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Donations Accepted Edition No. 647

**Thursday, July 16, 2026**

**Jennifer Poole**  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

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**Ready**  
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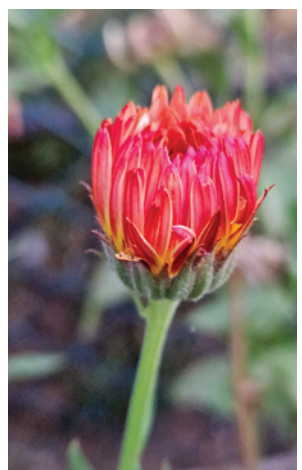
Above, from left: Soon, my pretty, this tomato flower will turn into something to enjoy with basil and mozzarella. This mullein bud is going to pop open with pretty flowers. Nasturtium are popping up in several colors, including this butter yellow version. This dreamy double-ruffle hollyhock looks beautiful in the haze of the setting sun. Below: A neon pink-and-orange variety of snapdragon crowds in for some support on this tomato cage which has the biggest tomato in the garden thus far this summer.



Above, from left: Despite being massacred by a deer attack several months ago, this little pear tomato is recovered and making some pretty cute little tomato babies. This pale pink hollyhock suns its face in the morning sun. Blackberries are starting to darken. Zucchini are starting to come in, also, and are quickly being turned into their highest and best use: Zucchini fritters.

Proof that sometimes, creative cropping and attention to detail does indeed make what you think might be a struggling garden look pretty darn good and productive, yay! What are you growing in this year's garden? Send us some photos and captions to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) and we will try and showcase some in an upcoming edition of our paper!

– *Maureen Jennison*



Above, from left: Chamomile blooms will become tea. This calendula bloom has a red tint. Marigolds regenerate well with deadheading. This electric pink zinnia is showy in the green surround. At left: Sugar snap peas are almost ready to harvest. At right: The much-sought-after Indigo Rose tomato is growing well this year – still have to wait for those bottoms to get red! Below, from left: This variety of yarrow, still growing from last year, has white and pink blooms. When you bump this garlic flower, the garden takes on the smell of garlic bread and it's amazing. The one-and-only stalk of this pink-and-white snapdragon grew 5 feet tall, it was crazy. A very happy bush of feverfew was covered in tiny daisy blossoms.



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**Supes**  
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**Training**  
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# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Happy Postcrossing

To the Editor:

I'm a mail geek: the kind that loves postage stamps, has pen pals, and does mail art. This spring I saw something really interesting in my annual philatelic catalog (mail geeks get very excited about this catalog). It was about a new, triangular-shaped stamp for something called Postcrossing, an international postcard exchange that is celebrating its 21st year. I immediately looked it up and joined this global community after checking out the site.

Postcrossing is free to join. Its purpose is to connect random people around the world in a positive, friendly way. And it's fun! This week I got a postcard from a retired railway engineer that lives in Vitebsk, Belarus, the birthplace of painter Marc Chagall, and I sent a postcard to a young graphic designer in Barcelona, Spain, that has two black cats and dreams of becoming a librarian.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy participating in, you can check it out at [postcrossing.com](http://postcrossing.com). People of all ages can learn about our world and the people in it, and be low-key ambassadors for peace at the same time. We're just humans being human, saying a little something about ourselves or our little corner of the world. Lovers of snail mail, you are welcome to join us.

Happy Postcrossing to you!

Cheryl Jordan, Willits

### Arson Hotline:

## 1-800-468-4408

**Posted by CAL FIRE**

A wildfire scene can tell investigators where a fire started. The public can help identify who started it.

CAL FIRE law enforcement officers have made 61 arson arrests across California so far this year. If you have information about a suspected arson-caused fire, call the CAL FIRE Arson Hotline at 1-800-468-4408. Tips can be made anonymously.

Details matter: vehicle descriptions, license plates, locations and direction of travel can all help investigators. Arson puts lives, homes and communities at risk. Report suspicious activity.

### The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

## Willits Weekly

A Strategic & Media Brand of Community and Life in Willits

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

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### 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 16:** Ground Beef Stroganoff

**Friday, July 17:** Chicken Tacos

**Monday, July 20:** Tuna Salad Sandwich

**Tuesday, July 21:** Taco Salad

**Wednesday, July 22:** Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap

**Thursday, July 23:** Pulled Pork Sandwich

**Friday, July 24:** Pepperoni Sausage Stromboli

**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 Joliana 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.

### Tour of Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands, July 18

**Posted by Resource Conservation District**

Have you come on one of our free tours of the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands? Your next opportunity will be Saturday, July 18, 2026, from 8:30 am to 1 pm. Group size is limited, please RSVP if you would like to come!

Join us to appreciate a summer morning at the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands. After a brief orientation and bathroom stop at the Mendocino County Museum, we will caravan just north of Willits for a three-mile walk along Mill Creek. In addition to watching birds wrapping up their nesting seasons, we are likely to see butterflies and other pollinators visiting late-blooming flowers.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore a forest of ash trees that spends most of the year inundated with water.

Reserve your spot by emailing [amyw@mcrcd.org](mailto:amyw@mcrcd.org) or texting (369) 216 9990. You can also direct message on ig/ fb to RSVP.

## Exploring an Ash Forest

Saturday  
July 18, 2026  
8:30 am – 1 pm

### Watch out for CalFresh scam

**Submitted by Mendocino County Social Services**

Our office has been notified of a local scam targeting CalFresh recipients. A customer recently received a text message claiming to be from our office and was instructed to change their EBT PIN. Unfortunately, this was a scam, and their CalFresh benefits were stolen.

Please remember:

- Never provide your EBT card number or PIN in response to an unexpected text message, email, or phone call.
- The only time you should provide your EBT card number is when you directly call our office or the EBT Customer Service number printed on the back of your EBT card for assistance.
- If you receive a suspicious message, do not click any links or respond.

Our office is working with the California Department of Social Services to report this incident.

To learn how to protect your EBT benefits and recognize common scams, visit: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/ebt-safety>

If you believe your EBT benefits have been stolen or have concerns about your account, call the EBT Customer Service number on the back of your card or contact our office at (707) 463-7700 Ukiah, (707) 962-1000 Fort Bragg, and notify local law enforcement.

### PG&E warns about increasing utility scams

**Submitted by PG&E North Coast**

So far this year, monetary losses from scams impacting Pacific Gas and Electric Company customers are on track to outpace 2025, with customers losing over \$211,000 through mid-year. Scam reports have been filed across the North Coast and in Solano County, with Sonoma and Solano counties seeing the highest number of reported cases so far this year. Here's a county-by-county breakdown – figures below reflect scams reported to PG&E and likely represent only a portion of actual activity, as many incidents go unreported.

- Solano County: 102 customers
- Sonoma County: 144 customers
- Marin County: 58 customers
- Humboldt County: 22 customers
- Lake County: 8 customers
- Mendocino County: 8 customers
- Napa County: 21 customers

To help customers spot the signs of a scam and avoid falling victim, PG&E is sharing important tips and is warning customers of an emerging scam that may be playing a part in this surge.

The most common scam continues to involve scammers placing a phone call to PG&E customers with a demand for immediate payment to avoid disconnection. A new wrinkle on that scam has emerged in 2026, where scammers call customers to threaten disconnection, and then send them either a barcode or QR code via text or email. The customer is then instructed to take the barcode or QR code to a store or business to present to a cashier to make payment.

"Scammers are constantly evolving their tactics to defraud customers, and the latest 'barcode scam' is a prime example of that. What hasn't changed is that they are still demanding immediate payment of your bill to avoid disconnection. If you receive a call of this nature, hang up. If someone at your door asks to see your utility bill, close the door. Then, call our 800 number or log into your account at PGE.com to verify your billing details," said PG&E lead scam investigator Matt Foley.

"Remember, PG&E will never ask you for financial information over the phone or for payment via bar code, QR code or pre-paid debit cards or money transfer services like Zelle, and we won't ask to see your bill at your door," he said.

In 2025, PG&E received nearly 24,000 reports from customers who were targeted by scammers impersonating PG&E and who lost over \$301,000 in fraudulent payments with an average loss of \$590.

By mid-year 2026, customers have already reported over \$211,000 in losses to utility scammers, representing an estimated nearly 30% increase in financial losses by year's end, with an average loss of \$969.

Read the rest of **Scams** Over on page 4

Photos by Mathew Caine

## Rock Show

Willits Gem & Mineral Society hosts 1st annual exhibition at Community Center

Gotta love it when a plan comes together. The Willits Gem & Mineral Society, started about four years ago by Julia Jaye Sotomayor and Chuck Cully, has thrived, with 30 or so members who regularly attend the monthly meetings on the third Monday of the month. They have, through diligent efforts, secured a place where they can set up a workshop and hold classes, with the necessary equipment. And just last Saturday and Sunday, they hosted the 1st annual Gem Show at the Willits Community Center. The exhibition was well-attended, and was a good time for the vendors, too.

"We have around 16 vendors for our first show," said Sotomayor, president of the club. "We have jewelers, lapidary artists, turquoise miners who have mined Arizona and Nevada and all over California. We found the vendors, and they found us through networking within the rock community. There's a big rock community. We all like to hang out and look at rocks. We all talk and have the same friends.

The show featured quite a few jewelry vendors, from local businesses as well as people from out of town.

Misty Sutton, owner of Geodes and Gems in Willits, shared a booth at the Gem Show with local jeweler Annie Waters. "I brought some metaphysical items ... selenite and some books and oracle cards, a crystal grid," Sutton said. "I sell Annie's beautiful jewelry in the store. She brought some of her vintage cabochons. [cut, rounded, and set gems and stones]. They call them 'cabs.'"

Carrie Fox, who makes jewelry along with metaphysical statements for each piece, is a veteran of many of the local Willits craft fairs. She calls her business, Metals by Nature. "I just put meanings towards everything that I create. I research the stones and what the stone's meaning is," she said.

Ahmed of Royal Gem is from Sacramento. "All natural, natural beauty," he describes the stones he sells. "My favorite stone is lapis. It has a nice color blue," he said.

Above, from left: Julia Jaye Sotomayor is the co-founder and president of the Willits Gem & Mineral Society. Misty Sutton, standing, of Geodes and Gems, shared a booth with Annie Waters, who shows her jewelry at Sutton's store. Shannon Cook of Cook's Crystals and Creations holds a sample of botryoidal malachite. Carrie Fox's Metals by Nature jewelry can be found at many craft fairs in Willits. At left: The Gem & Mineral Show had a steady flow of browsers and customers throughout the two-day show. Below: A selection of Lapis lazuli beads in various sizes and shapes.

Above: Wes and Jill Baker of the Lady Luck Consolidated Mining Company show their wares to a prospective customer. At left: This quartz with epidote came from St Chuan, China. Below, left: This display showed polished lapis lazuli in various sizes for sale. Below, right: Helping with her daughter Jolene Coon's jewelry business, JC Designs, is a labor of love for Coon's mother.

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

**Church of Christ**  
"What must we do to be saved?"  
Acts 2:37  
1095 S. Main St., Willits  
(next to Super 8)  
(707) 459-5023  
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service-6:7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study-7-8:00 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.

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www.eckankar.org

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

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

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

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

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

**Willits United Methodist Church**  
Labyrinth and Peace Garden  
*A place to find comfort where all are welcome*  
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
707-459-2855  
wumc@outlook.com  
www.willitsumc.org  
Facebook: facebook willits umc  
If you want to be included in this column please call:  
**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com

Thursday, July 16

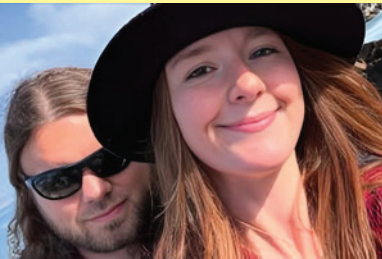
**Willits Farmers Market:** Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, July 16 from 3 to 5:30 pm, for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of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

Friday, July 17

**Christmas in July Vendor Market:** Adri's Salon hosts a "Christmas in July" vendor fair this month, Friday, July 17, 2 to 6 pm, at 1615 A South Main Street. Start your Christmas shopping early: Unique crafts include Beaded items, Resin Art, Wood Pens, Wrapped Stone Jewelry, and much more. Raffle ticket w/every purchase of \$10 or more.

**"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. 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 Swearengin, Schuyler Marcier, Prana, Garrett Moore, Hiram "Jonesy" Jones, Jeff Shipp, Jeshua Holt, and Jeremy Daw. Continues Friday, July 17 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, and plays Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm, through July 26. Tickets: \$25; available at wctperformingartscenter.org

**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

**Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands Tour:** Resource Conservation District hosts a free tour of the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands, Saturday, July 18, from 8:30 am to 1 pm. After a brief orientation and bathroom stop at the Mendocino County Museum, we will caravan just north of Willits for a three-mile walk along Mill Creek. In addition to watching birds wrapping up their nesting seasons, we

are likely to see butterflies and other pollinators visiting late-blooming flowers. Participants will have the opportunity to explore a forest of ash trees that spends most of the year inundated with water. Group size is limited, please RSVP by emailing amyw@mcrcd.org or texting (369) 216 9990. You can also direct message on ig/fb to RSVP.

**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

**"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 17 listing for details.

**Post Modern 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 19 matinee at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, July 17 listing for details.

Wednesday, July 22

**Farmers Market Trio at Brickhouse:** The Farmers Market Trio performs Wednesday, July 22, from noon to 2 pm, at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

**History Makers Family Activity at the Museum:** Join us on Wednesdays in July for a drop-in Family Activity Celebrating Our Nation, anytime between 2 and 4:30 pm. July 22: Statue of Liberty Torch & Crown; July 29: Vote to Craft! Craft-A-Palooza. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street.

Thursday, July 23

**Willits Farmers Market:** Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, July 23 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 24

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

**Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie:** local Mendocino County jam band, sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. "We're the Cosmic Family Band and so are you." Friday, July 24 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



Saturday, July 25

**Willits Fest at Rec Grove:** Tommy G Presents, the 2nd annual Local Artists Showcase at Recreation Grove Park, a benefit for Willits Charter School High School Performing Arts Program. Saturday, July 25, from noon to 9 pm, with live music all day, artisan vendors, Kid Zone, food and beverages, and more. Free admission. Featuring Hal-A-Luyah, Kingsnakes, Ramuun, Mr Bmmn!!! Presents Stay Human Radio Tribute, Carlin Diamond Birthday Shoutout, Tangled Ends, Lupine Driver, La Onda, Soul Circus, Blue Luke, Wildfire Dancers, Vern Morninglight, Ambria Zenitar, Denbaya Collective, Son of Po, Splynter, Sherwood Mountain Boys. Food and drinks by Rolling Temptations, Flying Dog Pizza, Botanical Beverages and more. A MendocinoProducersGuild.org event.

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

**Crimson Revival at Shanachie:** live '80s theme dance party with local group Crimson Revival, lead vocals by Madam King, with Joe JAM on bass guitar, Dave Woodlee Jr. on lead guitar, and Wich Dokta on drum. Saturday, July 25 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Dress to impress: Prizes awarded to the top 3 best-dressed guests.

Sunday, July 26

**Willits Frontier Days Horse Show:** Free to attend, starts at 8 am on Sunday, July 26 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. Come see riders show their skills at the final event of the 2026 centennial celebration of Willits Frontier Days. Entry forms available online: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com under the events tab.

**"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," closes with this final Sunday, July 26 matinee at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, July 17 listing for details.

## First Fridays Summer Concert Series resumes August 7

Mid-summer nights were made for music on the street. Willits Chamber of Commerce presents the August 7 First Friday event - a soulful night with Audio Soul. On Commercial Street, between Humboldt and Main, from 6 to 9 pm. Food and merchant vendors. Bring your dancing shoes and support the local businesses that make our community great. All ages welcome. More info: https://visitwillits.com/events/first-fridays-summer-concert-series/



Above: Erica Baumker, a pediatric nurse practitioner, checks the heart and lungs of a patient during the event at Howard Hospital last Saturday.

## Free Sports Physicals and Back-to-School Fair

**By Cici Winiger, for Adventist Health Ukiah Valley**  
Last weekend, Adventist Health Howard Memorial's team of providers and team members spent their day off helping local students and families get ready for the school year during their annual Free Sports Physicals and Back-to-School Fair.

They welcomed more than 400 families for a day of support, resources and fun. The team of providers and staff completed almost 250 free sports physicals, helping student athletes get ready for the season and making it easy for parents to check an important item off their back-to-school-to-do list.

Families also picked up hundreds of free backpacks and school supplies and connected with community organizations offering everything from vaccinations and library services to wellness tips and other helpful resources. It was a great way to have all the resources students and families need in one place to get ready for a successful school year ahead.

Parents were grateful for the convenience of getting their child's physical completed quickly and free of charge. Knowing the cost and challenges that the new school year brings and with its effort to help ensure students are able to safely play sports, the hospital has been offering this much-needed outreach for over 10 years.

There's one more chance to get your student in for a free sports physical this year: stop by Adventist Health Ukiah Valley from 7 am to 1 pm on Saturday, July 18!

Community organizations such as Mendocino County Public Health, Mendocino Community Health Centers, 4h, California Mentor, Mendocino County Library also offered information and resources for students and their families.



Face painting, coloring, freebies: All good things at the AH Sports Physicals and Back-to-School event!





At left, from top: “Louisa@Fruitlands” cast members listen to the audience during the post-show Q&A. Playgoer Molly Martin of Santa Rosa said she was particularly moved by the social issues “Louisa@Fruitlands” discusses, and how the young Louisa confronts these issues through her 10-year-old eyes. Mendocino College Dean of Dramatic Arts Lucas Verbrugge gave especial praise to the “absolute talent” of Desa Holt of Willits who plays the 10-year-old Louisa May Alcott.

## A review of Willits Community Theatre's world premiere of ‘Louisa@Fruitlands’

By Steve Hellman

The world premiere of Daniel Rover Singer's play “Louisa@Fruitlands” found its footing after an exciting first week at the Willits Community Theatre. At a recent matinee performance, audience members praised the production for its actor performances, the hope and humor of its script, and its historic relevance to issues of today.

As portrayed through the famed writer Louisa May Alcott's childhood at the transcendental community of Fruitlands, much of the play is about the struggle of mid-1800s commune members to succeed in their utopian back-to-the-land vision. Singer's script visits the issues of slavery and racism, discrimination against women and gays, and the value of veganism. Also intimately portrayed are the competing visionaries Ralph Waldo Emerson and his student Henry David Thoreau.

The snapshot outcome is far from perfect, but inspirational along the way.

In the middle of the turmoil stands the 10-year-old Louisa May Alcott, a fiercely precocious child played with amazing presence by Desa Holt of Willits. She declares her love of writing and her determination to leave her mark. The real Alcott would go on to become famed for her coming of age novel, “Little Women.” Holt plays her part, confronting the hypocrisies and flaws of the adults around her with great humanity and humor.

Lucas Verbrugge, dean of the School of Dramatic Arts at Mendocino College, offered his appraisal of the star actor. “What an absolute talent we have in Desa Holt, a young person who brings humor and intelligence to her portrayal. Watching her be forced to contend with the adults and find a genuine acceptance and compassion is truly a gift.”

The cast includes Haley Morse, Phaedra and Joe Swearingin, Schuyler Marcier, Prana, Garrett Moore, Parnell Damone Marcano, Jeff Shipp, Jeshua Holt, and Jeremy Daw.

Verbrugge also credited the Willits Commnity Theatre for hosting the premiere. “I love that our community offers a place where a new work is developed and goes on to find a life of its own.”

In the Q&A session after the show, the Los Angeles playwright was asked why he chose Willits for the premiere. “Actually, Willits chose me and my play,” Singer said. “The Willits community, its actors and its theater, have given me the opportunity to see the show on its feet.” He indicated the next step would be contacting a theater rep in New York City.

Director Eric Ward drew laughter from the audience when asked about the play's local relevance. “I felt like it was perfect for us here because easily half of our community has tried living in nature on a utopian commune.”

Molly Martin of Santa Rosa said she was particularly moved by the social issues. “I'm glad to see the discussion of racism, the issue of feminism and the queer element. A lot of us have lived through these issues since the 1960s.” She also found special the childhood version of Louisa May Alcott confronting these issues through her 10-year-old eyes.

Alexa Baldwin of Ukiah felt particularly moved by the final scene, in which family and workers were all gathered around a big table. She said, “They were in open communication, with their energy together, finishing the story with a sense of unity.”

Shows run through July 26, with performances Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$25, available at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org), and at the door. Season sponsors are NC Financial, KZYX-Z Radio, KLLG Radio, Julia Redwood Morgan Grove, Big Fish Construction, The Community Foundation of Mendocino County, and Jerry Drew Painting.



Above, left: Star performer Desa Holt and “Louisa@Fruitlands” playwright Daniel Rover Singer. Above, right: Playwright Daniel Rover Singer and Director Eric Ward field audience questions after a performance of “Louisa@Fruitlands” at Willits Community Theatre.

Photos by Steve Hellman

## ‘Louisa@Fruitlands’ at WCT has it all

Last night I saw the world premiere of “Louisa@Fruitlands” at the Willits Community Theatre, and I took the liberty of writing a review for Willits Weekly.

Communes, characters and crazy beliefs – “Louisa@Fruitlands” has it all. Practically written for Willits, this 19th century period piece jumps with relevance for today.

“Louisa” is about a several-month period in the childhood of Louisa May Alcott (author of “Little Women”), when her family lived on a vegan commune that was doomed from the start.

10 year old tomboy Louisa was becoming a writer. A fountain of strong opinions and ungovernable behaviors, she peppered the air with questions and pronouncements, had conversations with Emerson and Thoreau, and ran around like a wild animal.

The story, written by Daniel Rover Singer, includes the jailing of a free Black man, the beginnings of an unconventional relationship, and other events that challenged the beliefs of the day.

Director Eric Ward gets good performances from his strong cast, featuring blazing young talent Desa Holt as Louisa, and Los Angeles actor Parnell Damone Marcano as Jonesy. Jeremy Daw hits surprising heights as neurodiverse Wood Abraham, and Garrett Moore glowers convincingly as the repressive ideologue leading the commune.

Opening night on July 10 was completely sold out, but tickets are still available for the rest of the three-weekend run at the Willits Community Theater through Sunday, July 26.

– Paula Chambers, Occidental

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

Supervisor Mulheren said she was willing to vote in favor of the ballot measure that day, to get it on the November ballot.

Williams and Mulheren agreed to work as an ad hoc committee with staff, to bring back more information to the next board meeting, July 21.

The ballot measure, if approved by at least 2/3s of the voters living in the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County, would generate an estimated \$5.5 million annually, according to the staff report, “to be placed in a special fund, said revenue to be used only to fund pavement preservation and corrective maintenance for county roads and to improve road maintenance staffing.”

“I think what the public wants to see,” said Supervisor Williams, “is every dollar that’s been spent on every mile of road countywide since that 20-year plan began. Last year, what did we spend? Where was it spent? You know, what is the staff cost? What were we short on? We’re hearing staff, but also materials. And are we hearing our equipment may not be in workable condition? All of that needs to be laid out as if we have a full business plan, what we’re starting with, what the problem is, how this will be a solution, what the roads will be like, you know, a year in, five years in, 10 years in under this plan.”

Williams described the information in front of the board that day as “just, here’s a tax and we’re going to do more of what we’re already doing.” It’s not a convincing case. It’s not that I’m against it. I’m happy to chip in. I’d rather buy better roads. But if we need two-thirds of voters to agree, we’ve got to have a business plan. And part of that business plan is the financials.”

### Data Center ban

Supervisors also voted 4-0 on July 7 (Supervisor Cline absent) to direct staff to come back to the board with an urgency ordinance “Establishing a Temporary Moratorium Prohibiting the Processing and Approval of New Data Centers to Allow for Evaluation of the Public Health and Environmental Impacts.”

This agenda item was sponsored by Supervisor John Haschak and Supervisor Williams.

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

Emergency medical personnel were dispatched, and MCSO deputies requested additional law enforcement personnel from throughout Mendocino County, to include the California Highway Patrol.

MCSO deputies arrived in the area within approximately 15 minutes and assessed the scene. An adult female victim was located inside a silver 2007 Toyota Tacoma pickup and was confirmed to be deceased at approximately 9:17 pm on July 9, 2026.

The victim was later identified as a 31-year-old female from Covelo, whose name is being withheld at this point of the investigation. Sheriff's Office deputies noted numerous apparent gunshots into the Toyota pickup, and the victim appeared to have suffered numerous gunshot wounds. The scene where the victim and vehicle were located was at a large illicit marijuana cultivation operation, which was also investigated by law enforcement personnel who responded to this incident.

Detectives from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office responded and took over the homicide investigation. Additional investigators were requested from the Mendocino County Major Crimes Task Force, Mendocino County District Attorney's Office, and the County of Mendocino Marijuana Eradication Team. Criminalists from the California Department of Justice in Eureka also responded to assist with processing the crime scene for evidence related to this homicide.

Investigators learned family members of the victim had been looking for the 31-year-old female for numerous hours on July 9, 2026 and received information about her possibly being at the property on Rifle Range Road. This led to a family member responding to the property, locating the victim, and contacting law enforcement to report the female being deceased.

There are numerous suspects believed to be involved in this homicide, but information about the suspects is being withheld at this time to maintain the integrity of the ongoing investigation.

The identity of the victim from this case will be released at a later date. A post-mortem examination will be conducted in the next week by a forensic pathologist. If a preliminary cause and manner of death are determined by the pathologist, they will be released after the autopsy has been completed.

Sheriff's Office detectives and other investigators are still actively investigating this homicide, and anyone with information related to this case is requested to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center at 707-463-4086 (option 1). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling the non-emergency tip-line at 707-234-2100.

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

for public office, as well as political veterans, should attend this valuable training to learn how to run to win without costly consultants and media budgets,” says Val Muchowski, MWPC chair.

Campaign skills training will be facilitated by certified trainers Lynda McClure of Boonville and Val Muchowski of Philo. Besides skills training, the day-long session will include a campaign handbook and lunch.

Topics to be addressed are: making the decision to run, getting started, developing your message, fundraising, creating a solid campaign team, getting endorsements, scheduling, field operation, and media. The

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

Councilmember Bruce Burton. Stranske was re-elected by default in 2022 as only two candidates filed for two open seats that election year. Councilmember Burton, a former city council member, was appointed to the council in January 2025, to fill the vacancy left when Greta Kanne resigned in December 2024.

Current WCC members Mayor Tom Allman, Vice Mayor Mathew Alanis, and Councilmember Gerry Gonzalez were elected to their four-year terms in 2024.

Candidates for Willits City Council must be U.S. citizens, age 18 or older, who live inside the official City of Willits city limits. “The address on election paperwork MUST match that of your voter registration,” notes the “Election Page” at [www.cityofwillits.org](http://www.cityofwillits.org). Candidates must also not have been convicted of designated crimes as specified in the Constitution and laws of California.

Candidates who want to file, and to get started with collecting nomination papers, must schedule an appointment with Willits City Clerk Delores Pedersen by contacting her at 707-459-7113 or [dpedersen@cityofwillits.com](mailto:dpedersen@cityofwillits.com).

Members of the Willits City Council, a five-person board, are elected to serve four-terms. The two council members elected November 3, 2026 will serve from December 2026 through November 2030.

The mayor is appointed by vote of the city council on an annual basis.

Councilmembers do not receive salaries, but each council member receives a monthly stipend of \$200 and is eligible to receive medical benefits for councilmember and spouse.

There are multiple other informational resources posted on the City of Willits Elections page for aspiring candidates to check out, including the 2026 Candidates Handbook <https://cityofwillits.org/DocumentCenter/View/2246>

### Other local elections

The November 3 2026 elections for other boards in the Third District include the Brooktrails Township Community Services District, which will have three open seats, elected at-large. These are the three seats won by Joanne Cavallari, Ed Horrick, and Rick Williams in November 2022.

The Little Lake Fire Protection District will have two open seats up for election in November.

The Covelo Community Services District will have three open seats, elected at large, in November 2026.

The Covelo Fire Protection District will have two open seats, elected at large, in the November election.

Declaration of Candidacy forms for the above offices are available from the Office of the County Clerk, 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020 in Ukiah; 707-234-6819. All candidates must be registered voters who live in the district they want to run in, and who are otherwise eligible to run. Deadline to file for these offices is August 7, 2026, unless an incumbent doesn't file, in which case the deadline is extended to August 12.

### Education boards

The Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees will have three long-term seats up for election on November 3, 2026. The three seats are those won by Jeanne King, Paula Nunez, and Jennifer Sookne in November 2022.

The Round Valley Unified School District board will have three long-term seats up for election in November. Trustee Area 3 on the Mendocino County Board of Education has a short-term seat up for election in November.

Declaration of Candidacy forms for the above offices are available from the Office of the County Clerk, 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020 in Ukiah; 707-234-6819. Deadline to file for these offices is August 7, 2026, unless an incumbent doesn't file, in which case the deadline is extended to August 12.

For further information, contact Val Muchowski at [vmuchowski@gmail.com](mailto:vmuchowski@gmail.com) or Lynda McClure at (707) 272-0580 or [mccclurelynda48@gmail.com](mailto:mccclurelynda48@gmail.com) Mail your pre-registration fee to: MWPC, PO Box 1140, Ukiah, CA 95482.

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

firefighters from elsewhere, if his district is overwhelmed. That’s where California’s mutual aid system comes in – a model for disaster response agencies all over the world, according to Justin Buckingham, a Battalion Chief at the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority. The state formalized its Master Mutual Aid Agreement, or the concept of neighbors helping neighbors, in 1950, as part of the state’s Civil Defense and Disaster Relief Plan.

Congress provided support in 1970, after a massive wildland fire in Southern California. That’s when agencies began to hone in on incident command, multi-agency coordination, and sharing new technologies and strategies. The concept spread to Northern California in 1987.

The massive wildfires of 2017, including the Redwood Complex and the Thomas Fires, led to ongoing state budget allocations, beginning with \$25 million, to pre-position responders, or to make sure they were already on-site when a disaster was brewing. Advanced weather forecasting helps, along with constantly improving communications and logistics.

The now highly organized mutual aid system means that almost half of the firefighters on a campaign fire – those that require a massive military-style response, with base camps, platoons, and elite units – are from small, local, volunteer fire departments. The Fire Districts Association of California recently raised the alarm about the strain that such deployments place on cash-strapped agencies. In a February, 2025 white paper called “Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California,” the Fire Districts Association argued that, while demand for services and costs for equipment continue to rise, funding has not kept up.

Mitch Franklin, the Chief of the Hopland Fire Department, knows this well. Franklin is the County Coordinator with the California Office of Emergency Services, which means that it’s up to him to keep track of who and what is available to deploy. Every Monday, the other fire chiefs in the county use an app developed by Anderson Valley firefighter Fred Elnow, to update the status of their equipment and personnel. Not only do they have to be ready to help their neighbors, but they have to be sure they can maintain coverage of their own districts when their engines and firefighters are drawn down.

“They are compensated,” Franklin acknowledges; and fairly, at that. While firefighters are out on a campaign, which can add up to 95 days out of the year, they are CAL OES (Office of Emergency Services ) employees, and they earn state firefighter wages. The state also pays an hourly rate for the engines, though recently FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) proposed a drastic reduction in the rate.

That would be a severe blow to the mostly volunteer Hopland department, which had to freeze two paid positions and sell some equipment last year. “We’re relying heavily on strike team revenue to keep the lights on,” Franklin said bluntly. “Thank God for Measure P and ToT, and the little bit of Prop 172. If we lost that, we’d have to shut the doors here.” The ToT, or transient occupancy tax, is collected at private campgrounds and RV parks. About \$600,000 a year is split among the county’s 22 fire departments.

In Anderson Valley, strike team revenue is useful, but not a lifeline. “It’s definitely helping,” Avila said. “We achieve some goals quicker, not enough to sustain this department off of it. It’s another way to help us augment sending that apparatus out, but we do have to maintain the equipment,” which is expensive. He thinks there has been “some good progress” on negotiating the proposed reduction in the state’s reimbursement fees for local engines that are used on campaign fires, adding, “We want to help our neighbors out, but not where we’re bringing our own district down, as far as cost.”

Neighbors helping neighbors is a constant cost-benefit analysis, and an ongoing process of negotiation. While it can be risky to send firefighters and engines to another part of the state, there is real security in knowing that the risk is reciprocal.

“California is really built on the mutual aid system,” Ukiah Valley Fire’s Buckingham reflected. That’s because no one department, not even those in large metropolitan areas, can be ready for a massive catastrophe at all times. “We get our money back that we put in when we go out of county,” he said of his agency. “You can make a little bit of money for the department, but generally speaking, it’s just for the good of the state.”

As a strike team leader who has led firefighters on campaign fires, he believes the experience drives home the whole point of the mutual aid system. “The idea that we all need to pitch in and help each other out, because we can’t deal with these large events by ourselves, is what drives people’s participation in the program,” he said.

Avila concurs, adding that fighting intense blazes in a neighbor’s backyard makes firefighters better at defending their own. “Hopefully fires here are infrequent,” he said. “But if you go out on strike team, for a long time, for multiple years, you come back with that knowledge. That is way better than a training environment or sitting in a classroom and talking about it. You get the benefit of seasoned firefighters that you can bring home.”

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Mail your pre-register fee to :MWPC, PO Box 2240, Ukiah CA 95482



## Donald Oberdorf

Donald Theodore "Obi" Oberdorf passed away peacefully at home on June 18, 2026, at the age of 81, surrounded by the love of his family.

Obi was born on June 13, 1945, at St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka, California, to Ted and Audrey Oberdorf. Raised in Eureka, he graduated from Eureka High School with the Class of 1963. Soon after, he joined the United States Air Force. Stationed at Chanute Air Force Base, Obi trained pilots before receiving an honorable discharge in 1968.

After his military service, Obi built a career with Caltrans, the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, T. M. Herman and Associates, and later the City of Willits. He was admired for his strong work ethic, dedication, and willingness to help wherever he was needed.

In Myers Flat, he spent countless hours fishing, exploring redwoods, and wandering the rivers he loved. Those adventures gave him a lifelong appreciation for nature and the simple joys of the outdoors.

Obi was an avid reader with a curious mind and creative spirit. He enjoyed writing poetry and stories, and he had a gift for storytelling that delighted family and friends. His colorful tales, quick wit, and jokes could bring laughter to any gathering.

Above all, Obi cherished his family. He loved watching his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren play sports and pursue their dreams. He celebrated each accomplishment with pride.

Obi was preceded in death by his parents, Ted and Audrey Oberdorf, and his sisters, Barbara (Oberdorf) Herrera and Susan Oberdorf.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Leah (Clatty) Oberdorf; his children, Michael Oberdorf (Jennifer); Amy (Oberdorf) Huggins (Kevin); Norm Brown (Denice), Christine Brown Gibson, and Melissa Brown; along with 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Those who knew Obi will remember a man who found joy in life's simple pleasures, whose humor brightened difficult days, and whose greatest pride was always his family. His laughter, wisdom, and love will remain in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

In accordance with Obi's wishes, no formal services will be held.

## Bill Barker

Bill "Billey" Jack Barker was born in Arkansas on July 31, 1932, but spent most of his life in California – many of those years in Willits. He died May 21, 2026. You don't live 93 years without making some bad decisions along the way, which he was truly sorry for, but not his marriage to Lorri Torbet in 1953. In 73 years they had good and bad years, but stuck together and helped each other become better people.

Bill proudly served in the Army for three and a half years, was a hard worker, and held the same job (shipping & receiving) for over 30 years. He was in the Lions for 20+ years, built sets for the local Willits Community Theatre, and helped with the early fundraising for our beautiful hospital. (Lorri is so grateful for the loving care he received from the hospital and from the VA.)

Originally there was to be a gathering on August 1 but now that is cancelled. Lorri will instead donate in Bill's memory to his favorite places in Willits (Senior Center, Food Bank, WCT, and the Lions Club). If you would like to honor your friend Bill, treat someone to lunch or donate to your favorite organization. Thank you for listening, and God bless.



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Daze is a beautiful male kitten with grey markings new to the Humane Society shelter. As of July 11, Daze is 3 months, 2 weeks old, and weighs 2.4 pounds. He likes to play, and also likes to cuddle in your lap. He's litter-box trained, and loves treats. Daze's brother Maze, has beautiful orange markings, and weighs 2.7 pounds.

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

### Loving Nova

Beautiful Nova is a female Aussie / Shepherd mix, 3 years old and 48 pounds, with a heart as big as her personality. Nova loves people and is happiest when she's spending time with her humans. She already knows "sit," has great indoor manners, and is a calm, mellow companion around the house. When it comes to other dogs, Nova prefers a proper introduction before making new friends, so a meet-and-greet with any potential canine siblings is recommended.

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

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*Posted by Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County*

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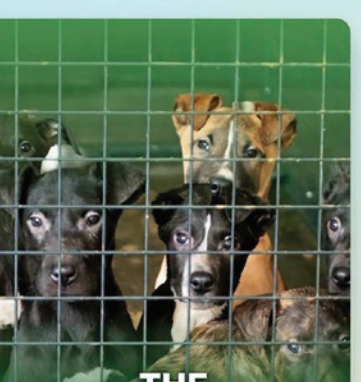
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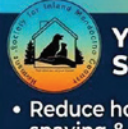
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NC Financial Group awarded Safelite Corporation Accounting Firm 2023, 2024 Financial Advisor 2024, 2025, 2026, and Tax Prep 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026. The Best of Year and Excellence awarded by Insurance Media is a vote based contest for individuals and businesses that serve our Country, State, and Metropolitan County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses are each listed by category and placed on the official ballot of voters and shareholders who make the selection. The selection process is open to all who wish to vote. Votes are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per category per 100 shares of common stock. Voting ends on the date of the annual meeting. The nomination should be submitted to an endorsement officer before the any close. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the company for participation in connection with obtaining or voting for this party entry or award.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

WW620

### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Filed June 29, 2026

CASE NUMBER 26CV03586

#### AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE - CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Petitioner: **ROCHELLE HARN** filed a petition with the Mendocino County Superior Court for a decree changing names as follows:

**ROCHELLE MARIA HARN to ROCHELLE MARIE HARN**

The Court Orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this Court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without hearing.

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: August 7, 2026, Time: 10 a.m. Dept: B

Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino  
100 N. State Street

Ukiah Ca, 95482

(to appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the Courts website. To find your courts website, go to [www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm))

Date: 6/29/2026

Publication Dates: July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026

WW619

### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Filed July 2, 2026

CASE NUMBER 26CV03587

#### AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE - CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Petitioner: **MARIO SEIBEL** filed a petition with the Mendocino County Superior Court for a decree changing names as follows:

**MARIO JOSEPH ROVILLE-HARBULA to MARIO JOSEPH SEIBEL**

The Court Orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this Court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without hearing.

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: August 14, 2026, Time: 10 a.m. Dept: B

Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino  
100 N. State Street

Ukiah Ca, 95482

(to appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the Courts website. To find your courts website, go to [www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm))

Date: 6/29/2026

Publication Dates: July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026

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

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW616

#### 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

WW621

#### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F021

The following person or persons are doing business as Mendo Motors Mobile Mechanic, 200 North Humboldt Street, Willits, CA 95490; 707-641-7073.

Registered owner: James William Walker, 200 North Humboldt Street, 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 8, 2026.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on June 8, 2026.

/s/ James William Walker

Publication Dates: July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026

The rest of

Party

From page 5

They also have workshops on "linking generations by strengthening relationships." For more info, visit: <https://itccinc.org/the-mending-basket-resource-center/>

The generosity of the Native population was much in evidence. Any attendee could obtain a free commemorative T-shirt with a design depicting the dancing and the sacred flame which is kept burning inside the dance circle. The design includes the red hand which is evocative of the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, the MMIW, which is often seen across the mouths of the women, to depict their desire to not allow their sisters to be forgotten. Commodities, which are certain staples provided by the U. S. government, form a basis for much of what is available to eat, and the Natives have created several tasty and healthy dishes to share from these items. Lunch is free to all, featuring tons of salmon which is expertly grilled to perfection.

From the commodities, fry bread has become a staple of the culture, often with meat and vegetables tucked into the concave fried bread. Sometimes, the fry bread alone is enough. Other Native foods were available for the communal lunch.

For those who didn't want to wait for lunch, there were vendors selling fry bread and cold drinks. The California Highway Patrol had a booth with CHP officers Marin and Pierce, offering help on safe driving. "Basically, we go out to the tribes and offer to do car seat inspections, install car seats. We get grants where we also get to give out car seats. Senior Drive Smart, a senior program. We can help them to drive longer. We have a regular education part for younger kids. Driver safety, constructive driving, DUI, things like that," explained Officer Marin. Sherwood Valley Casino had games for kids and adults to play, basketball throw, corn hole, and others, in which the participants could win prizes.

Next to the booth giving out free T-shirts, the raffle booth was selling chances to win some great prizes, provided by vendors, who were selling crafts, art, and goods at the event. "Raffle tickets are \$1 apiece, six tickets for \$5, and a wingspan for \$25. My son David has been doing wingspan for years, and he gets 42 tickets this year. We're going to do five raffles in between dance groups," said the woman selling the tickets.

Crafts were being sold in a section of the event, mostly by Native vendors. Marcia Christoff of Native Roots had markings on her chin, three vertical lines. When asked the meaning, she stated, "It's a commitment to the roundhouse where we dance. I hold them as religious markings. Your descendance should dictate your wearing the markings and the medicine that you hold."

The Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians' Big Time was a confluence of dancing, spirituality, community, food, and good medicine.



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F I G P R E P A R A T I V E  
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I M A G O E S S T A B I L E  
B E R E T S A T O N E S  
D E E S S P E D

## CLASSIFIEDS

#### Commercial Space Available

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

#### For Rent

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

#### 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.

#### 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/tb>

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

## ‘Young Washington’

**The Story:** The historical period is the early 1750s.



Dan Essman  
Columnist

George Washington is a young landowner/slave owner who is working as a surveyor in the Ohio River Valley. The land is a British colony. But then the French have built a

fort and are claiming the wild territory for France. The local Indian tribes are fighting the British settlers and the French invaders. A major war is on the verge of starting: In our history books it's called the French and Indian War.

George becomes the leader of a troop of colonial volunteers loyal to the British Crown. Battles are fought. George sees the death of his soldiers and comrades, and he learns the pain of leadership failures and the cost of poor decisions. This is the origin story of our colonial hero George Washington.

**My Thoughts:** This flick does not glorify violence. It emphasizes the brutality and terror of war, and at the same time "Young Washington" quite rightly portrays the grit and courage of our colonial ancestors. I left the movie understanding the conditions that our first President endured and learned from as a young man. George Washington was brave, and he was a man of quality.

**Parents:** 10 years old and up. This flick captures the era, and honors the difficulty of acting with courage. It shows the costs of war. And it rightfully celebrates the character of Washington. It's a darn good movie. *Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.*

The rest of  
WPD

From page 4

Street and issued a warning.

9:00 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and Sherwood Road and issued a warning.

10:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

June 27

4:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Monica Lane and issued a citation.

8:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

9:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Alameda Avenue and issued a warning.

11:05 pm: Officers

conducted a stop in the 200 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

11:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

June 28

10:45 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Alameda Avenue and South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:11 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Nancy Lane.

1:25 pm: Officers responded to a report suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.

10:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Commercial Street and North Humboldt Street and issued a warning.

11:57 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of Holly Street.

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| 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
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Above: Willits' own Robert Ayers, known as "Robo," was awarded a small Grateful Gleaners grant for improving his farm operations at 880 Exley Lane and Hearst-Willits Road. The grant was specifically to improve soil quality so that he can continue to offer 100% organic, bio-dynamic greens and vegetables at his Exley Lane farm stand, open on Saturdays from 8 am. Calls for pick-up during the week can be made at (707) 380-9988. To check out Robo's farm stand, follow West Mendocino until it becomes Exley Lane. Payment is in cash or Venmo.

## Gleaner mini-grants have put smiles on the faces of 7 inland Mendocino County farmers this month.

Submitted by Karen Gridley for Grateful Gleaners

Proceeds from the Grateful Gleaners plant sale held in May of this year allowed the Gleaner group to extend an invitation to local farmers to apply for small grants that would help them purchase tools to increase their efficiency and thereby reduce labor costs, or to purchase seeds, supplies or equipment that would improve food quantity, quality, processing or storage capacity.

Most of this year's recipients are small individual farms or family-run operations that provide vegetables, fruit, mushrooms, or meat for local consumption, either through Farmers Markets, food stands, grocery markets, or restaurants. Some of these farmers donate a portion of their harvest to Willits Community Services and Food Bank and Willits Daily Bread.

### Grant recipients this year include:

- Mike Adams of Nurturing Seeds Farm, Willits
- Robert Ayers, Exley Lane Farm Stand, Willits
- Keith Michalak, Golden Rule Gardens, Ridgewood Ranch
- Elyse and Patrick King, Solo Acre Farm, Redwood Valley
- Michiel and Thea Rueb, Mulligan Gardens, Laytonville
- Regina Dickson and Nicolas Johnson, Carnivore Ranch Market, Laytonville
- Shai Schnall, a School of Adaptive Agriculture applicant



Above, left: The addition of some Mrs. Meyer's lavender cleaning concentrate makes a perfect cleaning solution when added to lavender-infused vinegar. Above, right: Bees get the first round of lavender use poking their heads in and gathering pollen from the delicate blooms. At right, from top: One large and established bush of lavender shoots up hundreds of stems with aromatic stems. Once the bees are done, lavender stems are cut and dried, and seeds are removed from the stems. This little bee is hard at work this morning, visiting several flowers on the same stalk.



### Celebrating Summer Salad

Measure all of the below with your heart, add and subtract additional items as desired, but this was a good salad, indeed!

- Giant pile of mixed greens from the Willits Farmers Market
- Sliced peaches (if you're lucky, you can score some from Potter Valley's Langdon Day Farm – they're divine!)
- Sliced cherry tomatoes
- Plump fresh blueberries
- Sliced avocado
- Sprinkling of pepitas
- Sprinkling of toasted slivered almonds
- Drizzle of Edenberry Farm's Sweet Blackberry & Raspberry Balsamic Reduction (available at Willits Farmers Market!)



– Maureen Jennison

### Lavender Vinegar – a tribute to Sue Hardin and Green Clean

This is kind of one of those, if you know, you know, situations, but I'm happy to share a great memory for some, and a great new idea perhaps for others.

Sue Hardin was an amazing person and an incredible house cleaner, and had all sorts of glorious solutions for dirt, grime and gross. Every time she cleaned, the house was left with this intoxicating lavender aroma, and once she retired, she told me the magic recipe, so I could still use it, and pretend she was still here.

It's hilariously simple: Take dried lavender seeds and funnel them into a jug of plain white vinegar. Let it sit and soak over several months, and once it takes on a brownish hue, strain out the seeds and return vinegar to jar.

When you're ready to clean, pour one to two quarts of the vinegar into a gallon of water, and add anywhere from a quarter of a cup to a full cup of lavender-scented Mrs. Meyer's Multi Surface Concentrate into the jug. Mix it up and pour out into a spritzer bottle or into mop water for a wonderful-smelling and rather effective cleaner.

If you time things well, there can be a good rotation of one year's vinegar soaking, while you use the previous year's solution, and keep rotating as such. Happy cleaning!

– Maureen Jennison

Below: Last year's lavender vinegar sits in the old vinegar jug on the porch, waiting to be needed for mopping, cleaning and general good smells.

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