

## Interview: Small Is Beautiful

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With a looming deadline coming July 22, the organizers and volunteers for the Small Is Beautiful referendum will be making their final push over the next week to gather enough signatures to get it on the ballot.

If successfully passed by county voters, their referendum would repeal the provision allowing cultivation of 10% of parcel size for those 10 acres or larger in Agricultural and Rangeland zones in the recently passed Chapter 22.18 county cannabis ordinance.

The “10% rule” has caused a firestorm of controversy over the last several months as the Board of Supervisors and county staff crafted, discussed and then approved the ordinance 4 to 1 on June 22, with Third District Supervisor John Haschak dissenting.

Jim Shields, one of the main organizers behind the Small Is Beautiful group, said in an interview with Willits Weekly on Monday that they have “well over 100” volunteers who had collected “well over half” of their goal of 4,500 signatures which they’re aiming to have by July 22.

Shields said that the group was working with the

Read more of **Small**  
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## Fish & Wildlife gears up for pot enforcement

Submitted by CDFW

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, in conjunction with their state and county partners, are preparing for the 2021 cannabis enforcement season.

As authorized by Fish & Game Code section 12029, <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/fish-and-game-code/fgc-sect-12029.html>, CDFW, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board and the state licensing authority, established a watershed enforcement program to address environmental violations associated with unlicensed cannabis cultivation.

The environmental impacts associated with illegal cannabis cultivation can have a detrimental effect on fish and wildlife and their habitats, which are held in trust by the state for the benefit of the people.

“CDFW fully supports the regulated cannabis market and those taking steps to be compliant,” said Jeremy Valverde, director of CDFW’s Cannabis Program. “CDFW’s permitting process is designed to reduce environmental impacts, which is more critical than

Read the rest of **Enforcement**  
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Photos by  
Maureen  
Jennison

Above: Some love lasagna layers, but there’s something extra enticing about Tiramisu layers – especially when there’s no need for the oven – just patience and the refrigerator. Below, left: Ladyfinger cookies are quickly soaked in coffee and then layered on top of whipped cream, chocolate and marscapone cheese. Below, right: The first scoop of a perfectly set pan of Tiramisu.



## Time for Tiramisu

Traditional Italian ice-box dessert is perfect for a midsummer delight

No need for the oven, just a few specific ingredients to make the luscious, creamy, chocolatey, coffee-filled delight: Tiramisu.

- 1 pint heavy whipping cream
- ½ to 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 8 ounces marscapone cheese
- 2 cups cold coffee or espresso
- 24 ladyfinger cookies
- 4 tablespoons brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons cocoa powder

Whip cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla extract until it forms stiff peaks. Fold in marscapone cheese. QUICKLY dip cookies in espresso, and layer 12 cookies in bottom of an 8-inch dish. Top with half of the whipped cream mix; sprinkle with half of the cocoa and brown sugar. Repeat with second half of ingredients. Cover with plastic, and refrigerate for at least 4 hours. Be patient, then enjoy!

At left: Ladyfingers, the crunchy, dry Italian cookie, coffee and marscapone cheese are the base ingredients of Tiramisu.

Below, left: Responsible scooping means you MUST make sure to cut a clean, straight line in the pan ... right?

Below, right: Cream, coffee, cookies, chocolate – everything for the perfect bite.



## 4 test positive for COVID after attending WFD events

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As of Tuesday, Mendocino County Public Health told Willits Weekly, four people have now tested positive for COVID-19 after attending Willits Frontier Days events, and seven people have been identified as attending WFD while already infected.

A press release Public Health released on Thursday, July 8 reported “at least five people who attended Willits Frontier Days ... have recently tested positive for COVID-19.” Acting Public Health Director Dr. Noemi Doohan confirmed at Friday’s COVID press conference that the five cases cited in the press release “were all unvaccinated people who contracted COVID and then went to those events while symptomatic and infectious.”

Public Health’s Department Operations Center Manager Kirk Ford emailed Willits Weekly the breakdown of what they have found, so far.

At the June 25 Truck Pulls and Street Dance, one case attended while infectious, and three cases tested positive after attending the event.

Read the rest of **COVID**  
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## Water tanks, hauling water to the coast

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County supervisors agreed unanimously Tuesday to adopt an urgency ordinance that would make it easier, during this drought emergency, for residents and businesses to – at least temporarily – install and use a 5,000 gallon or smaller water tank.

Supervisors also heard about an idea being discussed to address an urgent water shortage on the coast by hauling Willits water via the Skunk Train to the outskirts of Fort Bragg.

The new water tank ordinance creates an exemption from certain zoning and permitting requirements normally in place covering the installation of water tanks in the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County.

“The idea is that it’s difficult to split a truckload of water ... that we want to be able to see delivered a full truckload of water to individual customers, particularly in the town of Mendocino and the town of Fort Bragg,” said Supervisor Glenn McGourty. “The permitting process normally takes a

Read the rest of **Water**  
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# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Exaggerations and rumors

To the Editor:

Commercial cannabis cultivation offers us a golden opportunity to grow our community and economy in a healthy way.

The cannabis referendum to overturn phase 3 is being fueled by wild exaggerations of impacts and rumors of big evil corporations. The reality is that what the referendum to overturn the cannabis ordinance proposes would have a devastating effect on Mendocino County's homegrown farmers, and that affects all of us.

Despite our own misguided supervisor obstructing the process, the rest of the board and Planning Commission have worked for months to hear the voices of our community, and put forth an ordinance that offers a positive vision for our community – one of responsible farmers thriving and bad actors being put out of business through civil enforcement.

The people behind the referendum claim they are "protecting our way of life," but they offer no vision of how to lift our community out of poverty, or of how to support our health. I for one support a productive and collaborative approach, one that aims to fix our broken permitting system, protect the environment, and take care of our community. The referendum does none of these things. Please do not sign.

Shawna Jeavons, Willits

## Support our supervisors

To the Editor:

I disagree with former Sheriff Tom Allman regarding the cannabis referendums. Though I've respected him for many years, I will not be signing either cannabis petition.

With the legalization of cannabis, the time has come for big change in our county. As a resident of Willits since 1976, I've watched illegal cannabis growers come into the community and use it for their own gain. Referring to them as "legacy" growers romanticizes what they've done for nearly 50 years. They created a black market economy selling an illegal crop while living tax-free and laundering their money. Tax evasion and money laundering are serious crimes for which many people are imprisoned.

These "legacy" growers have diverted and stolen our water, destroyed our roads, modified the land to suit their needs, built hideous hoop houses, polluted our clean air with the stench of cannabis, run bright lights all night in otherwise dark forests, run loud generators, created trash and garbage eyesores, damaged our environment, brought violence, weapons and outsiders into our neighborhoods, and kept vicious dogs they've allowed to run free and intimidate anyone who comes near their gardens. Specifically, pit bulls have at times run in packs and posed serious threats to neighbors on their own property. These "legacy" growers have done a lot of destruction

using our infrastructure and operating on our tax dollars, and this "legacy" needs to end.

Big cannabis is inevitable in our state, and other counties are moving forward integrating it for the benefit of everyone. Mendocino County cannot hold onto the bygone era of "legacy" growers and pretend they will contribute. There have been thousands of "legacy" growers here who had plenty of time to contribute and pay their fair share, but didn't. Even today, they do not offer to repair roads they've damaged, or pay for water they're using, or show concern for the neighbors who live nearby.

Big cannabis is well-funded and can address these problems, specifically the water crisis. For example, desalinization and water storage development could be done. We have an ocean 20 miles away that could become an endless source of water for all cannabis growers. Large grows would create jobs for many people. Tax dollars would be collected, and our community would become well-funded. We could fix our roads, develop and manage our water, and provide sufficient legal enforcement.

I understand the value of "small is beautiful" and support that, too. I've been a business and e-commerce consultant for 20 years in our county and helped 1,000 entrepreneurs start and grow mom & pop businesses. Big cannabis doesn't conflict with small growers. Just as small wineries exist alongside big wineries, so can small cannabis growers exist alongside big cannabis. These are two different markets, and our county is perfect for small, locally branded cannabis.

Our supervisors mostly voted to move ahead, and we must give the new ordinance a chance. It can be modified as needed. Let's help our "legacy" growers get permitted so they can prosper legally in our county and we all benefit.

Joy Calonico, Willits

## Soccer Academy fall registration open

To the Editor:

Registration for fall soccer in Willits with Mendocino County Soccer Academy is open!

With programs for kids as young as 3 and as old as 16, MCSA offers soccer opportunities to meet the physical, social and emotional needs of children at all levels of experience and interest. The season kicks off on August 16, and registration closes on August 1.

MCSA creates safe situations for young players to try new things without the fear of failure. When we put kids in environments with caring, educated coaches, our players develop into creative artists with the soccer ball while falling in love with the game.

Scholarships are available as we strive to make our programs available to any child that wants to play regardless of a family's ability to pay.

For details and to sign up, please visit: [MendocinoSoccer.com/fall-2021](http://MendocinoSoccer.com/fall-2021)

Email questions to [lan@MendocinoSoccer.com](mailto:lan@MendocinoSoccer.com). See habla espanol.

Ian Fitzpatrick, MCSA director, Willits

The rest of Enforcement From Page 1

ever, given the drought-like conditions throughout the state."

County approval and an active state license are required prior to planting, growing, harvesting, drying, curing, grading or trimming of commercial cannabis. An applicant that may have received local approval but has not received an active license from the state licensing authority is not authorized to begin cultivation.

"Now in our third year of legalization amid drought conditions, CDFW and our allied agency partners find our mission more urgent than ever," said David Bess, CDFW deputy director and chief of the Law Enforcement Division. "No one should be engaging in commercial cannabis cultivation and associated construction activities unless they have a state license, otherwise they may face enforcement actions."

This year, the multiagency task force is focusing on priority watersheds and areas with sensitive habitat and/or threatened or endangered species. Local partners are also playing a pivotal role in ensuring the success of these objectives.

In Humboldt County, CDFW is closely coordinating with the state licensing authority, state and regional water boards, Humboldt County Planning and Building Department, and the Sheriff's Office to address illegal grows and unpermitted construction activity, all of which can have detrimental impacts to the environment.

"A county permit alone does not allow a cultivator to initiate growing commercial cannabis," said Humboldt County Sheriff Billy Honsal. "A state license is also required, otherwise one is subject to enforcement by the Sheriff's Office and its state agency partners. Protecting Humboldt County's fish and wildlife resources from unregulated cannabis cultivation is a priority for all of us, and the drought makes our work all the more vital."

In Mendocino County where Governor Newsom declared

## Willits Senior Center Indoor Lunch

Willits Senior Center's dining room is open for fully vaccinated diners, at least two weeks after their final shot, or those with proof of a negative COVID-19 test in the last 72 hours. New hours: from 11:45 am to 1 pm, Monday through Friday. Indoor meals still \$5 through July. Please bring vaccination card or proof of a COVID test in the last 72 hours.

### Volunteers Wanted

Willits Senior Center is seeking volunteers who are vaccinated to come help serve at the Senior Center lunch. Dining room volunteers are welcome anytime Monday through Friday, 11:30 am to 1 pm. Call Volunteer Coordinator Deb Holcomb at 459-6826 if interested or for more info.

### Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

The Willits Senior Center will continue to provide drive-thru and walk-up meals, from 12 to 12:30 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, even after the dining room reopens. Prices for drive-thru and walk-up to go lunches will remain at \$5 through July, thanks to funding from the Community Foundation and Sparetime Supply (thanks to Mike Griggs, Sr. and Andrew Hosford).

### Home Meal Delivery

The Senior Center Meals on Wheels delivered meals are \$5.50 per meal. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery: Monday through Friday. Delivered throughout Willits.

**Thursday, July 15:** Parmesan Chicken, Veggie, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

**Friday, July 16:** Western Bacon Burger, Potato Puffs

**Monday, July 19:** Scalloped Ham & Potato Casserole, Veggie, Roll

**Tuesday, July 20:** Tuna Salad Sandwich, Chips, Pickle, Green Salad

**Wednesday, July 21:** Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Veggie, Garlic Bread

**Thursday, July 22:** Chicken & Dumplings, Veggie, Biscuit, Green Salad

**Friday, July 23:** Shredded Beef Burrito

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments.

## News from KLLG Radio

By Earlene Gleisner, for KLLG

Your hometown radio station, 97.9 LP FM, will be joining the Willits Chamber of Commerce as a participant and to keep communication flowing about what's happening in Willits. We are hoping also to be a venue for interviews with other businesses in our town.

KLLG presents several syndicated shows throughout the week. "The Short-Wave Report" with news from around the world runs on Sundays at 8 am, Tuesdays at 3 pm, and Fridays at 5 pm. "For the Wild" with Ayana Young offers timely interviews on current issues on Mondays at 7 am and Wednesdays at 11 am.

Two of KLLG's volunteers are performing with eight actors from Willits Community Theatre in the 6 pm Thursday evening radio play, "Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot and the Case of the Careless Victim." This will play throughout July.

Plans are afoot for a six-hour fundraising Radio Telethon on September 18. At that time, we will be announcing our line-up for our "Unmasked Ball" on October 9 and the names of the businesses which are supporting our efforts. A silent auction is being organized for the dance. If you have any service or item that we can offer to the attendees of our event, please contact us through our website, [klg.org](http://klg.org) or leave a message on the station's answering machine at 459-5554.

We will be selling our T-shirts at the Grange's "First Pancake Breakfast after the Pandemic" on Sunday, July 25 from 8 to 11 am. Come visit with your neighbors and support our station. Help us help Willits.

### CORRECTION

Due to an editing error, the meaning of a sentence in Bill Barksdale's column in Willits Weekly's July 8 Real Estate section was changed. The sentence included advice to readers to record the current replacement value of items in their homes for insurance purposes, and noted: "(be accurate, if you pad the price your claim may be denied as fraudulent)." The editing error changed "pad" to "paid."

Willits Weekly regrets the error.

a drought emergency, CDFW is also closely coordinating with state and local authorities to address illegal cannabis grows in and around several priority watersheds with historically low flows, which are highly vulnerable to any added pressures.

"Given the extreme drought conditions in Mendocino County's watersheds, compliance with state and county laws will be a big priority," said Kristin Nevedal, County of Mendocino Cannabis Program manager. "There is a zero-tolerance policy for those not following the laws. Numerous state resources are available to those seeking to enter the regulated market."

For more information about current regulatory requirements, interested parties can view presentations from a recent online permitting workshop at [wildlife.ca.gov/cannabis/permitting](http://wildlife.ca.gov/cannabis/permitting).

"We will continue to assist cultivators who want to comply with regulatory requirements, while focusing our enforcement efforts on illegal cultivation activity," said Yvonne West, director, Office of Enforcement for the State Water Resources Control Board. "With current drought conditions exacerbating the adverse impacts that can result from unregulated cultivation, the state water boards will utilize all available resources and authority to address those impacts."

To learn more about CDFW's cannabis program, please visit [wildlife.ca.gov/cannabis](http://wildlife.ca.gov/cannabis) or email [askcannabis@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:askcannabis@wildlife.ca.gov). To report environmental crimes, such as water diversions, pollution and poaching, call the CalTIP hotline at 888-334-2258 or text information to "TIP411" (847411).

View more details on fines, fees and administrative penalties from the state licensing authority, CDFW and SWRCB, at: <https://cdfnews.wordpress.com/2020/03/18/state-regulators-focus-on-compliance-with-commercial-cannabis-cultivation/>



Above, from left: New vendor at the Willits Farmers Market, Susan Brown, offers her Inner Planet Organics plants. Deborah Knowles offers her special Pu-erh tea from China. Michelle Costa of Mendo Ferments brings her familiar fermented goods.

At left: At times throughout the day, the market is well-attended.

Below: The first tomatoes of the year are from the New Agrarian Collective.

At bottom, left: Michiel Rueb displays his Mulligan Gardens signature blue oyster mushrooms, braided garlic, and other vegetables. At bottom, right: Denise Bartolomei of Mi Distinctive Tastes offers an eclectic selection of flavored oils, vinegars, and stuffed olives.

Photos by Mathew Caine



## Summer Bounty

Willits Farmers Market thrives as the growing season begins to peak, new vendors join in, and Michael Foley returns as manager

Tomatoes have returned! The New Agrarian Collective has brought the first tomatoes of the season to the Willits Farmers Market which has been growing of late with new and returning vendors, offering a vast variety of greens, vegetables, organic meats, fermented foods, vinegars and oils, flowers, plant starts, strawberries, mushrooms, the latest edition of the Willits Weekly, and music.

Michael Foley, of Green Uprising Farm, a frequent vendor at the market, has once again resumed stewardship of the weekly event as the new and returning manager.

"There are things I want to do," mused Foley. "I just started a farmers market newsletter to let people know what and who's coming. In my first edition I forgot three of the outstanding new events. I'll try and be better in the future. Music is back. Music volunteered itself. Music was anxious to be back. Richard [Jeske], who is playing today, is going to be trying to line up people. We had Mitchell Holman last week. Dorian May might be back, with his amazing jazz."

"The market is back and getting bigger as the summer produce comes in," continued Foley. "I'm trying to get the word out. It just keeps growing. I have a vision of what we could do, which is to raise money and build a pavilion for a permanent home for the farmers market and for other events as well. I think it has to be someplace central."

"I was approached two or three years ago," he said, "by someone in the construction business who said he and some friends would be willing to donate their time and materials to build such a

thing. That is something I would like to explore. I'm actually thinking of a shade structure more than a constructed pavilion. In Davis, the city built them a block-wide shade structure."

Aside from his vision of the future of the market, Foley brings with him several years of experience in producing and promoting the Willits Farmers Market. His farm has been a vendor since 2007, with their booth normally headed by his daughter, Allegra.

"People like farmers markets because they can get really fresh food and meet their farmers," said Foley. "In Willits, it's always been a social affair as well, which is not true of most of the farmers markets in Mendocino County."

Susan Brown of Inner Planet Organics is a new vendor, selling vegetable and flower starts and potted plants at a reasonable price. Later in the year, she plans to sell vegetables when they become available. She is Willits born and raised.

Deborah Knowles of the Moon Flower Tea Company sells a very fine Pu-erh tea from a high-elevation subtropical forest in China. "This is a specialty tea," explained Knowles. [The Pu-erh region of China] is the only place it is grown. It goes through a double fermentation. At the second fermentation, it becomes activated where it breaks down the tannic acid so it's never bitter."

You can smell Irene's Organic Granulated Garlic of Laytonville wafting anywhere downwind in the market. Mandy Kay,

Read the rest of Market Over on Page 12



Above, left: Allegra Foley sells fresh greens and other vegetables from Green Uprising Farm at the market today, as she has for several years.

Above, right: Retired Sheriff Tom Allman purchases a fresh boule from Reza's Breadery.

At left: Carissa Chiniaff of Forget Me Not Flowers is back for a couple of months.

## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters 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.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

## Willits Weekly

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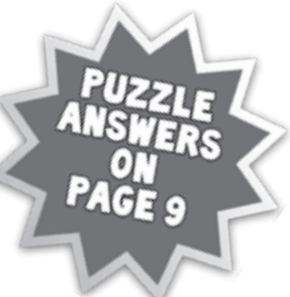
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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

Table with 9 columns and 9 rows for a Sudoku puzzle.



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.

DAIRY ITEMS WORD SEARCH
A word search grid with letters and words related to dairy products.

Table with 4 columns and 4 rows of dairy-related words: AYRAN, BUTTER, BUTTERMILK, CAMELS, CHEESE, CLOTTED CREAM, COTTAGE, COW, CULTURE, FACTORY, FERMENT, GHEE, GOATS, KEFIR, MILK, PRODUCTS, QUARK, SHEEP, SKYR, SOUR, SPREADABLE, VILI, WATER, BUFFALOES, YOGURT.

Table with 13 columns and 13 rows for a crossword puzzle.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Fashion accessory
5. Subatomic particle
10. Ethnic group of the Philippines
14. Popular cookie
15. Fabric
16. Alcoholic liquor
17. Peter \_\_\_, Dutch portrait painter
18. Longtime Chicago mayor
19. A famous 'Lady'
20. Islamic calendar month
22. Rocky peak
23. Polio vaccine developer
24. Songs sung in open air
27. Military movements
30. Male parent
31. Beloved hot beverage
32. Female sibling
35. Tackled the QB
37. Set a dog on someone
38. Long live! (Spanish)
39. Porticos
40. Pouch
41. Smooth fabric
42. Enough (archaic)
43. Institute legal proceedings against
44. Scared
45. Draw from
46. Brother or sister

- 47. Body part
48. Commercials
49. London soccer team
52. Satisfied
55. Surgical technique (abbr.)
56. Fencing sword
60. French industrial city
61. Intellectual property organization (abbr.)
63. Helps to carry food
64. 'Rule, Britannia' composer
65. One-time Empress of the Roman Empire
66. Intestinal pouches
67. None better
68. 'WandaVision' actress
69. Comedic actress Kathryn

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fifth notes of major scales
2. Region
3. Your consciousness of your own identity
4. Georgetown athletes
5. They follow A
6. Spoke
7. Hairdressers' domain
8. Extravagantly theatric
9. End-blown flute
10. Heroic tales
11. Member of a Semitic people

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

July 5 to July 11
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 156 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

July 5
2:02 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.
6:47 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Creekside Drive and issued a warning.
8:51 am: Officer responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.
10:13 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road.
11:06 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1400 block of Furlong Road.
11:51 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.
4:07 pm: SANDERS, Rhonda Rennee (60) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear and violation of probation.
4:58 pm: LOPES Sr., Anthony Frank (51) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 594 PC (Vandalism) and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).
11:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Holly Street.

July 6
6:46 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road.
12:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of School Street.
2:57 pm: COHN, Kyle Andrew (48) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Blosser Lane. He was arrested pursuant to 529 PC (False Impersonation), 166.4 PC (Violation of a Court Order), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on felony charges of burglary.
5:58 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

July 7
1:00 pm: HEATH, Daniel Edward (40) of Ukiah was contacted in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license and failure to appear.
2:19 pm: AYERS, Kyle Matthew (20) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street following a theft investigation. He was arrested pursuant to 484 PC (Petty Theft), 21310 PC (Carrying a Concealed Dirk or Dagger), and 496 PC (Receiving Stolen Property).
4:30 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.
10:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of Coast Street.

More of Small From Page 1

Water Equity Coalition of Willits to petition around town at shopping centers and the post office, and also were using the "family-friendly-neighbor" technique, asking volunteers to collect signatures around their neighborhoods.
The Small Is Beautiful referendum efforts are running alongside those of another local group supporting "The People's Referendum, Save Our Water, Wildlife and Way of Life," who seek to repeal the entire Chapter 22.18 "Commercial Cannabis Activity Land Use Development Ordinance," also commonly called Phase 3.
Shields said that only having 30 days makes it "extremely difficult" to collect the signatures in time, especially in a large rural county like Mendocino, and feels the laws should allow a longer allotted time for referendums.
The short timeline is one of several challenges Shields and the Small Is Beautiful group have had to contend with. Another is the fact that County Counsel Christian Curtis has expressed doubts about the legality

Read the rest of Small Over on Page 11



At left: The Willits Kids Club Summer Day Camp is held at the beautifully landscaped and spacious Willits Kids Club facility on Blosser Lane. Kids sometimes choose to work in the gardens. Above: Jessie likes brushing and braiding the mannequin's hair in the classroom.

Child's Play
Willits Kids Club Summer Day Camp is a fun-packed experience filled with games and activities, afternoons at the pool, and a ride on the Skunk Train

Up to 60 kids, ages 5 to 14, spent part of their summer at the Willits Kids Club Summer Day Camp on Blosser Lane. This fun, two-session, four-week-total camp is packed with entertaining and engaging activities that are varied and meant to attract a wide range of children's interests.
Laura Paeyeneers, director of Brookside and Blosser Lane after-school programs at Willits Kids Club, co-directs the day camp with Charity Seminoff. The two oversee the program with a staff of around 12 employees and teen volunteers at the Kids Club facility.

"The staff has a lot of fun. They're always happy and they're skilled at what they do. Even the teens in high school or just graduated learn so fast. They're learning how to run groups of kids and do fun and engaging activities with the kids so they're interested and want to come to camp. I think that's really important, that if the staff gets to do what they love, they do better," Paeyeneers stated.

For Seminoff, who works with the kids at the after-school program too, "Just being with the kids is something like the world is coming back to some sort of normalcy."

A typical day for the children starts out with the daily morning mile where those who want to, walk six laps – one mile – around the field. It's usually a fun time for the kids since they socialize. "Which makes the time go fast," said Paeyeneers. "But some kids get excited about it and they're like, 'I'm going to just keep walking,' so they just keep going,"

An added incentive is a shoe-shaped charm that's given to children who walk five miles, one mile for each day they're at camp. It gets attached to a necklace and the shoes and special beads are pretty and accumulate.

When they're done walking, they go into the beautiful WKC building and sign up for the morning's activities that take place in one of the portable rooms or the play area. Then it's outside for a themed activity and splitting off into the group interest they've signed up for.

There are areas with activities they can choose from: the kitchen, if there's a cooking lesson; the art studio for older kids; the station with dolls, a café and games; the building room with Lego and wooden pieces for creating; the science and technology room that's just remodeled; or the outdoor play area for organized games. All of this is used for the WKC after-school program, also.

Themes this year at the camp have been "tropical vacation," "garden," "campout," and "circus." Here's a Kids Club Over on Page 6

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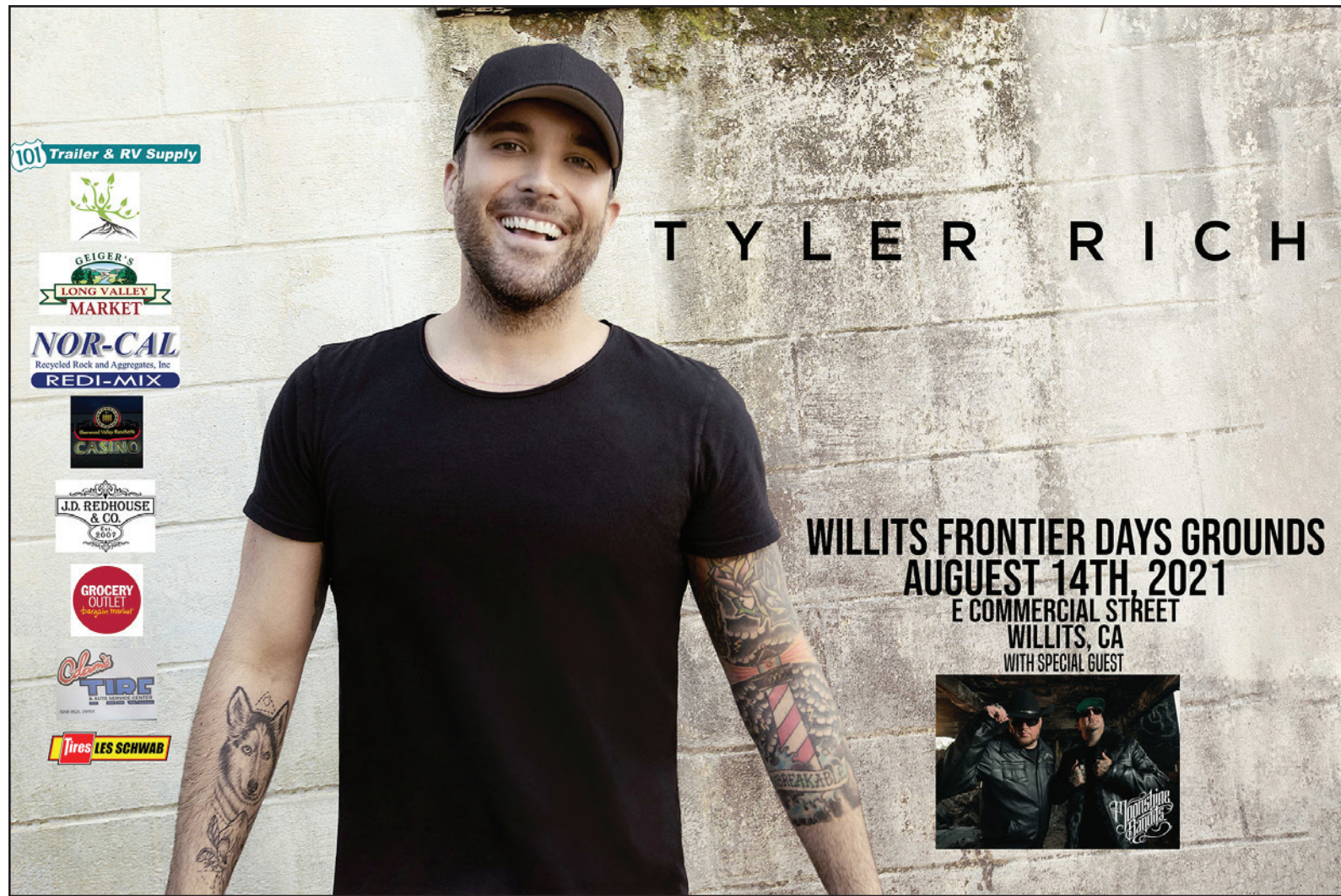
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## The rest of Kids Club | From Page 5

sampling of activities the staff came up with for the campout: making s'mores, telling camping stories, camp songs, cooking hot dogs. For the circus this Friday they're having a carnival with little tricks they're creating with their camp counselors.

In the afternoons they're off to the swimming pool and on Fridays there are other very special activities. This year WKC rented the Noyo Theatre and saw a movie, got a tour of the rodeo grounds and were serenaded by Jeff Cook, went to 101 Drive-in for ice cream before the pool, and this Friday they're going on the Skunk Train.

*Below: WKC Summer Camp Director Laura Paeyeneers announces, "This daring, exciting, trapeze circus act ... give them a hand!" at the morning gathering on Monday.*



Photo by Ree Slocum

"We're really grateful for our board of directors who find all these grants for us so we can have the snow-cone machine, the time at the pool, and all this extra stuff," Paeyeneers expressed.

Paeyeneers noted with a smile, "The kids have a new appreciation for each other now after being away and isolated and home for so long. I know they got together when school opened again. But not like this. Here they're playing!"

Learn more about the Willits Kids Club at [www.willitskidsclub.org](http://www.willitskidsclub.org) or visit their Willits Kids Club Facebook page.

## COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

### 'Black Widow'

**The Story:** Marvel Universe origin story of the fetching, effortlessly macho superhero Natasha Romanoff (Scarlett Johansson). The Avengers are in prison. Only Captain America (spoiler, he's not in the flick) and beautiful, seductive and enigmatic Natasha are free. She sets off on a personal mission to find and destroy the Red Room, a warrior training center for the ruthless and relentless female assassins known as Black Widows. It's a brutal brain-washing hell hole where she herself was trained.

**On the way,** Natasha finds her lost family, including her ninja-like younger sister Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh) who is also a Black Widow.

Dreykov (Ray Winstone), founder of the Black Widow death squads, has plans to rule the world. And rants about it. Clearly, he has to be stopped.

**My Thoughts:** Some of the action set-pieces strain both physics and credulity, but still I'm a romantic and I fall in love with actresses. Love? Mesmerized, actually. It's a safe addiction, and you can't gain weight from eye candy. Rachel Weisz is a fine and beautiful actress. Scarlett Johansson is a fine and beautiful actress. Florence Pugh who played Amy in the regrettable "Little Women" is also a fine actress, and beautiful. Put them all into a girl-power, superhero, duck-and-boom shoot 'em up, and we pretty much have guaranteed barrel o' monkeys fun. And despite my aforementioned doubts about the set-pieces, "Black Widow" is a live-action comic book and suspension of disbelief comes with the ticket.

**Parents:** Not for the little ones. There are parental abandonment themes in the flick that are too disturbing for kidlings, much less all the over-the-top violence.

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



## Willits High School Cheer Conditioning

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All interested freshman-seniors that would like to condition for WHS Cheer for the 2021-2022 fall season are invited to attend. Acceptable attire is limited to exercise shorts or leggings, tee shirts, Tennis shoes/ Cheer shoes. No crop tops, spunks, short shorts tanks, sandals, vans, or converse are acceptable. You must bring at least one bottle of water, Gatorade, or Powerade-like drink. No energy drinks or sodas please. Hair must be pulled back securely in a ponytail. Phones will not be allowed out during practices. For further questions you may have, contact Shailyn B. @

(707)-972-1669



*Above, left: Several otters painted by artists in the North Coast region are lined up for a photo before being distributed to various locations; after September they will be auctioned off to raise money for HSU. Above, right: Some river otters are observed in the North Coast region – the North Coast Otters project encourages community members to participate in the ongoing "citizen science" river-otter records study by consistently reporting when and where wild river otters are observed. Below, right: One of the 108 river-otter sculptures is on display at the Willits Center for the Arts and was painted by local artists Kathy Croomer and Lynne Whiting Robertson.*



## Be an Otter Spotter

Keep an eye out along the North Coast for otter sculptures painted by local artists, including one painted by Kathy Croomer and Lynne Whiting Robertson at the Willits Center for the Arts

**By North Coast Otters and Humboldt State University**

North Coast Otters is a community "treasure hunt" or "festival tour" to find sculptures painted by local artists, with an aim to celebrate life, water and otters; support local businesses; and raise funds for student projects.

North Coast Otters commissioned 108 unique pieces of otter art to be displayed at shops, galleries, schools, and other North Coast locations. Participating artists decorated three-foot-tall otter sculptures for an educational art trail throughout Humboldt, Del Norte, and neighboring counties. A Junior Otter Spotters "activity booklet" will be available to inspire the young and young at heart. Otter art sculptures will be auctioned to provide valuable funds for other studies and student internships with community-based watershed projects.

The project is an ambitious collaboration of art and science, encouraging imagination and observation from our region's rich creative community. This public arts initiative provides an accessible opportunity to explore our connection with nature through engagement with this charismatic critter.

The initiative arose from a desire to share what Humboldt State University is learning about wild river otters with the community. Since 1999, HSU students have been collecting other records from citizen volunteers as a means of tracking the quality of North Coast habitats.

River otters, seen at all times of day in our area, have captured the attention of thousands. The North Coast Otters project encourages community members to participate in the ongoing "citizen science" river-otter records study by consistently reporting when and where wild river otters

are observed throughout the North Coast region.

Join HSU and their many partners in this merger of citizen art and science, while promoting clean water and healthy habitats where we live and play! Seek sightings and selfies with 108 otter sculptures on display at participating shops, restaurants, galleries, and visitor centers that have reopened with COVID-safe guidelines.

How many of the 108 otter-art sculptures can you find? For further information on the treasure hunt, including a guidebook, see: <https://otterart.humboldt.edu/treasure-hunt>

There is one otter located in Willits at the Willits Center for the Arts, painted by Kathy Croomer and Lynne Whiting Robertson. For more information on the WCA's otter, contact Robertson at 459-3049 or [lynnewhittingrobertson@gmail.com](mailto:lynnewhittingrobertson@gmail.com), you can also text 707 354-1701.

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Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
[www.agapebiblechurch.com](http://www.agapebiblechurch.com)

### Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456  
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### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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### Grace Community Church

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

### St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
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Father Aaron Bandanadam  
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Confessions by appointment:  
459-2252  
Sunday Mass inside:  
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10:30 a.m. Spanish  
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
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### St. Francis Episcopal Church

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### St. John Lutheran Church

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24 Mill Creek Drive  
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If you want to be included in this column please call:  
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[april@willitsweekly.com](mailto:april@willitsweekly.com)

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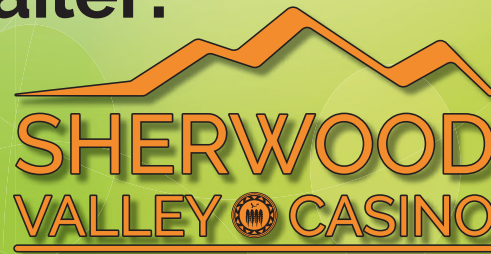
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At top: James Mattson tries to pick up a spare. At top, right: The museum courtyard is a great spot for outdoor activities. Above: Some of the prizes for game participants include small toys, coloring books, and stickers.

Below: Museum Curator Karen Mattson and Librarian Nicole Bird get ready to lead the games at "Jump Into Summer," an event put on by the museum and library on Saturday.

At bottom: It is unclear whether it is best to hop or walk in the sack race.



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## ‘Summer in the Courtyard’

Willits Library and Mendocino County Museum begin series of kids' activities, including learning about bats, the great outdoors, how to tie dye, and more

It was a blisteringly hot date Sunday, too hot for most families to go for an outdoor activity. Nonetheless, the Mendocino County Museum and the Willits Public Library pushed ahead with their plan to create an event filled with activities for kids and families. This was the first in a series of events of the coordinated efforts of the two neighboring entities, which they are calling "Summer in the Courtyard." This series of events are to take place in the courtyard of the museum, behind the main museum building with access to the classroom, air conditioning, and a hydration station.

"Jump Into Summer," the name of the first event, was a series of old-fashioned games for the kids and their parents to compete in. "We picked a nice hot day to have Jump Into Summer," said Librarian Nicole Bird.

"We do have shade here and under the trees," she continued, "and we have a hydration station. People can also color inside in the air conditioning. We have coloring pages. We have sack races and egg races, ring toss, a bean-bag toss, lawn bowling. We have lots of little prizes for people who participate in the games. We have stickers, activity books, watercolor books, toys, miscellaneous fun things."

The events are all planned for outdoors to mitigate the still-occurring threat of COVID infections, especially for the non-inoculated children. "We're still not doing any indoor

programming," Bird further explained. "Mostly everything we're doing for our programming is in this courtyard."

Through August 12 of the summer, the museum and library have several fun and / or enlightening activities and discussions planned for the courtyard. On July 15, at 11 am, they will be presenting "Getting Batty." "Corky from NorCal Bats will be here for Getting Batty," explained Karen Mattson, curator at the museum. "She's been here multiple times. She gives a fabulous presentation." She will be showing some of the Northern California bats and teaching about their lifestyle.

On July 17, 11 am to 1 pm, "Color Our World With Tie Dye" will demonstrate the art of dye techniques. "Friends Night Out" will happen on July 20, 5 to 7 pm. "It's an opportunity to make art together with a friend," said Mattson. "In the past, the library has done an art night on Tuesdays. We decided to make it more friendship-based so you can bring a friend. We're going to make luminaries the first night. These are non-electric lamps made with wax paper. We're also going to have a night where we paint rocks. Everybody loves to paint rocks. You can keep them and bring them home or place them around the museum or around town." The painted rocks will be offered on August 3, 5 to 7 pm.

Another Color Our World day is July 31, 11 am to 1 pm,

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



At left: Museum Technician Briana Brooks sets up balloons to help people find the courtyard on Saturday. Above: The egg race takes a steady hand.

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## LEGALS

WW328

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2021-F0366

The following Limited Liability Company is doing business as Mendo Muntions, MKBX Consulting, 431 Sherry Drive, Ukiah, CA 95482.

Registered owner: The MKBX Group LLC, 431 Sherry Drive, Ukiah, CA 95482.

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business names listed above on June 15, 2021.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on June 16, 2021.

/s/ Danelle Fierro, Member  
Publication dates:  
June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 2021

## LEGALS

WW329

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2021-F0367

The following Limited Liability Company is doing business as Hot Yoga Willits, Thrive, 1126 S. Main St., Suite B & C, Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: SMJ LLC, 150 E. Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on June 11, 2021.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on June 16, 2021.

/s/ Shawna Jeavons, owner  
Publication dates:  
July 15, 22 and 29, August 5, 2021

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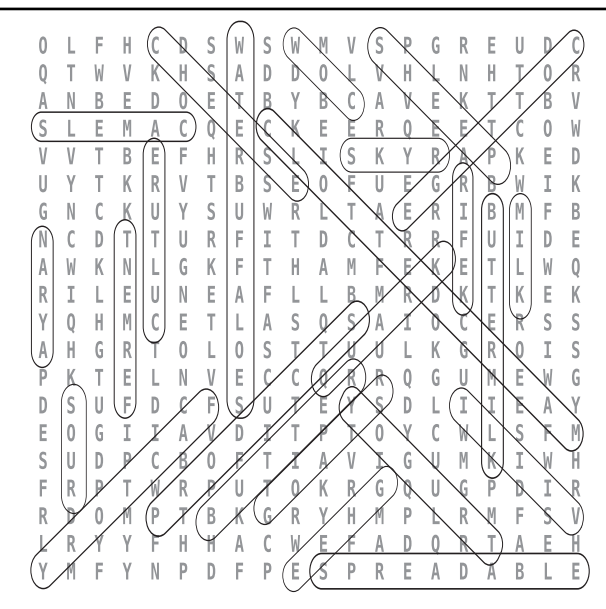
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For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
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EOE

The rest of **Courtyard** From Page 8

when Bird will share her recipe for making chalk and allow the kids to color the sidewalks between the museum and the library.

"Stories OUT LOUD!" is planned for July 22, 11 am to 12 pm, which will consist of an hour of family-friendly stories and songs.

Two sessions of "Collections Reflections" will occur on July 25 and August 8, 1 to 3 pm. They will be hosted by historian and collector Dusty Whitney. "We're going to talk about Don Coleman," explained Mattson. "We're going to start doing a Community History Talk where people get together to speak about different specific collections. We're inviting other community members who might know a little bit about the life of Don Coleman who was a famous silent movie star. He was very instrumental in supporting Frontier Days. He was very influential in this strip of Commercial Street. We'll be sharing more about that in the future. We want to get a lot of people involved in these community discussions."

Finally, on August 10 through 12, "Staying Safe in the Great Outdoors," a kids camp, will explore how to enjoy Mendocino County's recreational facilities in a safe manner.

Bird wants the people of Willits to know, "We are here. We're not open our whole pre-pandemic hours yet, but we are open to the public Tuesday through Saturday for the library and Wednesday through Sunday for the museum. We do have a lot of our services available. Please come down to the library, get some books, use the computer, enjoy the air conditioning in this horrible heat, and the WIFI that is free to everyone."

The library is open 11 am to 5 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 1 to 7 pm on Thursdays. The museum is now open back to its pre-pandemic hours, Wednesday through Friday, 10 am to 5 pm, weekends 12 to 4 pm.

The museum's collections can be found online in their Past Perfect online database: <https://mendocinocounty.pastperfectonline.com/>. For general information on the museum: [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency-museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency-museum). To find out what's going on at the library: [www.facebook.com/WillitsLibrary/](http://www.facebook.com/WillitsLibrary/).

The Willits Public Library is at 390 East Commercial Street. The Mendocino County Museum is at 400 East Commercial Street.

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Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

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**Gym Yard Sale**  
Giant Gym Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley (across from the Brollier). Saturday, July 17 – 8 am to 4 pm only.

**Help Wanted**  
Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic is looking to hire a Medical Assistant. Please pick up an application or drop off a resume at 1245 South Main Street, Willits.

**Help Wanted**  
Surveillance Observer, Security Officer, Cook/Cashier, Slot Technician, Housekeeping. Full-time, various shifts, weekends, Salary: DOE, with benefits, gaming experience preferred, but not necessary. Applications can be found at [www.svrcasino.com](http://www.svrcasino.com), Sherwood Valley Casino Admin. Office or e-mail HR at [ktuttle@svrcasino.com](mailto:ktuttle@svrcasino.com).

**RV/Trailer Space for Rent**  
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 510-5895. See at "http://www.oakvine.net/lp"

**Help Wanted**  
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OBITUARY |

## Virginia Clements

Virginia (Thurman) Clements was born September 15, 1936 in Heavener, Oklahoma to Rosa Belle Wilson and Eddie Lee Thurman. She was the oldest of seven children. As a child she had a pet chameleon that she would walk around with hanging on her neck like a necklace. Her family moved to Arizona and then to Willits, California in the 1950s.

She married Clarence E. Clements on November 7, 1953, even after being greeted by her father holding a shotgun as they left to be married. She became a mother to three children Gail, Ed and Rhonda, and grandmother to seven, and great grandmother to 11. She worked most of her adult life as a waitress. She worked at the Willits Cafe and Gribaldo's. Before retiring she worked with her husband as the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper dealer for the Willits area.

Virginia was well-known in her neighborhood for her beautiful yard that she loved to garden in. She loved cooking and baking and going to country music concerts. She loved to tell the story of when she danced with country music legend Marty Robbins in a honkytonk the night before he became a star, and meeting "Dukes of Hazzard" star Tom Wopat at Gribaldo's.

Unfortunately she passed away after contracting COVID-19 on January 29, 2021 at the age of 84. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence, daughter Gail McClelland (Dennis), son Eddie Clements (Paula), her parents, and siblings Kenneth Thurman and Betty Hudson and Donald Ray Thurman.

She is survived by her daughter Rhonda Wagner; grandchildren Dawn McClelland, Crystal Judnick (James), Desiree Mackay (Chuck), Will Clements (Jamie), Tamara Winters, Megan Laam (Seth), and Michael Parlagreco; siblings Gwen Atwood, Clarence Thurman and Grady Thurman; 11 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Her ashes will be placed in the Clements Family plot at Russian River Cemetery in Ukiah.

## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

### Choosy Mira

Since coming to the Milo Sanctuary, Mira has won the hearts of every person she has met, which is no surprise considering she is absolutely adorable! Mira would be happy going for hikes, she's great off leash in the country with a pack, she's into finding adventures or just cuddling on the couch all day. She is a 5-year-old Chihuahua.

Mira loves people, but needs some time to warm up to strangers and does have the propensity to snap when reached for, handled at her neck / collar, and if spooked or forced into interactions she isn't ready for.

Because of this, a home with children, or people who think they know better and will push her, would NOT be a good fit for her. With time and the proper introductions and get-acquainted period, she is more than willing to roll over for belly rubs, play and give / get lots of kisses, and her nicer play bites. Mira has lived with both cats and dogs and got along with all of them very well.

If you feel you and Mira could be a good match, and you don't have children or a social epicenter for a home environment, please send an inquiry and an adoption questionnaire to: lat@miloofoundation.org.

To learn more about Mira or view other adoptable animals, visit [www.miloofoundation.org](http://www.miloofoundation.org) or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19.

Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.



Choosy Mira



Sweet Chrissy



Friendly Zuma

### Sweet Chrissy

Have you met our chocolate sweetness that goes by the name of Chrissy? If you have not, you're missing out! This girl is a spunky, sassy, outgoing ball of fun that is just 9 months old. She is dog social, and would love some friends who can keep up with her. She will for sure keep a smile on your face! She is also a little love-bug who does not mind giving you some kisses while you give her a good pat-down.

Chrissy is micro-chipped, spayed, current on vaccines, and ready to go to her forever home! Is that with you? You may apply to love Chrissy at [www.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com).

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 11 to 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, and closed Monday and Tuesday. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website, our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). We are starting to reopen from COVID-19. Currently we are doing appointment-only Wednesday through Friday. On Saturday and Sunday we are open to the public, no appointment needed. Still closed Monday and Tuesday.

### Friendly Zuma

Zuma is a very sweet, affectionate 2-year-old girl. She wants to be close to you, but also loves to explore her surroundings. She appears to be friendly with other cats as well as new people. Zuma is a domestic short hair tortie.

For more info about Zuma or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com). For information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

The rest of COVID | From Page 1

At the June 29 Rodeo Sweetheart Dinner and the Willits Center for the Arts Show (not a WFD event), three cases attended while infectious.

At the July 3 Rodeo and Western Dance, three cases attended while infectious, and one case tested positive after attending the event.

"This is only a snapshot in time," Ford wrote. "As the contact investigators and contact tracers (CICT), continue to do their work, these numbers may increase."

Public Health continues to urge people who have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 through any pathway to get tested.

"As people get tested we can also get a clearer picture of the viral activity during the event," Ford wrote. "We're just continuing to highlight that folks should stay home if they have symptoms, don't go that party you had scheduled, and don't go to work, go get tested."

"The small victories that we are seeing," Ford continued, "are when a person gets a positive test, and our CICT team contacts them to investigate any close contacts, and they have zero contacts. The person has been self-isolating since they became symptomatic, or potentially exposed. So that infection ends with that person. They infected no one else. They 'snuffed out the spot fire' to use a wildfire analogy. Those victories seem small, but they dramatically help limit the spread of the virus."

At Friday's press conference, Dr. Doohan commented on why Public Health is putting out press releases naming businesses and events where positive cases of COVID have been found.

"We see that as an important role of Public Health to inform the public," Doohan said. "We don't want to hurt any businesses, we don't want to hurt our county's ability to have celebrations and cultural events, but it is our duty to say if you'd been at this event, and develop symptoms, please get tested ... because there were people who've come to our attention who were there while they were positive."

At Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting, Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren gave an update on COVID numbers locally and beyond.

In Mendocino County, the average case rate "is running at this point 5.65 cases per 100,000 per day," he said, much higher than the statewide rate of 3.3 cases per 100,000 of population per day, which in itself is "up from 1.8 in June."

According to the state's now suspended tier ranking, he said, "we'd be in the orange or red tier at this point ... we would be in 'moderate transmission.'"

"In the hospital currently," Dr. Coren continued, "there are four in Med Surg and five in the ICU – that's a total of nine cases. This is not threatening our hospital capacities at this point." Coren said two of those nine cases were actually from Lake County, and two Mendocino County cases were being treated in Sonoma County.

"Currently there are 55 people in isolation plus quarantine in Mendocino County, and deaths at 50 represents no change in the last month," he said.

The new COVID cases, Dr. Coren said, "are concentrated in Ukiah, Redwood Valley and Willits, where again the vaccination uptake is also lowest.... Nearly all the cases are unvaccinated people."

Dr. John Glyer, director of the Redwood Medical Clinic in Willits, is also concerned about the new rise in COVID cases in the Third District.

"I just went on the county site, and in just a week and half's time, the number of isolation cases in the North County is double that in Ukiah. That's four times as many as we had – I don't know if they're all in Willits, some may be up in Laytonville and Covelo."

"And that's what is bearing out in our clinic also, all of sudden we're diagnosing COVID cases. We had a long period – for a month – where we weren't diagnosing any."

Asked about the age range of the new COVID cases, Glyer said he didn't have enough data to know for sure, "except it's not old people – as a general rule, they're mostly vaccinated.... We have a very young person, with bilateral pneumonia, in the hospital right now. It's a real thing, it's a real disease. When someone gets that sick, they're not well, for a long time. If they live, it's months and months before they feel like they're normal, if at all."

Glyer said he'd had "a number of COVID patients in my practice, some were in the hospital, got oxygen, and were in danger of dying. None of mine have died yet, but they're sick for a long time, can't breathe, can't taste for months."

The "good news and bad news" about Willits being "one of the least affected by the epidemic so far as far as percentage of population affected – it's still quite low at 5 percent," Dr. Glyer said, "is that many more people are susceptible to getting the virus. It sweeps through rural counties, which then have very large rates – their number comes up. I'm afraid our time will come."

Dr. Glyer called the COVID vaccines "unbelievably effective at preventing severe illnesses and deaths," and said Redwood Medical Clinic was currently vaccinating about 10 people a week.

Asked what he'd say to those who think there's no reason to get vaccinated, because vaccinated people can still contract COVID, even if generally presenting mild symptoms, he said: "There's a good answer to that. If you look at the statistics, fully vaccinated people are 90+ percent protected. In a county where roughly half are fully vaccinated and half are non-vaccinated, roughly 10 times as many non-vaccinated people are getting ill."

"It's not a perfect world, but when was 90 percent or 95 percent not a good thing?"

The rest of Water | From Page 1

while – we don't have a while. Some of the methods that ran out of water need it like now."

McCourtly is chair of the board's drought ad hoc committee, which brought forward this agenda item, along with county Planning & Building and the County Counsel's Office. Third District Supervisor John Haschak is the second board member on the drought committee.

The drought ad hoc also gave a report to the full board on Tuesday, including a presentation by Mendocino County Water Agency Program Manager Josh Metz about meetings they'd had over the last couple of weeks in Anderson Valley, Mendocino, Fort Bragg, and Willits, as well as site visits to other areas, to learn about water availability and infrastructure.

Metz's presentation also included information about a potential solution to the water shortage on the coast that could involve hauling 100,000 to 150,000 gallons a day on the Mendocino Railway (aka the Skunk Train) from Willits.

"The town of Mendocino in particular has increased rates of dry wells by upwards of 25 percent," Metz said. "A significant majority of their water is hauled in by trucks that fill up at a tank on Highway 20, just within the City of Fort Bragg jurisdiction, and so the city has been able to make that water available for hauling."

Metz explained Fort Bragg was initially thinking they'd likely have to cut off availability to that water supply in August, but now it might be this week. "That's due to a significant drop in the flow that was observed in the Noyo River over the last 10 days," he said.

"This idea of hauling water, and in particular, the one we focused most on recently, is a concept which would include activating Mendocino Railway as a hauling source to bring water from the interior, that is the City of Willits, to the coast. And to the tune of 100,000 to 150,000 gallons a day could be transported on the train. It wouldn't have to get all the way to the City of Fort Bragg in terms of passing ... the collapsed tunnel, but it would get close enough within the city boundaries to be in-piped into city's transmission system, so the water could be treated, and transported through the pipes the city operates to the storage tank, which could be made available to the hauling trucks."

"Now, there are a number of complexities with a program like this, not the least of which being the willingness and ability of the community of Willits to supply the needs of the communities on the coast. So that's a topic that has been under discussion. We know about serious reservations on the side of the community leaders in Willits, though from what I'm reading, there's a willingness to consider and discuss, and explore how it can be done. I think it's an open-mindedness that I appreciate. Water is no simple topic, and especially not in the situation that we're in where supplies are increasingly scarce."

Metz said there would also be also issues with regulating how the water might be used on the coast end, especially if funding was supplied by the state.

He also said the City of Willits was planning to convene a special meeting of the Willits City Council in early August to discuss the issue.

In his written report, Metz included this section on the current water situation in Willits:

"The City of Willits has been making strategic investments in water storage and transmission capabilities that leave the community in a relatively strong position under the current drought emergency. As of June 30, reservoirs are reported at 79% capacity (1,057 acre-feet), and there are three existing wells supplying groundwater for various uses. They are moving ahead with plans for to enhance the city's ability to access treat and transmit additional groundwater resources in the years ahead. The city also maintains accurate usage data to monitor trends over time."

"While the city is in a stable position, outlying communities including Brooktrails and Little Lake Valley have concerns about their respective surface water, and ground water supplies. Concerns about over drafting of groundwater were raised, along with water use for agriculture while supplies for urban use are limited."

Metz also mentioned the county's Drought Hotline, which can be contacted at 707-234-6363 or [drought@MendocinoCounty.org](mailto:drought@MendocinoCounty.org), and state website to report dry wells to: [mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/report/](http://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/report/)

The drought ad hoc committee has now scheduled a regular monthly meeting, on the second Thursday of each month from 4 to 5:30 pm. The next meeting, which will be streamed as usual on Mendocino County's YouTube.com channel and Facebook page, is set for August 12.

The rest of Small | From Page 4

situation where we no longer have such serious threats to our water resources," he said. "And that's really what's driving our referendum process."

Shields is a longtime county resident who has owned and operated the Mendocino County Observer newspaper for more than three decades, and is also the manager of the Laytonville Water District.

He said that he and Charles Sargent have been the two primary organizers behind the Small Is Beautiful referendum, and that they were both working separately on the issue early in the year before they became aware of each other's activities and began working together in March.

Shields has said that based on the entirety of the hundreds of public comments, letters, and other feedback he's seen and heard that he believes that "conservatively" at least 70% of those in the county are opposed to the 10% expansion rule.

In a June 13 public letter, Shields said, "The folks who are opposed to the 10 percent rule include growers, non-growers, ranchers, farmers, small business owners, workers from all sectors of our economy, a mix of community organizations and municipal advisory councils, and a former sheriff as well as the current sheriff."

In addition to pushback from some county staff and supervisors on the referendum, Shields said, a group called Citizens for Sustainable Agriculture has also recently begun a campaign to try and sink both referendums, urging people in the county to not sign any of their petitions.

According to a post on the CSA Facebook page, the group's steering committee includes representatives from some of the larger cannabis companies in the county, including Amanda Reiman from Flow Kana, and Henry's Originals co-founders Joshua Keats and Jamie Warm.

One of the tactics being utilized by CSA according to their Facebook page is to have their supporters report to the organization via phone if they see referendum petitioners, so that CSA can send out "canvassers" to those locations and try and discourage people from signing the referendums.

Shields suspects that county residents will see a lot more of this type of activity moving forward.

"It's my understanding that Warm and Keats brought in the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition to run their campaign against the referendums, so the circus is definitely in town now," Shields said in an email. "We anticipated that they'd hire outside help, but I thought they'd wait until the dust settled on signature gathering, and then start their campaign once the election is set."

"So they're going for an early knockout to keep us off the ballot," he continued. "If either or both [referendums] make the ballot, there's going to be a ton of money, both in-county and outside-county spent here."

Shields said he believes large cannabis companies likely heavily influenced the supervisors in their decision to go with the 10% rule in Chapter 22.18, along with other elements of the ordinance, and that John McCowen, former Second District supervisor, played a role as well.

"There was a meeting of the minds between and among McCowen, Flow Kana, and Henry's Original," said Shields. "That's what I've been able to piece together through public statements that all three have made at one time or another."

He noted that McCowen and representatives from the two companies were the first he heard to mention the 10% rule idea at a BOS meeting early on in the process.

Shields explained that at one point Small Is Beautiful tried to "join forces" with The People's Referendum, working with David and Ellen Drell "for about a three-week period," but found that their differences in how they envisioned moving forward were too great.

He said that, unlike those supporting TPR, he and supporters of Small Is Beautiful feel that the majority of the Chapter 22.18 ordinance is workable, and will likely provide a better path for cannabis business operators to attain annual state and county permits with its discretionary land use format.

"I agree with the county's premise when we gamed this whole thing out, that if you burn down that ordinance, that would immediately return this county to a complete state of chaos with legalizing cannabis," said Shields.

He said that if somehow the Small Is Beautiful referendum does not make the ballot, but TPR does, he's uncertain if he would vote for it.

"Boy, you know that'd be a tough one, and I've actually thought about that," he said. "That would definitely take some wrestling with."

He acknowledged there are some other flaws in Chapter 22.18 in addition to the 10% expansion, and unless the supervisors agree to enact the needed changes, their group plans to eventually pursue putting an initiative on the ballot which would add amendments to the ordinance.

"There are some excellent protections and safeguards in the new ordinance," he said, "but also there's about a half-dozen major issues that need to be cleaned up. And we plan to do that through the initiative process once we complete the referendum."

According to Shields, one of the amendments they would pursue would be to require the county to undergo a wide ranging environmental impact report / EIR. The supervisors initially avoided the EIR by approving the Chapter 22.18 ordinance just prior to a statewide rule change that went into effect June 30.

"Expansion cries out for some sort of additional environmental review," said Shields. "I think everybody but the county seems to understand that."

Shields and others believe the county could use some of an \$18 million state grant recently allocated to help with Mendocino's cannabis programs to pay for the EIR. Some county supervisors and staff have said they believe they would not be able to use the money for an EIR, but Shields said "they're absolutely wrong on this."

Other amendments he said the group would pursue include more restrictions on hoop houses, stopping "the serious problem of stacking of permits," and "some realistic caps on cultivation."

If Small Is Beautiful were to pass, the cap for cultivation would be set at 1 acre, which would still be an increase of more than four times the current maximum of 10,000 square feet for outdoor grows. Any ordinance then attempting to increase cultivation allowance above an acre would likely require an EIR by the county.

At the same June 22 meeting the BOS passed Chapter 22.18, the supervisors directed staff to bring back a separate ordinance later in the summer to potentially reduce the cap to 2 acres, with the option of increasing it every few years.

Shields called this "smart politics" by the board. He said he suspected they made the move to try and stave off support for the oncoming referendums, and because they knew that overall the 10% expansion idea was not very popular in the county.

He noted that the 10% expansion language was still left in place by the board, and "of course the only reason ... is so that in the future they could once again make that current 10% language operative again."

Shields said that in addition to environmental concerns, especially water, the clash over the 10% rule stems largely from visions for "two competing diametrically opposed economic models."

"What the supervisors argue," he said, "is you need a larger cannabis economic model in order for this legalization of cannabis here in Mendocino County to operate most productively and most efficiently. And they admitted that most likely if you let the so-called marketplace enforce its normal economic discipline, and through the process of competition, that probably there's going to be a diminution of your so-called heritage growers and your mom and pops."

"And [our] argument is the traditional model that has worked best here in Mendocino County has been the so-called 'small' cannabis economic model," he continued. "And what we point to is that for [around] 50 years, that model has sustained local economies through thick and thin, and in fact it was one of the reasons that we had a fairly soft landing when big timber exited this county.... So that's really what this fight is about."



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who can usually be seen manning the booth, said, “Our granulated garlic is world-famous. It’s deliciously amazing. We dehydrate it and crush it all ourselves. We’ve been here at the market, for three years. She was doing mostly wholesale for a while but now she is back, selling at the markets.”

Another recent arrival at the market is Reza’s Breadery. Reza and Deb Ghannadan’s home-based bakery has been growing exponentially over the last year. People love their sourdough boules which, until recently, have only been available through subscription but have expanded into Mariposa and other brick-and-mortar markets. They bring two varieties of boules to the farmers market, which will vary each week.

Denise Bartolomei of Mi Distinctive Tastes is often at the market as well. “I sell balsamic reductions,” she stated. “I have extra-virgin, flavored-infused olive oils. I also have olives stuffed with blue cheese, lemon, garlic, jalapeno, and jalapeno / garlic double-stuffed. My best-selling oil is the roasted garlic and mushroom extra-virgin olive oil. It pairs really nice with the Italian herb balsamic.”

Mendo Ferments sells kimchee, sauerkraut, kombucha, and jun tonics. Owner Michelle Costa said, “I ferment all this myself, right here in Willits, at the Little Lake Commercial Kitchen at the Grange.” She also sells kombucha at Northspur Brewery which she says pairs well with the beer.

One of the stands one will always find at the market is Inland Ranch Organics with either Jesse Taaning Sanchez or her brother Mike Taaning in attendance. “We sell organic lamb, beef, pork, eggs and produce. We serve all our livestock and chickens organic feed and grains,” said Mike.

Michiel Rueb brought his Mulligan Gardens produce, along with their signature blue oyster mushrooms which his brother, Ben, produces. “The market is a good time,” shared Michiel. “It’s nice to see everybody. I like to come out and meet all the people of the community.”

Carissa Chiniaeff and Ella Hanson of Forget Me Not Flowers is always a welcome addition in the summer months. Their colorful array of flowers is attractive to both the patrons and the bees. Chiniaeff offers several CSA (consumer-supported agriculture) plans in which subscribers can get a bouquet or two per week for 10 weeks or for five weeks.

And finally, the New Agrarian Collective always has a brilliant display of vegetables to offer. Eben Stewart and Sara Stapleton create beautiful arrangements of the fresh produce. Cerro Negro Farm brings their exquisitely sweet, plump strawberries when available.

For those who can’t grow their own vegetables, the Willits Farmers Market is the place to come on Thursdays, 3 to 6 pm. Nancy Hutchison, who, with husband John, can be seen shopping at the market each week said, “We love this market. This is where we buy our groceries every week. They’re my gardeners.”



At right: Richard Jeske and Jacqueline Morninglight provide music along with friends, including Bill Bruneau. At right, below: Some shoppers check out Irene’s Organic Granulated Garlic at the Willits Farmers Market. Below: Cerro Negro Farm brings tasty, sweet strawberries when they are available.



Photos by Mathew Caine

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