoppers anxiously line the fence and road outside of the garden, ready to pounce on the produce and goods, so get there early to have your chance at the best selection.

Later in the season, expect all the usual suspects; tomatoes, leeks, large onions, beans, garlic braids, and more. Chris will also be back with his bread and cookies, and eggs and flowers will also be available again for sale this year.

Towards the end of July, Bouley expects to have fall starts available including brassicas and more.

The farmstand will run weekly on Fridays through September, or until the frost cuts off production and sales.

While goods are available for the farmstand, the garden also continues to primarily supply the nearby Roots Restaurant at Howard Hospital as well as donate heavily to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank non-profit.

As with almost all non-profits, the Commonwealth Garden is always seeking helpful hands to volunteer with their list of projects and daily to-do lists.

If you're interested in donating some time gardening and helping around the beds, contact the Howard Foundation, sponsor of the Commonwealth Garden, for more information at 3 Marcela Drive, Suite A, or call 707-459-2777. Bouley is also at the garden most mornings, and interested persons are welcome to stop by and see things first-hand.

- Maureen Jennison

## The rest of WCA

From page 12

When asked about her destruction of written material, she said: "I like to use discarded books. Or anything really old that people rarely read anymore. I would never destroy a good book. One I just did was written in 1903. It's called 'The Perfect Woman.' It was written by a female doctor. I folded all the pages so that you can still read it. She goes through all the stages of life for a woman. It even has a picture of the 'perfect woman,' which wouldn't really pass our standards today."

July exhibitor Sandy Strong, also a member of the WCA board of directors, is known for two genres, photography and watercolors. For this show, she decided to just show her watercolors, with their dazzling colors and almost photo-realistic renderings. "In watercolors, you can't go over your mistakes," Strong explained. "You have to use your mistakes. You get a plan and go for it, and then you just go with whatever happens with the watercolor. I like that part because I never know what I'm going to come up with. I sometimes sketch first. It depends on what I'm drawing. I sometimes work from my photos. This one with the leaves and the blue bird, is just made up. It's called 'In the Forest.'"

"Metalwork, Collage, Painting" runs through July 29 at the WCA gallery at 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Fridays through Sundays, 11 am to 5 pm. Visit [www.willitscenterforthearts.org/](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/) to see listings of the art center's full slate of classes and events.

## The rest of Parade

From page 3

Sherwood Valley Casino; Rachel and Chad Hill; Affordable Plumbing; On Point Tree Care; Vaqueros Mexicanos; Mike Williamson Trucking; Be the Antidote; DS Detailing LLC; T&T Towing; John Ford Ranch Cowboys; Joe Arkelian and Henry Arkelian; John Ford Ranch; Ford Family; Flowers by Annette; Dani Owen; Eva Pinon; Alex Pinon; and the Persico Family Color Guard.

Judges awarded first-, second- and third-place achievements to the following entries in various categories, and also included in italics is some of what was announced by Kathy Goss at the announcer's stand as the floats came down Main Street. (Some items abbreviated for space):

**Best Imagination Float:** First place: Friends of the Museum; second place: Willits Walk'n Wag.

*The Friends of the Museum float carries a wagon from the Mendocino County Museum which rolled in past Frontier Days parades. Alongside it are Friends of the Mendocino County Museum promoting the new Museum exhibits "Past Frontier Days" and "Road Trip! Explore Mendocino County by way of the Famous Redwood Highway". Visit the Museum today where admission is by donation.*

*Willits Walk'n Wag celebrates 250 years of service by dogs in America. Thanks for your help Donna. We are a community of dogs and owners who enjoy gathering on Sunday morning for a socializing walk.*

**Best Patriotic Float:** First place: Sherwood Valley Casino; second: Redwood Collision; third: Bouthillier Construction/Moon Lady.

*Sherwood Valley Casino won 2024 Best Patriotic Float and took second place in 2025. Sherwood Valley Casino also is celebrating an anniversary - celebrating 30 years serving you with the best entertainment and daily promotions. Now serving beer and wine! Come in today!*

*Introducing Redwood Collision Co. with premium work, honest service, built to last. These patriots are here to restore and repair all autos from classics to current models. Redwood Collision Co.'s float celebrates the leaders, the people and culture of this great nation for the last 250 years!*

*Bouthillier's Construction, winners of last year's best patriotic float, and Moon Lady are proud to be part of such a great community. We appreciate all the support we have received in our new adventure as boutique owners and would like everyone to have a safe, Happy 4th of July!*

**Best Theme Base Float:** First place: The Velvet Rebellion Collective; second place: Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center.

*The Velvet Rebellion Collective is an upcoming non-profit center around body positivity for all ages, empowering women through Neo burlesque. We want women of all ages, shapes and sizes to feel empowered in their own body.*

*Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center is an adaptive horsemanship program dedicated to teaching the skill of horsemanship to people with disabilities in Mendocino and Lake Counties. We are so grateful to our wonderful community for their support and for our partnerships that make this program possible. Be sure to join us for our annual "Claws for a Cause" Maine Lobster dinner on Saturday September 5, watch for ticket sales announcements on Facebook.*

**Miscellaneous Float:** First place: REACH; second place: Chuck Ream at Windswept Ranch.

*REACH 18 Air Medical Services, providing lifesaving emergency air transport and critical care throughout our region. Their highly trained pilots, nurses and paramedics are ready 24 hours a day when every second counts. We thank the dedicated crew of REACH 18 for their commitment to serving our community and saving lives.*

*Chuck's many accomplishments include receiving Grand Champion Suffolk Rams, and his career as a FFA mentor and high school college instructor.*

**Youth Organization:** First place: Willits Lions Club; second place: Mendocino Composite Mountain Bike Team.

*Displaying their traditional yellow and blue sparkling colors are the Willits Lions Club celebrating their 100 year anniversary serving our Willits community, as they started in 1926. The Lions have been a key part of our Recreation Grove, sponsoring the Willits Cub Scouts and Boy Scout Troop since 1937. They have been an essential part of our Recreation Grove Park since the 1950s starting with building the first Scout Hut. The Lions hold their meetings at the Scout Hut twice a month. We invite you to join our Pride and become a proud member of our Lions Club, helping to serve our community.*

*Mendocino Composite, the National Interscholastic Cycling Association Mountain Bike Team for Mendocino County.*

**Miscellaneous Non-Float:** First place: Flowers by Annette; second place: Ridgewood Ranch.

*Annette Pinon's family has called Willits their home since her grandfather moved to*

*Willits in the 1920s. He was one of the first people who helped organize Willits Frontier Days 100 years ago. Her grandchildren John Parker, Matt Parker, Charlie Pinon, Eva Pinon, Alexander Pinon, Caroline Pinon, Dani Owen, Mason Owen and William Pinon represent five generations of family calling Willits their home.*

*Ridgewood Ranch proudly presents its beautifully restored Wells Fargo stagecoach! This authentic 1800s Wells Fargo coach once traveled California's rugged roads transporting gold, payroll, and valuables and may even have crossed paths with the legendary outlaw Black Bart! Owned by Charles S. Howard, famed owner of Seabiscuit, from approximately 1925 to 1950, this coach was a cherished fixture in past Frontier Days parades. After decades appearing in Hollywood Western films and California historic events, the stagecoach made its homecoming to Ridgewood Ranch in 2025, thanks to the generosity of Col. Michael Howard and the Golden Rule Association.*

*Today, as it once again rolls proudly through Willits, this remarkable piece of American history honors the enduring legacy of Ridgewood Ranch, Seabiscuit, and the pioneering spirit of the Old West.*

**Decorated non-year specific:** First place: Be the Antidote; second/third place: Agape Bible Church; second/third place: Lucie Schwab.

*The Be the Antidote project invites everyone to support the artists of every kind that live in and around Willits, especially the kids and young folks in our community. Seated in front are Peter Kotowski and Gary Martin of the Willits Center for the Arts, riding along are Amythyst Romero and students from the Gateway program at Willits Center for the Performing Arts, along with Mary Guibert and Lexi Halleck of Be The Antidote project.*

*Step into the light with Illumination Station. Agape Bible Church and Willits Calvary Chapel Team up to present the 2026 Vacation Bible School Illumination Station where kids explore who Jesus truly is. This fun, faith-filled week will brighten hearts and minds as children engage in dynamic Bible lessons, creative crafts, interactive activities, and powerful worship. Don't miss this FREE event July 20-24.*

*Les Schwab Tire Center of willits, serving the community of Willits since 2002 with America's BEST no hassle tire warranty.*

**1960 - 1970 original:** First place: Dan Lewis; second place: Chris Orr.

*Dan Lewis with his grandsons Ryder and Ryatt Retzliff. In his 1966 Bronco with the Franklin R cannon that he got from his good friend Frank Tolman.*

*Chris Orr is continuing his family tradition of driving his grandfather's 1967 Pontiac Tempest. The car has a rare 230 cubic inch straight 6 engine with an overhead cam and a 3 speed manual transmission.*

**1960 - 1970 modified:** First place: Steven Quinliven; second place: Garret Lewis.

*Riding in the shiny red hot Camaro, please give a big round of applause to Willits hometown hero Steve Quinliven! Steve, a Caltrans District 1 Equipment Operator, was recently awarded the Silver Medal of Valor by the State of California for his courageous and lifesaving actions during a storm emergency in Mendocino County.*

*Garrett Lewis driving his 1967 Chevy Camaro with his son Leo.*

**Auto / Truck / Open Monster / Mud / Modified:** First place: Redwood Waste Solutions; second place: Rachel and Chad Hill; third place: LUV Carwash.

*Redwood Waste Solutions is the proud solid waste provider of Mendocino County.*

*Chad and Rachel Hill in their Overland Build Jeep. Chad and Rachel are representing the California dream. They love to fish, hike, and drive the backroads of Mendocino County and are proud to call this place their home.*

*LUV Carwash Ukiah provides a fast, convenient, and eco-friendly car wash experience with state-of-the-art equipment, free vacuums, and unlimited wash memberships. Our team is committed to delivering exceptional customer service and helping every vehicle leave looking its best.*

**Group of Vehicles:** First place: Sparetime Supply; second/third place: Willits Senior Center; second/third place: All In Heating and Cooling.

*Join Sparetime as we celebrate America's 250th birthday with a festive birthday party on wheels! Our decorated carts are bringing balloons, birthday cheer, and plenty of patriotic spirit to the parade route. Sparetime is proud to be part of the Willits community and grateful for your continued support.*

*Willits Senior Center served 10,000 home-delivered meals last year. The Senior Center Thrift Store accepts gently used donations Mondays and Thursdays 9 am - 3 pm.*

*Locally owned and operated by hometown families, All In Heating & Cooling is dedicated to keeping our communities comfortable year-round with trusted heating, cooling, and indoor air quality services.*

**Group of motorcycles:** First place: Willits Wild Bunch; second/third place: Brayden

Sylstra and Brandon Washburn; second/third place: Joe Arkelian and friends.

*Willits' own Wild Bunch - the folks put on the Willits Toy Run every year at Christmas time to support the Willits Children's Christmas Program and Willits Frontier Days Junior Rodeo.*

*Brayden Sylstra and Brandon Washburn on BMX bikes.*

*Joe Arkelian, Henry Arkelian, Isabella Arkelian, Easton Graves, Jace Nunemaker, Wyatt Larue, Trent O'Ferrall. Joe and Easton have ridden in the parade for several years and the group has been growing.*

**Log/Ag Truck:** First place: Williamson Trucking; second place: McFarland Trucking; third place: On Point Tree Care.

*Williamson Trucking from Redwood Valley. First truck driven by owner Mike Williamson. Second truck driven by his son Josh Williamson.*

*McFarland Trucking is incredibly proud to take part in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Willits Frontier Days. We love being a part of this town and participating in its beloved traditions!*

*On Point Tree Care. Local Tree Service offering free quotes, available 24/7.*

**Matched Pair, horse/rider:** First place: Macy Lawrence and Sarah Fonsen.

*Macy Lawrence and Sarah Fonsen are Willits locals. Macy enjoyed playing baseball this past season with Willits Little League and Sarah is currently a Willits Otters Pup. Their families are deeply rooted in Willits and contribute to our local community. They are both possibly Willits Frontiers Days future Sweethearts. Macy's sister Madison Lawrence plans to run for 2028 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart. Sarah's Aunt Tricia Garrity Laws was 1997, and Mom, Mary Garrity Fonsen was 1999.*

**Fancy dressed, male/female:** First place: Lucia Meza.

*Lucia riding her horse Maria in the parade for the first time.*

**Family group:** First place: Ford Family.

*From horsepower to Ford Power - the Ford Family. On horseback are Tracey Moody, Deena Straub, McKinzie Vogel, River Charles, Hadley Vogel. Following is Gary Ford on horse-drawn vehicle, with Caleb Vogel, Garrett Vincent, Moe Vincent, and Briar and Wilder Charles from Alaska.. Following in 1930 Ford is Tia Lawrence, Diane Ford, Ray Moody, Wayne and Noel.*

**Western Group:** First place: John Ford Ranch Cowboys.

*John Ford Ranch Cowboys. Dan Arkelian, Danny Moore, Elena Arkelian, Lisa Arkelian, Dana Arkelian.*

**Western Individual:** First place: ML Performance Horses.

*Madison is leading a riderless horse in honor of every former sweetheart who is no longer with us, especially Jan Clatty Rickey, the breeder of this horse. Jan dedicated her life to her breeding program, her family and especially her youth in Willits. As Willits celebrates 100 years of sweethearts, we remember the women whose spirit and tradition continues to ride beside us.*

**Mounted Color Guard:** First place: Willits Junior Horsemen.

*The Willits Junior Horsemen is a local club open to youth ages 7 to 17. All that is required is a love of horses, no need to own one. The Juniors are honored to continue their tradition of riding in the 4th of July parade this year.*

**Holiday Theme:** First place: Femley McKerny.  
*Femley McKerny is a proud eighth-generation rancher, carrying on her family's western roots while riding her trusty steed, Nugget, through her first parade and she will be turning 1 year old in just a few days! Whether she's in the saddle or around the ranch Femley is growing up with a love for animals, hard work, and the cowboy way of life.*

**Fancy dress, junior, male/female:** First place: Dani Owen.

*Dani rode alongside the Flowers by Annette parade entry, with other grandchildren of the Flowers By Annette family.*

**Future Horsemen:** First place: Eva Pinon.

*Eva rode alongside the Flowers by Annette parade entry, with other grandchildren of the Flowers By Annette family.*

**Western Pony:** First place: Alex Pinon.

*Alex rode alongside the Flowers by Annette parade entry, with other grandchildren of the Flowers By Annette family.*

*Parade results provided by Mattie Owen and Katie Cooley of the parade committee, who also expressed their thanks to horse judge Dina Parker; float judges Amy Grooms and Dawn McClelland; car judges Jack and Jenn Drew; and parade help from Nora and Shauna Martin. Additional thanks also went out to the Willits Police Department and the City of Willits Public Works department.*



Above, from left: Steve Spackman carves up the roasted beef at the annual Willits Frontier Days Beef Barbecue. Past Sweetheart Olivia Grupp serves slices to hungry eaters. Taylor Gregg holds niece Ella Davis as the two enjoy the shade during the BBQ at the Rec Grove Park. Jennifer Sookne holds up a plate of Lions Club breakfast pancakes and eggs as she heads for a table outside.



At left, from top: Slicing all the beef for the BBQ is no small task, but helping get through the rounds are, from left: Shane Grupp, Michelle Grupp, their son Raylan sneaking a peek in the background, grandma Kathy Grupp, and Danny Mihelcic, right. People, and pups were excited to get a taste of the food. Cathie Gerhardt, past president of the Rotary Club of Willits, smiles as she hands us our plates and utensils.



Below, from left: Willits Lions Club members and helpers who helped serve up Sunday's breakfast included, from left: Ben Laughlin and Virginia Jorge on biscuits and gravy; Christy Chyczewski on potatoes; Sharon Bauman on sausage; Tasha Jarshaw on eggs, and Ellen DeRego on pancakes.



Below, from left: Willits Lions Club members and helpers who helped serve up Sunday's breakfast included, from left: Ben Laughlin and Virginia Jorge on biscuits and gravy; Christy Chyczewski on potatoes; Sharon Bauman on sausage; Tasha Jarshaw on eggs, and Ellen DeRego on pancakes.

## Feeding the crowds

Pancake breakfast and beef barbecue feed over 1,600

Whether it's community spectators, or performing cowboys and cowgirls, everyone gets hungry for a tasty meal over the 4th of July festivities, and the Willits Lions Pancake Breakfast and the Beef BBQ help fill those bellies – this year, over 1,600 bellies between the two events.

The Rec Grove Park provides shade and tables for the folks who come down after the parade, or make a special stop to the July 4 barbecue, and grab a plate of meat, beans, bread, salad, and cookies to enjoy.

Attendees can usually catch the end of the horseshoe tournament which starts at 10 am, and catch live music and more at the noon Rodeola.

"We fed somewhere between 1,200 and 1,300 people," said barbecue committee member Mike Frahm. "Between us, and the Willits Rotary Club members who helped serve, there were about 25 of us making the event happen this year."

It was all hands on deck, too, for the Willits Lions Club breakfast the following morning on July 5, with Lion Skip Lucier noting that they fed "way over 300 people" and had their crew there at

5:30 am to prep the meal, after starting additional pre-prep and set-up two days earlier.

"We had 20-plus Lions and friends of the Lions show up to serve breakfast," said Lucier. "Some of those Lion members have been active in the club for over 30 years. We also had the honor of hosting Jim Harden who was celebrating his 90th birthday with his wife, Marilyn, with us on July 5."

This year, the meal consisted of eggs, biscuits with sausage gravy, link sausage, country potatoes, pancakes, orange juice, and hot cocoa for the kids, and the coffee was donated by Willits' local Starbucks.

While this was Willits Frontier Days' 100th celebration, the Willits Lions also are celebrating their 100-year anniversary of serving the Willits community. They entered a float in the parade which featured a massive Lion head on the back.

The group will be celebrating their centennial anniversary with a picnic celebration at the Rec Grove Park on August 29. Lucier noted that the event will have live music, food, and many fun things to do for the whole family.

– Maureen Jennison



## Horse Show History

Decades of riders and their horses showcased on perpetual trophies given during Willits Frontier Days horse show

Thousands and thousands of hours in the saddle and in the arena can be added up when thinking of the decades of winners of the perpetual trophy winners for the Willits Frontier Days Horse Show, and each year, a new name noting a new achievement is added to the roster.

This year, a new group will compete for these, and other class prizes in Western and English classes and cumulative High Point and Reserve High Point awards at the annual horse show, to be held Sunday, July 26 at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds. The event starts at 8 am and is free to attend for spectators.

This year, Melissa Zanetti will judge the show, which is organized and run by Mattie Owen and the Pinon family. Anyone wishing to enter the show is welcome to fill out an entry online at [www.WillitsFrontierDays.com](http://www.WillitsFrontierDays.com) or call 707-459-6588 for more information.

– Maureen (Moore) Jennison, 2002 Randy Clark Mill Iron Perpetual Trophy

### Historical list of past perpetual trophy winners

#### Hawthorn Morgan Farms Perpetual Trophy English Hunt Seat Equitation

- 1980 Crissy Kostanecki
- 1981 Jessie Taaning
- 1982 Julie Debler
- 1983 Julie Chyczewski
- 1984 Victoria Dale
- 1985 Andrea Schmidbauer
- 1987 Dina Pinon
- 1988 Melanie Ulvila
- 1989 Lanae Shuster
- 1990 Maya Azzaro
- 1991 Dawn Fleischman
- 1992 Susan Warner
- 1994 Aimee Swearengin
- 1995 Jessice Davis
- 1996 Kiri Holguin
- 1997 Jessice Davis
- 1998 Jessica Davis
- 1999 Jessica Davis
- 2002 Sarah Hughes
- 2003 Mattie Pinon
- 2004 Catie Hareman
- 2005 Corinna Kamoroff
- 2006 Jessica Koehler
- 2007 Corinna Kamoroff
- 2008 Magen Sisto
- 2009 Lijia Lamkin
- 2010 Lijia Lamkin
- 2011 Lijia Lamkin
- 2012 Lijia Lamkin
- 2013 Ashlynn Rose
- 2014 Nakal Chilson
- 2015 Lijia Lamkin
- 2016 Danielle Barry
- 2017 Danielle Barry
- 2018 Danielle Barry
- 2019 Danielle Barry
- 2020 - no show held
- 2021 Danielle Barry
- 2022 Paton Shull
- 2023 Tulsi Bixler
- 2024 Kaydance Lopez
- 2025 Kaydance Lopez

#### Randy Clark Memorial Mill Iron Perpetual Trophy

- 1980 Michelle Carrhio
- 1981 Julie Nelson
- 1982 Dina Pinon
- 1983 Lynda Schmidbauer
- 1984 Marie Hess
- 1985 Lisa Schmidbauer
- 1987 Lorren Quevedo
- 1988 Lisa Schmidbauer
- 1989 Stephanie Short
- 1990 Tanya Kennett
- 1991 Carrie Lambert
- 1992 Stephanie Short
- 1993 Stephanie Short
- 1994 Leighanna Mardock
- 1995 Elina Agnolia
- 1996 Randy Clark
- 1997 Elina Agnolia
- 1998 Allison McPhillip
- 1999 Katherine Whitby
- 2000 Olivia Grupp
- 2001 Mattie Pinon
- 2002 Maureen Moore
- 2003 Courtney Figg-Hoblyn
- 2004 Lana Calonico
- 2005 Lana Calonico
- 2006 Haley Tyrell
- 2007 Briana Lawrence
- 2008 Lacy Peterson
- 2009 Ashlynn Rose
- 2010 Ashlynn Rose
- 2011 Lijia Lamkin
- 2012 Lijia Lamkin
- 2013 Ashlynn Rose

- 2014 Ashlyn Rose
- 2015 Lijia Lamkin
- 2016 Shanna Gayski
- 2017 Danielle Barry
- 2018 Danielle Barry
- 2019 Danielle Barry
- 2020 - no show held
- 2021 Samantha Arms
- 2022 Danielle Barry
- 2023 Kaydance Lopez
- 2024 Kaydance Lopez
- 2025 Kaydance Lopez

#### Barbara Hamilton Perpetual Trophy Showmanship 17 & Under

- 1995 Leah Alfano
- 1996 Ammie Swearengin
- 1997 Katherine Whitby
- 1998 Katherine Whitby
- 1999 Katherine Whitby
- 2000 Olivia Grupp
- 2001 Katherine Whitby
- 2002 Mattie Pinon
- 2003 Lana Calonico
- 2003 Kristeen Barney
- 2004 Lana Calonico
- 2005 Lana Calonico
- 2006 Megan Barney
- 2007 Tesia Garcia
- 2008 Megan Sesto
- 2009 Caitlyn Forrester
- 2010 Haley Tyrrell
- 2011 Lijia Lamkin
- 2012 Lijia Lamkin
- 2013 Ashlyn Rose
- 2014 Gracie Silva
- 2015 Lijia Lamkin
- 2016 Gracia Silva
- 2017 Danielle Barry
- 2018 Danielle Barry
- 2019 Samantha Arms
- 2020 - no show held
- 2021 Paige Whitcomb
- 2022 Danielle Barry
- 2023 Madison Lawrence
- 2024 Kaydance Lopez
- 2025 Ellie Ruiz

#### R-Horse Ranch Perpetual Trophy Mares 3 And Over

- 2000 Dyestown and Kelsey Silis
- 2001 Dance With Smoke and Tiffany Silva
- 2002 First Class Starletta and Whitney Eads
- 2003 Commission My Colors and Cathy Roades
- 2004 Hollywood Barbie and Tessa Garcia
- 2005 Kajuns Ggot Beanz and Krislin Benoy
- 2006 Hasger Me Happy and Ann Simom
- 2007 He's Good To Go and Maureen Brasier
- 2008 Buster and Madison Forrester
- 2009 R Horse Diamonds R Radical and Iona Campbell
- 2010 BPH Skips To Shot and Kris Barney
- 2011 R Horse Imperial Star Cruiser and Catherine Ford
- 2012 KC Tweedle Dun and Madison Forrester
- 2013 One Smooth Mister and Robert Fischer
- 2014 One Smooth Mister and Robert Rishcer
- 2015 Diamond Dutch and Samantha Arms
- 2016 Tees Tinker Toy Mts and Terry Silva
- 2019 Boots and Merri Turrel
- 2020 - no show held
- 2021 Zippy and Sherry Oncale
- 2022 Ima Dreamy Magnum and Joey Beak
- 2023 Forever A Conquistador and Samantha Arms
- 2024 Forever A Conquistador and Samantha Arms
- 2025 West Side Diamonds and Emily Pendergrass

Historical lists provided by Annette Pinon WFD Horse Show team.



Above: Perpetual awards have names inscribed on plaques noting winners over the years. Below, right: Lijia Lamkin, 2013 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart and multi-trophy winner, stands with the 2014 Barbara Hamilton award she helped present to winner Gracie Silva that year.



## Redwood Empire Fair Exhibit Entries Due Saturday, July 11

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.com](http://www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com). The fair will be held August 6 to 9, 2026 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. More info: 707-462-FAIR.

### Celebrating 250 Years of American Heritage

at the 2026 Redwood Empire Fair

On behalf of the Redwood Empire Fair Board of Directors and Fair team, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to this year's Fair – an event rooted in tradition, community pride, and the enduring spirit of our nation.

Our 2026 theme, 'Celebrating 250 Years of American Heritage,' honors the people, ingenuity, and values that have shaped our country and continue to thrive right here in Mendocino County. From agriculture to artistry, the Fair reflects the hard work, creativity, and resilience that define our community, highlighted this year through classic Americana imagery and playful rabbit motifs throughout our decorations and exhibits.

Throughout the Fair, you'll see that spirit come to life. Be inspired by our 4-H and FFA exhibitors, whose projects showcase dedication, leadership, and a deep respect for agriculture. Experience the wonders of farming and ranching, where science, stewardship, and tradition come together to nourish our community.

Stroll through exhibits highlighting exceptional local crafts and talents, then turn up the excitement with thrilling carnival rides, live entertainment, and action at the speedway. As you pass through the Fair gates, you'll feel the nostalgia of cherished traditions while discovering new attractions debuting in 2026 – adding fresh energy to a timeless celebration.

At its heart, the Fair is about people – our youth, our farmers, our artists, our families – and the animals and innovations that make this region so special. We are proud to celebrate our shared heritage with you and to continue building memories for generations to come.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Fair, August 6 to 9, 2026. Thank you for being part of this extraordinary celebration of community and American heritage.

– Casey Burris, President, Redwood Empire Fair Board of Directors

### Be Part of the Fair Magic!

Join the fun of Redwood Empire Fair by entering an exhibit! The handbook lists all the categories, classes, and departments you can enter. If you can dream it, grow it, bake it, or build it, bring it to the fair! Entries are open to all Mendocino County residents.

Go to [www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com](http://www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com) to register by the deadline. Entries are also accepted in-person, by mail or fax.

Drop off forms at the fair office from (Monday - Friday: 8 am - 5 pm) or through the mail slot after hours.

Mail or fax forms to the address below.

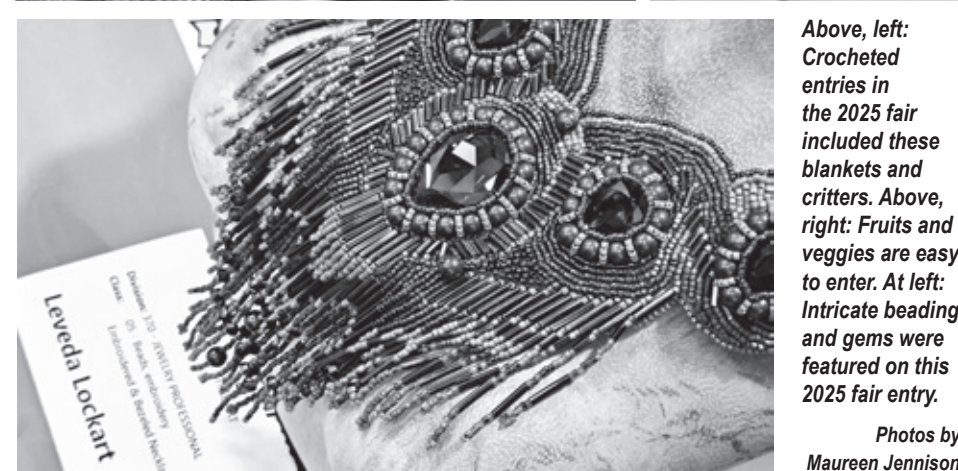
REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIR

1055 N. STATE STREET UKIAH, CA 95482

Contact: ENTRY DEPARTMENT

707-462-FAIR or 707-462-3884

FAX: 707-462-2641



Above, left: Crocheted entries in the 2025 fair included these blankets and critters. Above, right: Fruits and veggies are easy to enter. At left: Intricate beading and gems were featured on this 2025 fair entry.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

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# Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians

PRESENTS

33rd annual

# BIG TIME

## Fry Bread Cook-off

(This is a drug, tobacco, and alcohol-free event)

**Saturday, July 11, 2026**

**9 am to 11 am**

**at 190 Sherwood Hill Drive, Willits**



**1st Prize:  
\$300 cash**

**2nd Prize:  
\$100 free play**

Must provide your own ingredients and cooking station,  
dough may be prepared beforehand

For more information:

**Talisha Melluish at (707) 354-2270**

For additional info, or to register your dance group,  
contact our office at (707) 459-9690