More reactions to Grand Jury report

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

"The city's a good place to work for people, and pays pretty well, and we have a number of employees who've been here a while, Councilmember Larry Stranske told Willits Weekly Tuesday.

Stranske had supported city manager Brian Bender in each of the formal evaluations of Bender the city council had done - in 2022, 2023, and 202 - despite the Grand Jury report claiming they were not done.

"That is correct," Stranske said. "I thought he was doing a good job, and I didn't check with any employees.

The report, "Grand Jury Report: Healing the Toxic Culture In the City of Willits Workplace," cited management" (defined in the report as the city manager and the assistant city manager) in all the complaints from employees it reported, but was released July 3, more than three months after former city manager Brian Bender left employment with the city.

Read the rest of Reactions

Over on Page 11

### **MCSO** releases video of fatal Taser incident

By Captain Quincy Cromer, for MCSO

June 15, 2025 - As a part of the continuing investigation of the fatal Taser incident on Hearst Willits Road in Willits being conducted the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office, additional information is being released to provide the identity of the involved Mendocino County Sheriff's Office personnel and the identification of the decedent.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office employees involved in this incident on June 5, 2025 were Deputy Jesus Lopez and Sergeant Sam Logan. Deputy Lopez has approximately five years of law enforcement experience, and Sergeant Logan has approximately 13.5 years of enforcement experience. Both Deputy Lopez and Sergeant Logan have law enforcement experience in the Corrections and Patrol Divisions with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

During the coroner's investigation related to

Read the rest of Video





Above, from left: Potatoes, carrots and beets make a colorful addition to the Commonwealth table. Chris Sisson, baker of bread and delicious cookies, also ran the register at the first farmstand of 2025. Flower bouquets were made by Emily Holley and contained a bright mix of garden-grown flowers. Below: Mellisa Bouley holds a massive garlic bulb that will indeed soon fulfill its destiny into pesto.



# Back at the Stand

Farmstand opens at Commonwealth Garden for 2025 season

There was excitement in the air Friday morning as many familiar faces, and a few newcomers, waited outside the gates of the Commonwealth Garden for the official stroke of 10 am - on the DOT - when the gates opened and allowed shoppers back to the farmstand.

Maureen Jennison Graphics & Photographress

"We do most of our business in those first 20 minutes," laughed Mellisa Bouley, garden manager for the Commonwealth Garden. "Our biggest sellers that morning were the lettuce,

squash, carrots, and garlic bulbs. Even with the early rush, and additional shoppers, we didn't sell out everything, but that allowed us to make an additional donation to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank, about 23 pounds."

With the increased need in the community, Commonwealth

Read the rest of Garden

Over on page 8











At top: The line of people and cars were obvious indicators that it was indeed farmstand day. Above, from left: These lettuce starts were one of a few raffle items available. Walnuts, peas and bread were also for sale. The first "big" tomato will be ripe in time for the second market back. The Indigo Rose tomatoes are also looking closer to being ready for picking, too. Below, from left: A happy shopper scored a handful of greens, zucchini and green onions. Kathy Grupp was excited for the stand to be open again. Coolers keep the veggies as fresh as possible for shoppers. At bottom, from left: A sign at the front of the stand lists the week's offerings and prices. Chris Sisson works the register as a line of shoppers purchase delightful items. Tasha White made lavender bouquets to give away at













Fire chief celebrates

### I year on the job

**Annie Evarts** , willitsweekly@gmail.com

Little Lake Fire Chief Eric Alvarez celebrated the end of his yearlong probationary period with volunteers, board members, family, and staff before the start of last week's board of directors meeting for the Little Lake Fire Protection District.

"One year ago, I said, 'Sure, I'll take the chief's position.' I knew it was going to be an adventure. I knew it would have its ups and downs. But I think I miscalculated how difficult it was going to be.... I don't really have a word for the

Read the rest of LLFD

Over on Page 11

### **Brooktrails Golf** operators hire attorney

Barbara O'Reardon Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township Community Services District meeting on July 8 began promptly at 7 pm. Board President Tina Tyler-O'Shea, after taking the roll call and stating that all directors were present for the evening, asked District Counsel Chris Neary for the report on the last meeting's closed session. Neary stated: "We had the closed session following the last meeting. Information was delivered, and direction was given to staff. But, no action was taken."

Tyler-O'Shea asked if any directors had reports to share. Director Mahoney Susan said,

Read the rest of

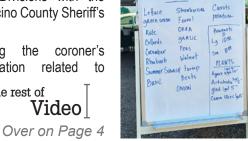
Over on Page 11

### WCC budget workshop postponed

Jennifer Poole , willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits City Councilmember Larry Stranske told Willits Weekly Tuesday that the All Day Budget Workshop for Wednesday, ,July 16 that city council members had agreed to schedule at their June 26 meeting had been postponed until August.

Councilmember Stranske said the reason for the postponement was that Financial Director Manuel Orozco would not be ready by July 16 to provide the budget numbers - the unaudited fund balances for all enterprise funds and the general fund - that Councilmember Bruce Burton had said the council would need for a workshop on the 2025/26 budget.



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

### Thank you

To the Editor:

Jennifer and Maureen: I just wanted to say how much appreciate you both for being such strong supporters of the arts in our community. Thanks to people like you, the Willits Center for the Arts is able to keep Art Talks going, a series that brings real depth and inspiration to Willits.

The lectures are such a gift; five professors from notable colleges are lined up to speak, and the series runs through May 2026. These talks aren't just educational – they spark conversation, curiosity, and connection. It's one of the best things we do.

Thanks again for being a part of it. You make a difference Gary Martin, Willits

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor.

### Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501

Thursday, July 17: Asian Honey Garlic Chicken Friday, July 18: Beef Stroganoff, Veggies, Roll

Monday, July21: Blue Zones Inspired: Whole Grain Pasta w/Red Sauce

Tuesday, July 22: Grilled Chicken Cordon Blu. Veggies, Roll Wednesday, July 23: Italian Sub Sandwich, Pickle

Thursday, July 24: Taco Salad (low carb)

Friday, July 25: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Veggies, Roll

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

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. 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.

### The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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### John Pinches Memorial July 26

Please join the family and friends of John Pinches for a memorial celebrating his life and many accomplishments.



will be held on Saturday, July 26 at the Laytonville Rodeo Grounds. Gates open at pm, and the memorial gets underway around 2 pm.

Please bring a potluck dish. photos. stories. and memories of John to share. The Laytonville Rodeo Association will host a 21+ older bar, so if you plan to raise a glass of brew for John.

bring some bucks to toss to the Rodeo, something John

For more information, please call June @ (707) 272-1260. John's family would like to thank everyone for their outpouring of love and support. We hope to see you there!

- June Sizemore

### State budget includes funds to begin transition of seasonal firefighters to full-time status

Submitted by the Office of Mike McGuire, Senate President pro Tempore

Sacramento - As wildfire season intensifies across the state, California is investing more resources in CAL FIRE than ever before thanks to critical funding secured by California's Democratic leadership in this year's state budget.

This year's historic investment begins the landmark transition of CAL FIRE'S antiquated seasonal firefighter staffing plan to a modern-day staffing model, which will eventually transition all 3,000 seasonal CAL FIRE firefighters to full-time status, 365 days per year.

The 2025-26 state budget includes funding to begin the transition of hundreds of seasonal firefighters, who will officially be on the fire lines full-time early next year.

Facing longer and more destructive fire seasons each year, the investments builds on massive efforts by Democratic leaders over the past decade, which have nearly doubled the ranks of CAL FIRE firefighters from 6,700 to over 12,000 today. Another 2,100 CAL FIRE firefighters will be hired over the next 48 months thanks to a previous budget agreement championed by state Democrats.

"January's LA firestorm was a painful reminder that wildfire season is now year round in the Golden State," said Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire (D-North Coast).

"We know that firefighters have been facing deteriorating conditions, longer and hotter fire seasons, and overwhelming fatigue as they battle the largest mega fires in American history.

"This year's budget is a historic first that will pivot away from an antiquated seasonal staffing model and implement what our communities need right now – an all-hands-on-deck approach with every CAL FIRE firefighter full-time and prepared to respond 24 hours per day, 365 days a year."

The Golden State and the entire West are burning at historic rates and have presented firefighters with new challenges, devastating conditions, and long, grueling hours. Eight of the most destructive wildfires in California history have hit over the past five years, with two of the deadliest wildfires burning over 16,000 homes and businesses in Los Angeles County this

Across California, more than \$4 billion has been allocated in vegetation management projects to reduce ongoing wildfire risks. This includes hazardous fuel reduction projects. vegetation management, defensible space programs, and cutting-edge technology to prevent devastating wildfires.

> Read the rest of McGuire

Over on page 4

### **Jackson Demonstration** State Forest seeks applicants for advisory group

Submitted by CAL FIRE MEU

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

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

- Licensed Timber Operator Botanist and/or Ecologist
- · Physical Scientist (e.g. hydrology, geology, etc.)
- Forest Conservation

Interested persons should apply by submitting a letter of interest and resume by Tuesday, September 2, 2025 (dated and/or postmarked). Applications should be sent to: Jackson Demonstration State Forest Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 802 North Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 9543.

Inquiries can be made at (707) 964-5674 or JDSF@fire.ca.gov

### **Background**

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

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

The Advisory Group will meet four to six times in 2026 on dates yet to be determined. Meetings are generally from 9 am to 4 pm, either in Fort Bragg, Ukiah, or at the forest. Additional preparation time between meetings will typically be necessary. There is no compensation for service on the Jackson Advisory Group.

JAG members represent a range of local, regional, and state interests and areas of technical expertise such as forestry research, forest conservation, ecology, environmental education, environmental protection. fisheries, forest management, physical sciences, recreation, timber operations, and

Members are to represent the public. Meetings of the advisory group are public and subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting

New appointees will serve a term of three years. Interviews for these three positions will be conducted in September/October. The director's appointees are subject to the approval of the Board of Forestry and Fire

General Information regarding JDSF can be found on our website here: www. fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resourcemanagement/demonstration-state-forests/ jackson-demonstration- state-forest

The Charter for the JDSF Advisory Group is available on the CAL FIRE website at: Jackson Advisory Group Charter.

General Forest Management Plan is available on the CAL FIRE website at: General Forest Management Plan

# SUBSCRIPTION FORM ☐ 1 year - \$100 ☐ Additional donation included \$ Home delivery: 1 year - \$75 (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas) Make checks payable to Willits Weekly | No invoice sent - please just send in payment | P.O. Box 1698 in Willits, CA 96490 Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print OUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047







From far left: Approximately 400 pounds of salmon were grilled for Big Time attendees, courtesy of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians. The Native crafts at the Big Time were colorful, creative, and symbolic Trina Fitzgerald of the Mending Basket Resource Center in Willits works to prevent family violence through education, culture, and strengthening





# **Big Time**

A big crowd at the Sherwood Valley Tribe's celebration enjoyed Native dancing, singing, and crafts, grilled salmon, and community

"Big Time" to Native Americans refers to a social gathering where Native American traditions, culture, and community are honored and shared. The events involve traditional dancing, singing, and the sharing of food and crafts. They are a way to celebrate Native American heritage and build community Mathew Caine

At the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians' Big Time every

year, there are booths housing organizations that offer methods for improving the lives of the people. Traditional arts and jewelry, abalone and silver and turquoise, were colorfully offered to the attendees by Indian artisans, many of whom travel the country to show at Big Times that are occurring at many of the reservations annually.

This year's Big Time, the 32nd annual, was hosted last Saturday by the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians. The celebration was well-attended, with all the parking lots filled to capacity, despite the 90 degree heat. There was plenty of shade and even a

The center of the event was a large circle, ringed with bales of hay to sit on and to demarcate the edges of the circle. In the center was a sacred flame, which was kept burning throughout the day. Several bands and tribes participated in the traditional dances that occurred at various intervals, accompanied by drums and chanting.

Although the event was mostly a gathering of the indigenous population, everyone was welcome to partake in the joyous and spiritual happening. Generous portions of commodities (foods distributed by the USDA), beans, fry bread, fresh grilled salmon, hamburgers and hot dogs, and more were offered to anyone, for free. Vendors also had fry breads and drinks and desserts that could be purchased.

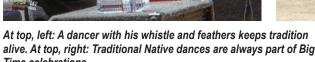
In between the dancing, each vendor was invited to donate a valuable item to be raffled off. The grand prize was a 72 inch flat-

screen TV, provided by the casino. Plenty of free swag was offered to

Big Time

Over on page 9





Above, left: Calling out the songs to accompany the dancers from the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians. Above, right: A dancer from the Sherwood Valley Band blows his whistle as he goes through the traditional dance steps.

At right: Yvonne Sosa places abalone pieces on a custom necklace Below, left: Alianna and Mia occupy themselves at their parents'

booth at the Sherwood Valley Big Time. Below, right: "Say her name" - this dress was displayed at the Big Time to represent Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.



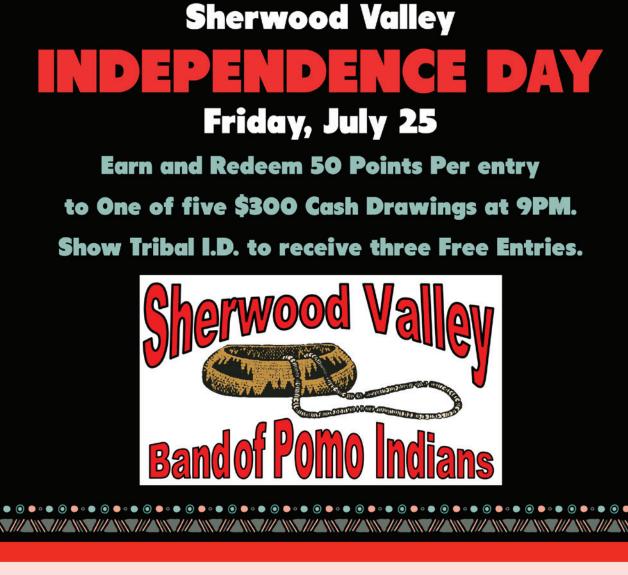




WILLITS CENTER FOR THE Is looking for people to volunteer to teach Art History to young students.



Inspire the next generation share your passion for art and culture for the next generation For more information: gtm1950@gmail.com or 707-972-3326

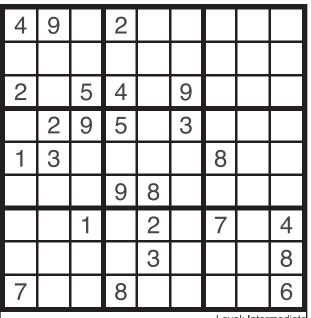




### Willits Weekly's

# Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



**AMEND** 

**BASIL** 

**BEANS** 

BROCCOL

**CARROTS** 

CORN

**CLUES ACROSS** 

5. One point south of

13. Four-footed animal

15. Express severe

disapproval of

16. Type of leaf

17. Preparatory

19. Walk heavily

23. Lump in yarn

26. Foot (Latin)

29. Smoothed

31. Mind (Greek)

33. Tampa ballclub

34. Semitic language

36. Sheltered sides

39. Electronic point of sale

38. Ocean

25. Too

27. Afflicts

21. Succulent plants

22. Rectangle of grass

9. Musical performances

1. Resorts

southwest

11. Matched

part

**CUCUMBERS** 

**EGGPLANTS** 

**FRESH** 

**HEALTHY** 

LETTUCE

**PARSLEY** 

41. Thrust a knife into

43. 12th month (abbr.)

44. Ringworm

46. Father of Aoris

48. Fighting back

52. Cease to exist

56. Caps

57. Repents

(Greek myth.)

53. Insects in adult stage

54. Freestanding sculpture

58. Brown and Wallace

59. Moved quickly

**CLUES DOWN** 

2. Yard structure

5. European river

4. Marine invertebrate

6. Office supplies firm

7. Physically abused

8. Service stations in

Australia

10. Liquid body

substances

9. Kills

1. Goes bad

3. They \_\_\_

**PEAS** 

**PEPPERS** 

**PICK** 

**POTATOES** 

**RADISHES** 

SOIL

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

# SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are

7-day period.

8:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of South Main Street and Franklin Avenue.

**Summary of Active Investigations** 

and Arrests

9:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

5:14 pm: FRYMAN, Jason Luke (40) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of driving under the influence with prior convictions and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license (revoked for DUI) and failure to appear.

7:49 pm: MAPLE, Ronald Dean (61) of Covelo was contacted near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Blosser Lane. He was arrested on felony charges of disobeying a court order and on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order and contempt of court.

9:36 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 300 block of South Lenore Avenue.

### July 3

**SPINACH** 

**SQUASHES** 

**STRAWBERRIES** 

THYME

**TOMATOES** 

**ZUCCHINI** 

11. Particular to a

14. Sicilian city

15. Conqueror

20. Type of "pig"

18. Elected officials

24. Drop of viscous

substance

28. Guarantees

26. Monetary unit of Spain

30. Coloring materials

32. Reddish browns

34. Square measure

35. Will not

37. Canned fish

40. Six (Spanish)

43. Negligible amount

45. Posts in a Greek

49. Phil \_\_\_, former CIA

55. Dance to pop music

50. Places to park

temple

47. Witnesses

51. Guns

38. Appeared

42. Took off

given individual

12. Brave or noble act

5:04 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1100 block of Locust

10:15 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

12:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Locust Street

### July 4

2:30 am: PHILLIPS, Shannon Lee (52) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block arrested on misdemeanor charges of

### The rest of **McGuire**

From page 2

this incident, the decedent was identified as Nicholas Bakewell, a 36-year-old male from Willits

Pursuant to California Assembly Bill 748, dispatch and video footage of this incident are being released publicly on the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office YouTube page. The video release can be accessed by utilizing either of the following

YouTube page: https:// www.youtube.com/c/ MendocinoSheriff

www.youtube.com/ watch?v=XBzx08v3s7U

Editor's Note: As per the disclaimer on the MCSO video: "A word of caution: The images and information you're about to see may be disturbing. When a deputy uses force to arrest a suspect or defend against an attack, it can be graphic and difficult to watch. In addition, strong language may be used by those shown in the video. Viewer discretion is advised,

Willits Weekly published the original MCSO press release on the June 5, 2025 Taser incident in the June 12, 2025 edition, which can be read here: https://willitsweekly. com/documents/ WillitsWeekly 06122025 APages.pdf

and sensitive viewers."

The officers of the Willits Police disorderly conduct (intoxicated with drugs Department reported 72 incidents in this and alcohol) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

> 4:19 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

12:18 pm: CURTIS, Rickie Allen (51) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block 6:44 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol), resisting an officer, and failure to appear

> 3:17 pm: VILLAGRANA, Blanca Estela Delgado (40) of Redwood Valley was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. She was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear.

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**POLICE LOG** 

June 30 to July 6 By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

> 9:19 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and

2:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Mendocino Avenue and issued a

4:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Holly Street and issued a warning.

7:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:01 pm: SCARBERRY, Angela Marie (45) of Willits was contacted in the 1600 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of forging or altering vehicle registration and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

2:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

8:16 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

8:27 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Baechtel Road and South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued

10:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of East San Francisco Avenue. She was of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

### The rest of Video

From page 1

YouTube video: https://

especially for young children

And recently passed legislation includes CEQA exemptions for wildfire fuel breaks, shad fuel breaks, roadside fuel breaks, and prescribed burns. This new state law will significantly speed up wildfire mitigation projects and help make communities across the Golden State more fire safe.

"The conditions CAL FIRE firefighters are facing is like nothing we've ever seen before, and we needed the state to have our backs so that we can keep fighting these blazes morning, noon and night, every season of the year," said Tim Edwards, President of CAL FIRE Local

"I'm so grateful for the leadership of Sen. McGuire, who's been fighting to fix the CAL FIRE firefighter shortage for years. While we have more work ahead, the progress we're making is remarkable. This year's budget action – and the expanded resources over the last several years - are game changers to make the Golden State more wildfire safe," Edwards said.

"The fires that ravaged LA earlier this year were a devastating reminder that firefighters are stretched thin, and their health and safety must be a priority," said Senator Tim Grayson (D-Concord). "We rely on them to protect our communities and our families, and we want them to know they can rely on the state for the resources they desperately need to do their jobs."

"A promise made is a promise kept," said Chief Lewis Broschard of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.. I was grateful to meet and work with Pro Tem McGuire and Senator Grayson, along with fire service leadership across the state, on these important and commonsense measures to expedite wildfire mitigation

"They have followed through on their commitment to deliver for our communities, and now we can get to work on making California, and our residents, safer from wildfire thanks to their efforts," Broschard said.

Mike McGuire is President pro Tempore of the California Senate. He represents the North Coast of California. which stretches from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, including Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties. Visit the website of Senate Leader McGuire here: https://sd02. senate.ca.gov/











Above, from left: One of the zanier moments from "Improvapalooza": The WCT team eked out a win against the visiting UPT team. Jeff Shipp recites his lines from "A Midsummer's Night Drink" from the Mosaic Series. Schuler Marcier referees a contest of Shakespearean insults involving audience members Crispin Cain and Dayle Deer. At far left: Michealle Havenhill, Amythyst Romero, and Jeff Shipp are keeping the theater going smoothly along with multiple volunteers. At left: Dayle and Michael Deer, patrons of the Willits Community Theatre, recently provided funding for a much-needed air conditioning and heating system. Below: The newly refurbished patio at WCT affords an opportunity to mingle between acts or before or after the show. Further below: Schuyler Marcier, an actor much seen on the WCT stage, participated in the recent "Improvapalooza." At bottom: Michealle Havenhill and Amythyst Romero take care of reservations and make sure all is going smoothly outside the stage.

# Keepin' It Cool

Willits Community Theatre celebrates all who keep the theater going - including donors who bought the new air conditioning unit

The Willits Community Theatre is cool, really cool. Not just because of their stellar entertainment offerings, but due to their new heating Mathew Caine and cooling system, generously

donated by Michael and Dayle Deer and expeditiously installed by All In Heating and Cooling of Ukiah, who performed the installation in two days, between performance dates and

just in time for Improvapalooza.

"Our air conditioner just went down, out of the blue," explained Amythyst Romero, managing director of the theater. "It was working fine and then it wasn't. We didn't know what we were going to do. It was a very expensive project. It was 30 years old, so they had to replace it. We received three bids and chose All In One.

"They're replacing everything, all the ducting," Romero continued. "They added more vent drops. The whole system is way more efficient. It's quieter, and we had donors who stepped up and paid for the whole thing, Michael and Dayle Deer. They have been beloved patrons of the theater for as long as I've been here. Their generosity saved the season." Additionally, Bobby Brumback has stepped forward to cover any costs over the Deers' donation.

"We had planned on leaving the theater money in our will when we passed away anyhow," said Dayle Deer. "So, why not give it to them now, because there is a current need. One of the great things about Willits is those who can give to causes they believe in, do give to causes they believe in. Either give money or give of yourself."

"Dayle and I feel blessed that we were able to write a check," explained Michael Deer. "We wrote a check and your hand, it becomes real.

As is true with most theaters, whether a grand opera house or a small-town venue, WCT requires generous donations and volunteers to continue to produce plays, music, poetry, or other forms of entertainment.

"We've been really fortunate this year," continued Romero. "The support that we've gotten has been amazing. We have benefitted from a grant from the Community

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7am - 10pm

P.O. Box 428

1799 So. Main St.

459-4854

**REMINDER!** 

MOVIES RUN WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY

Pay at the Pump

Foundation of Mendocino County. Penserra Group helped pay for the new roof. We also received grant funding from Reza and Deb Ghannadan through Vanguard Charitable which was significant."

Along with a new and dynamic board of directors who oversee all aspects of the theater, a management team sees to the day-to-day operations. Managing Director Romero has created several innovations and is an excellent grant writer.

"I oversee the daily operations," she explained. "I do a lot of donor relations and grant-writing, pay the bills, and do financial reports, anything else that is needed. We're a volunteer-based organization. I've been in the tech booth. I've been a stage manager. I've been on multiple

Multi-faceted Jeff Shipp is the production manager at WCT. "Everything we do, whether it's a play or a concert or an improv show or a dance, there is usually a director, or someone involved artistically, that is guiding it," said Shipp. "I help that person get all the things they need, whether it's getting the set painted, getting it built, getting the auditions together, doing all the scheduling, the PR, basically their right-hand man to make sure everything gets done and their artistic vision is seen by the public. I am overwhelmed by the number of people that volunteer all the time. It's very exciting to be surrounded by people that want to give their

Michealle Havenhill is the house manager. "I'm in charge of everything in the front of the house," explained Havenhill. "I maintain the inventory of our alcohol as well as coffees. I make reservations. I submit reports to the board gave it to Amythyst right away, because once you have it in of directors, on how well we did as far as concessions and that kind of thing, to keep them informed."

> Being a small theater in a small town, WCT can be adaptable. When the staff realized a scheduled play was not able to be cast due to certain complexities, they were able to come up with a series of substitutions

> > Read the rest of Over on page 9 Cool













**BROWNS** 

**CLOSED** 57 East Commercial Street - Willits MONDAYS & TUESDAYS 707-459-6660 www.noyotheater.com Mid week promotions: Wednesday -

Matinee prices to all shows all day. Showtimes:July 18 to July 24

(PG) 1hr 32min Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 Wed-Thur: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15

**SMURFS** 

**Closed Monday/Tuesday** 

S U P E R M A N



**SUPERMAN** 

Fri. Sat. Sun: 12:45, 3:45, 6:45 Wed-Thur: 12:45, 3:45, 6:45 Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.

Randall Cantua, LUTCF

(PG13) 2hr 13min

**JURASSIC** 

**WORLD: REBIRTH** 







Cantua Insurance Agency 16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490 786 Redwood Drive Garberville, CA 95542 Tel 707.459.3276 Tel 707.923.2179 Fax 707.923.9550 rcantua@farmersagent.com 0C67822

### 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 dult 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, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### Eckankar: The Patl of Spiritual Freedo • A University for Soul

 Spiritual Living Courses Spiritual Discussions ECK Light & Sound Services More information? Call 530-224-8703 www.eckankar.org

### **Grace Community** Church

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church 61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Father 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 appointmet at

707-459-2252 https://stanthonywillits.org/ saintanthonywillits@gmail.com We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis **Episcopal Church** 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 acebook.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.

### Willits United **Methodist Church** Labyrinth and Peace Garden

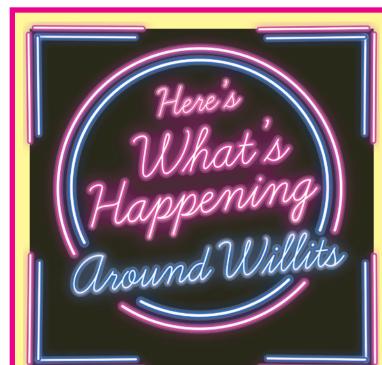
All are welcome!

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 umo If you want to be included in this column please call: **April Tweddell** 

(707) 972-2475

april@willitsweekly.com



### Thursday, July 17

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Willits Farmers Market at City Park, with vendors along State Street on the north end of the park. Featuring the freshest produce available, local meat and eggs, hot food and cold from small, local businesses, many of them sourcing ingredients from local farms. Crafts, live music, and the new copy of Willits Weekly. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits with Market Match, to double your food dollars.

### Friday, July 18

Hillshaker at Shanachie: Formerly known as the Clay Hawkins Duo, Hillshaker blends rapid-fire fingerstyle slide guitar and hones Creating his own unique brand of acoustic rock, Clay

Hawkins with his long time co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass play what some call "Late Night, Boot-Stomping, Road Music from the Heart," or, as the duo calls it, "Mountain House." Friday July 18 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

**Book Lovers Discussion Group at the** Library: This monthly discussion group meets every third Friday. Come talk about books, authors, and genres this month on July 18 from noon to 1 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 Commercial Street. Visit www.mendolibrary.org or call (707) 459-5908 for more information

### Saturday, July 19

Miller's Wheel at Shanachie: This Northern California trio combines acoustic and electric to play a soft and sultry mix of folk, soul, jazz, western swing and blues with original music written by Megan Miller on guitar, violin and vocals. The Ukiah band includes Jean-Francois Buy

on lead guitar and drums, and Anthony Esserman-Melville on bass and drums. Saturday, July 19 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

### Sunday, July 20

Flourish and Flow Yoga in the Park: Classes held every Sunday in Rec Grove Park on South Lenore Street from 10 to 11 am with rotating instructors each week. All evels are welcome and each session ends with crystal bowl sound healing. Bring a mat and some water. Children are welcome, with an adult to supervise. Classes are donation based and through the month of July all donations will be given to the Willits Food Bank.

### Thursday, July 24

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Willits Farmers Market at City Park, with vendors along State Street on the north end of the park. Featuring the freshest produce available, local meat and

eggs, hot food and cold from small, local businesses, many of them sourcing ingredients from local farms. Crafts, live music, and the new copy of Willits Weekly. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits with Market Match, to double your food dollars.

### Friday, July 25

Frankie and the Lost Souls at Shanachie: This indie band founded by wife and husband duo Erica and Sebastian has been performing Erica's folk- and country-inspire original music since 2009.

The addition of lead guitarist lynkse has elevated the group's sound with melodic iffs that hint at a nostalgia for a 90s and early 00s popock soundscape that enrich narrative-driven lyrics exploring heartbreak, love, mental health, conflict, and the overall unresolved nature of the human condition. Friday, July 25 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Visit www.

"UNHINGED!! A High Fashion Show": Here to strut, stomp, and spin you into the sublime. Where dance meets delirium, music melts into madness, and couture clashes with comedy, this wildly original spectacle turns a small town theater into a runway of the ridiculous. Expect elegance, Every Sunday chaos, sequins and maybe

frankieandthelostsouls.com.

imagination

TIME, 10,00 AM - 11,00 AM even a few treats to spark your Join us for Yoga in the Park, a donation-based class held every Sunday this summer. All donations from June 29 and throughout July will go directly to the Willts Food Bank. Instructors will rotate weekly, each bringing their own unique style. Candice will lead our first class on June 29, and each session will close with crystal bowl sound healing. Willits will never be the same. Directed and choreographed by Pearl Marill in collaboration with a gorgeous bevy of local

talent. Friday, July 25. and Saturday July 16 at 7 pm; Sunday July 27 at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Doors open an hour before the show. For adults only 21+ and up.

### Saturday, July 26

Willits Music Fest: Join us for the first-ever FREE music and arts festival benefiting Willits Elementary Charter School and Willits Charter

### School! Enjoy live music, dunk tank, art vendors, face painting, hula hooping, raffles and more! Hosted by our amazing MC, Billy

Hetherington, this is a full day of fun for all ages. Saturday, July 26, noon to 9 pm, Rec Grove

### Park, South Lenore Avenue. Bryan Bielanski at Shanachie: critically-acclaimed,

globetrotting acoustic rock singer-songwriter has been touring the U.S. and the world for the past 1 years. Inspired by greats like Tom Petty and CCR, he has a distinct musical style with catchy songs and lyrics that make you think while bringing a fun, upbeat energy. Saturday, July 26 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street Visit bryanssuperhappyfuntime.com.

Sustainable Willits Series "Water Wise" at the Library: Join us for Part Two of this discussion with three speakers whose topics include learning

WILLITS

TANGLED ENDS TASTES LIKE CAUCHEN

CSAW

about our local water sources, and exploring practical solutions for water conservation in our homes, gardens and community. This is a free event presented by the Willits Branch Library and W.E.L.L. (Willits Economic Localization) and will include Q&A, audience participation, and refreshments. Saturday, July 26 from 3 to 5 pm in the meeting room of the Willits Branch Library, 390 Commercial Street. For more information

visit www.mendolibrary. org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

UNHINGED!! High Fashion Show": Directed and choreographed by Pearl Marill in collaboration with a gorgeous bevy of local talent. Saturday, July 26 at Willits Community Theatre at 7 pm Doors at 6 pm. For adults only 21+ and up. See Friday, July 25 listing for more details.

### Sunday July 27

Flourish and Flow Yoga in the Park: Classes are held

every Sunday in Rec Grove Park from 10 am to 11 am with rotating instructors each week. All levels are welcome and each session ends with crystal bowl sound healing. Bring a mat and some water. Children are welcome if supervised and with an adult. Classes are donation based and through the month of July all donations will be given to the Willits Food

UNHINGED!! A High Fashion Show": Directed and choreographed by Pearl Marill in collaboration with a gorgeous bevy of local talent pm at Willits Community Theatre. Doors open at 1 pm. For adults only 21+ and up.

See Friday, July 25 listing for more details.



# 42nd Annual Round Valley Blackberry

### TOWN-WIDE ONGOING EVENTS

Pickleball: Meets Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 6 pm and Saturdays at 9 am at the Willits High School tennis courts. All levels welcome, free to play.

Willits Tennis Club: Meets every Monday and Wednesday from 9-11 am at Willits High School tennis courts; For more info: 707-484-3385

**Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group:** Meets every week on Mondays, 6 pm, at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth and fifth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

Literacy Volunteers of Willits: We teach adults to read! Free personal tutoring at the library. Call or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@ gmail.com or 707-456-7729

Mobile Showers Available in Willits: The mobile shower trailer will be in Willits on Mondays and Tuesdays each week from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, in the parking lot in back of St. Francis Church at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Toiletries, towels and washcloths are provided. One of the rooms has a ramp to the door, but there is no room inside for a wheelchair, so those with disabilities may need to bring a helper. Sack dinners are served

from 4:30 to 5:30 by Willits Daily Bread. Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers a free karate program for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 pm. Beginner to intermediate group, youth 7 years old and above. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Mike Tobin Sensei at 354-0565. Body

### Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Works Gym,1511 South Main Street.

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Tommy G will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main street. "You're invited to bring any instrument, meet new musicians, discover new

genres, and explore your creativity!" Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm - welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered into the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm.

### Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial

Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm;

Closed Sunday and Monday. Story and Playtime at the Park: The Willits Branch Library is hosting storytime followed by games and activities every Saturday through Aug 9th at Rec Grove Park from 11 AM to Noon. Bring the family and have some fun! Visit www.mendolibrary.org or call the Willits Branch Library at (707) 459-

5908 for more information. Willits Storywalk: Families and readers of all ages are invited to explore downtown Willits as they discover "Luci" by Paula Teran Ospina, a bilingual story that unfolds in the windows of local businesses. Pick up a map at the Willits Branch Library through July 31st to begin your journey and children and teens will receive a free book upon completion of their map. Visit www. mendolibrary.org or call (707) 459-5908 for more information.

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to 1 pm. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe."

**LEGO Club:** Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

**Tech Help:** Saturdays from 11 am to 12 pm: Tech Help Saturdays, 11 am -to 12 pm. Is your computer on the fritz? Can't figure out how to open your email? Want to install a new app on your system?

Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm; Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm. Willits Community Services & Food



### COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES 'Superman

Dan Essman

At right: Members of "the Seven

Elizabeth Raybee, Esther Siegel,

Beardsley, and Nancy Simpson

and Laura Fogg. Back row, from left:

Carolyn Bakewell, Nan Trichler, Julie

Willits artists

part of 'Seven

Sisters' at Corner

Gallery

The Corner Gallery's front

windows are overflowing with art

this month. Usually featuring the

work of one or two individuals, in

July, the Ukiah space is packed

with a creative, eclectic, and

unthemed show by seven

artists, collectively known as

These seven women from

Willits, Redwood Valley,

and Ukiah first shared the

gallery space at the Willits

Center for the Arts in 2017.

They are Elizabeth Raybee.

Julie Beardsley, Carolyn

Bakewell, and Laura Fogg.

From that very successful

experience they forged a

lasting and collaborative

friendship. They have since

put together three more

shows in Ukiah and Willits.

The "Seven Sisters"

show is open at the Corner

Gallery, 201 South State

Street in Ukiah. Through

July 26. Gallery hours are

Tuesday through Saturday

from 11 am to 5 pm.

Nancy

Trichler,

the Seven Sisters.

Esther Siegel,

Simpson, Nan

Sisters": Front row, from left:

The Story: How things stand as the movie begins: Lois Lane is in love with Clark Kent, but doesn't say it. And since you may not remember, they are "rival" reporters at the same newspaper, The Daily Planet. They have to keep their affair on the down low. Clark has never told Lois that he loves her; but he most certainly does.

So, you might think, we have the beginning of Superman the Rom-Com, but no. More than cutesy love tangles are at stake, because the evil billionaire weapons-maker Lex Luthor has secret and cruel plans to destroy Superman's goody-goody, truth-justice-and the-American-way

But way more than smearing the Man of Steel's image (who is, after all, a suspicious alien from another planet), Lex Luthor wants Superman Dead! Dead! Dead! As all of this is going on, there's a new character Parents: No! Lex Luthor's evil would be nightmarish to young children. who shows up. It's adorable Krypto the Superdog.

true, and he's got a strong, wildly random part to play in the Supermanthe imagination.

Lex Luthor conflict. Also, there are even more "super-beings" who get involved as important wild cards – but no more spoilers from me.

My Thoughts: I like Superman movies. This is the best. Also, it's the best dog movie of the 21st Century. James Gunn is the (I'm not blowing smoke) very-real genius writer/director of this amazing flick. (Mr. Gunn passed my first test as a director: he made me fall in love with the female

funny. I watched the movie twice on the same day and was never bored. Despite the fact this is a special effects-driven extravaganza, it is still a character-driven story. David Corenswet is appropriately heroic playing a strong/sensitive

This flick is fast-paced and thrilling and sad and sometimes laugh-aloud

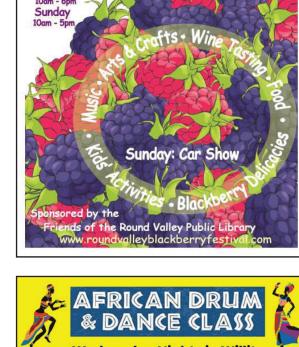
Superman. Rachel Brosnahan is the believable, cut-to-the-chase reporter and woman-of-my pre-and-post-adolescent-dreams, Lois Lane. (Rachel B. is always pretty and in some moments "turn to camera" full-on beautiful!) Go see it.

There is a sweaty stench to him. He gleefully point blank shoots a man. And though Krypto is not the most obedient of canines, still he's loyal and Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of

### 42nd annual Round Valley Blackberry **Festival**

Save the date for the 42nd annual Round Valley Blackberry Festival, coming up August 16 and 17, Our Master of Ceremonies Mickey will kick things off at 10 am on both days. The festival runs through 6 pm on Saturday and 5 pm on Sunday with over 30 artisan vendors offering their crafts and food, Mendocino wine tasting, and live music both days. Children's activities promise fun for the entire family.

our website at RoundValleyBlackberryFestival



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

Brunch Sip and Paint

Sunday July 20, 1-4pm

\$75 includes materials, and brunch

with mimosas

ALL LEVELS WELCOME

REGISTRATION www.willitscenterforthearts.org

ARTS WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

LIFE DRAWING

Drop-in Life Drawing Group

Thursdays 1-4pm

Sliding scale starting from \$15

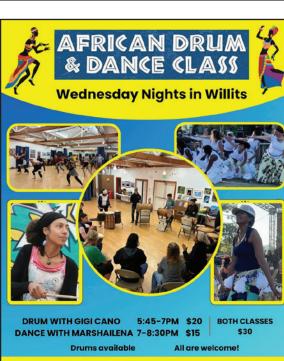
Seeking Models and Artists

Contact Margaret at (707)459-9251

71 E Commercial St. Willits, Ca

Covelo · Ca

Paint, Sip, Laugh, Eat



71 E Commercial St Studio up back stairs

# Redwood Gospel

### **Redwood Gospel Missions Ukiah** "Center for Hope"

### **Mobile Shower Unit Now Available**

1 North Main Street Willits, CA 95490

Monday & Tuesdays

If you or someone you know are looking for a volunteer

kbrown@rgm.org or cgorrell@rgm.org Email:





### Willits Branch Library July

### Special Events

Lunch at the Library: Tues-Fri., 12-1 PM
We've partnered with W.U.S.D to bring free lunch to the library.
Join us for lunch, books, and a fun activity. All children 18 & under
receive a free meal. Lunch at the Library begins on June 10th

Sit-N-Sew: 2nd Saturday, 1-5 PM Drop-in and enjoy the company. Bring your sewing project and have fun.

Nature Joe: Saturday, July 12, 2:00 PM
Joe's Critter Cart brings live animals, big and small, for you to meet and learn about at the library. This free event is part of the Summer Reading

Stamp Club: Wednesday, July 16, 5-6 PM
Bring your collection and enjoy time perusing stamps

and practical solutions for water conservation

Weekly Library Events

Tuesdays: LEGO® Club: 4-6:30 PM

It is Lego time at the library. Bring your imagination and start

Keep an eye out for the Willits Branch Library's BiblioBike at the

in Rec Grove Park, then join us for a short play ns here to get help

Come join the community for this family event and enjoy an art show in the Round Valley Library Commons adjacent to the festival grounds and a car and motorcycle show on Sunday

roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com and join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/

Willits Branch Library **BACK TO SCHOOL** DONATIONS We are asking for school supply donations. We will be giving the supplies to school children under the age of 18.

Donations welcome until Saturday, July 26th calculator pencils notebooks rulers paper · glue • erasers sharpeners

Sustainable Willits: Saturday, July 26, 3-5 PM

Wednesdays:
Penny University/Coffee Klatch: 2-4 PM
We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a cup of joe. Look for the Library BiblioBike at the Farmers Market: 3-4:30

Willits Farmers Market! We will have information about library ser vices and events— maybe even some free books! Saturdays (June—August):
Story & Playtime in the Park: 11-12 PM Book Lovers Discussion Group: Friday, July 18, 12-1 PM This group will meet monthly to discuss books, authors and g art your morning listening to a children's story

> Saturdays: Tech Help: 11-12 PM Bring your computer questions here Spinning & Knitting: 1-4:30 PM All skill levels welcome! Spinning



# August 16-17, 2025



### folders · child scissors . . crayons MENDOCINO Library

# S A V

# MISSION

# Location: Saint Francis Church

2:30 pm to 4:30 pm Who: Men, Female, Families (all in need)

opportunity to help with the Mobile Shower Unit call or email. 707-234-8750

MILLIAM

## **Furry Friends Hoping** for a Home

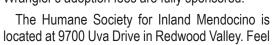


Looking for a playful and fun-loving furry friend? Look no further than Brut! This big, young puppy is 5 months old and 40 pounds as of June 22. Brut is a friendly, energetic, and smart boy who loves nothing more than a good toy to play with. If you're ready for lots of laughs, love, and big slobbery doggy kisses, then Brut is the one for you! He would benefit from an experienced owner who is willing to give him the training and socialization he

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

### Loyal Wrangler

Meet Wrangler, a small dog with a big personality! Wrangler, currently living at a foster home, is 6.5 years old and weighs 15.8 pounds/ Once you earn his trust, he'll be your loval sidekick for life, showering you with affection and always by your side. Wrangler's perfect for someone who understands that even the tiniest dogs need a little time to warm up before showing their soft side. Wrangler's adoption fees are fully sponsored.



free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Garden is making extra efforts to provide fresh produce to the food bank, while still being Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



### Handsome Bianco

Bianco is a sweet tabby with a lovable, kittenlike face that's sure to melt your heart. When he first arrived at Milo, he was a bit shy and reserved around people, but with time and the care of a loving foster, he's come out of his shell. Now, he's a social and affectionate boy who loves to be near his humans and will occasionally even climb onto a lap for extra attention. Bianco is playful, especially when it comes to wand toys, and his food motivation whether it's treats or wet food – makes him easy to win over. He's also very friendly with other cats, enjoying playtime, wrestling, and cuddles, making

him a perfect addition to a home with a feline seeking a new friend.

To learn more about Bianco, or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation. org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 707-459-4900.





OBITUARY |

### **James Caine**

James Caine was born February 12, 1957 in Bellflower, CA. James lost his long hard battle with cancer on June 8, 2025 at the age of 68 at his home in Willits

parents, Jim and Carol Caine; brothers, Stevie and Joseph Caine; and sisters, Denise and Treana Caine-Jones

James is preceded in death by his grandparents, Claude and Mildred Swendener;

He is survived by his wife, Gloria Caine, and children, Jaclyn Caine and Andy, Patricia Caine. Samantha Caine and Wayne. He is also survived by his grandchildren,

Sierra Caine, Aidan McKinnon McKensie Caine, and Alanna Ybanez, and his nieces.

James worked at Remco Hydraulics for many years until they closed down. He then went to work for Retech and, then, finally became an exterminator for many years before retiring in 2008 due to an injury. He had many clients/ friends that absolutely loved him and enjoyed his company when he would come exterminate their

James spent most of his time with his family barbecuing which was his passion, and building some of the best 4-wheel drive vehicles including his Truck Pulls

truck, Candyass. He loved taking trips over to Fort Bragg and staying for a few days.

MY UCKET LIST:

James loved his dogs as he treated them like they were humans. James had many friends and was quite known for his tricked out vehicles. James graduated from Willits High School in 1975. There will be a celebration of life in the future.

Garden

able to spread the wealth around to the rest of the community through the farmstand, and also by providing produce to the Roots Restaurant inside Adventist Health Howard

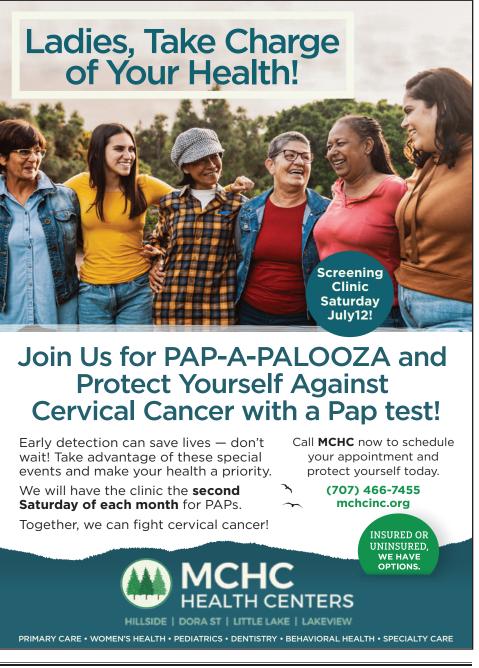
"We just took the first batch of tomatoes over to Roots." said Bouley. "We're expecting to have some golden cherry tomatoes hopefully for this week's farmstand, as well as more lettuce, new kinds of potatoes, large red and yellow bulb onions, and the shishito peppers are hopefully going to be ready, too."

To celebrate the return of the market, Bouley and the crew held a raffle for several items including braids of garlic which were won by the Jennison family and Nola Marshal; a bouquet of fresh flowers which was won by Linda Barnes; Indian Blood peach trees donated by Laytonville's "Mark Peachseed" that were won by Lincoln Nass, Julie Harris

and Bruce Cartwright. A flat of lettuce starts was also won by Nola Marshal; and Kathleen Ferri Taylor, Ron, and Lincoln Nass each won a potted cactus. Dried lavender bouquets were also made by Tasha White and handed out for free to shoppers to enjoy.

"We wanted to do the raffle and the lavender giveaways just as a little extra fun thing to celebrate the return of the stand, and get everyone back into the spirit," explained Bouley. "We look forward to seeing everyone from 10 am to 1 pm on Fridays. Just another reminder, please make sure to bring your own bag or box to take things home in, and we're always happy to have the vases returned,





### **LEGAL NOTICES**

**Fictitious Business** Name Statement

The following person or persons are doing business as Lettuce Make You Happy 18950 Walker Road, Willits, CA 95490

Registered owners: David N. Weigt and Deborah M. Weigt, 18950 Walker Road, Willits, CA 95490 This business is conducted by copartners.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on June 1, 2024. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on June 23, 2025. /s/ Deborah M. Weigt and Publication Dates: July 3, 10,

**Fictitious Business** Name Statement

> The following person or persons are doing business a Greenwood Gardening, 43 Alameda Avenue, Willits, CA Registered owners: Deanne

Ledebuhr, 162 East Mendocino Avenue. Apt B, Willits, CA 95490, and Garrett Moore-Zachary, 43 Alameda Avenue, Willits CA

This business is conducted by

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on April 20, 2025. FBN statement filed with the

Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 23, 2025. /s/ Garrett Moore-Zachary Publication Dates: July 3, 10, 17. 24. 2025

Willits Weekly

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statements,

foreclosure

notices, storage

unit auctions,

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Contact us for

more information

at willitsweekly@

gmail.com

WW545

17, 24, 2025

### **Fictitious Business** Name Statement

2025-F0266 The following person or persons are doing business as 3 Pronged Attack, 3PA, 32 Fort Bragg Road, Willits, CA 95490; 707-731-7562.

Registered owner: Omar Sisemore, 32 Fort Bragg Road, Willits, CA 95490 This business is conducted by

an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on December 10, 2020 FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on June 4, 2025

/s/ Omar Sisemore Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025

The rest of From page 5 Cool

known as "the Mosaic Series," simple to produce, highconcept entertainment weekends, that didn't require rovalties or elaborate sets, for the most part. The first was "A Midsummer's Night Drink," a spoof on an evening of Shakespeare's greatest hits, including Garrett Moore channeling Hamlet's To Be or Not To Be soliloguy in the guise of a surfer boy.

The second weekend was an improv show called Improvapalooza, the first night of which was a competition between WTC and the Ukiah Players Theatre, won by the and 27, is the wildly popular, creative, colorful, and zany with their friends and family. return of Pearl Marill's fashion show, "Unhinged." All three performances are liable to sell out.

The Willits Community Theatre offers a Patreon subscription for \$10 per month, which enables the subscriber to attend any performance at the venue, be it a play, poetry reading, or music performance, anything that happens on the stage.

And don't worry about the top rows that used to gather the heat in the theater. The new system has new vents that evenly cool the auditorium for maximum comfort during

Coming on September 21, the theater is having its annual gala, "Hearts for the Arts," with performances by Willits' own Malakai Schindel, catering by the Lions Club, and a live auction by Rachel Britten. Tickets are on sale now at www.wctperformingartscenter.org/. Call 707- 216-



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Contact Melissa at (707) 513-5705 | eastsideranchwillits@gmail.com

The rest of Big Time

From page 3

people who came by the informational and medical booths, including small fans that were extremely welcome in the

The booths that ringed a portion of the grounds were mostly informational in nature, with pamphlets and discussions of many of the challenges of indigenous life, including reminders of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement.

Winter Fawn Piñedo could be found at the Indian Child Welfare Act booth. "It pertains to Native children," explained Piñedo. "We work beside CPS. We assist in being able to keep our Native children either in the home or with close relatives. My job is either to find the closest relative or someone of their descent to place the child with. I'm the child's voice when it comes to the court. I speak on behalf of the child. I'm an ICWA advocate.

Emiliano Peres is the water technician for the Sherwood Valley Tribal Environmental Program. "I'm monitoring all the water, the creeks, the streams," said Peres. "We're looking into restoring them more with native plants

"This year's focus," Perez continued, "is outreach for our youth campout that we're going to be putting on. Then, we're encouraging people to learn more about composting for their gardens. It's environmental protection which is stewarding the waterways and the lands of Sherwood."

Trina Fitzgerald advocates for the Mending Basket Resource Center in Willits. "It's part of the Inter-Tribal Council of California, Inc." said Fitzgerald, "We're a family violence prevention program. We assist families with reeducation, strengthen families through cultural teachings. Fatherhood and motherhood is sacred, linking generations by strengthening relationships, addressing family violence and abuse. Suicide prevention workshops are offered online and in person. They help people who might have domestic violence, anger management, addiction, suicide ideation. Anybody can come. It's a safe, encouraging, and uplifting circle to be a part of." Visit https://itccinc.org/themending-basket-resource-center/ to learn more

"I work for the Inter-Tribal Council of California, and this is the Family Violence Prevention Program," said Raylene Shepherd. "We've worked with the Wellness Center and the Mending Basket and the childcare program for Inter-Tribal, and I'm a domestic violence advocate. I can put women in a shelter or a hotel. I can buy food. As long as they're a Native American family. They don't have to be federally recognized.... We have advocates throughout the state. One of us will be able to help wherever they are

Big Time is about the indigenous community gathering to enjoy the company of their fellow Native people, celebrating their culture, learning about ways to better their lives and home team. Coming up on the weekend of July 25, 26 health, eating traditional foods, and just having a good time



# **CLASSIFIEDS**

**Indoor Yard Sale** Brown Bag Lunch Program Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Every Saturday at Christian School, 8555 pm sack lunches Uva Drive, Redwood are served by local Valley, (across from the churches. community Broiler). Saturday, July **19** – 8 am to 2 pm (note families at shortened end time). Snider Park on East Commercial. . Come at 1 pm to be assured a

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bags, Bring an I.D. Info:

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Management 707-354-

Free Food for All

Pop-Up

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food for all: Due to

the impact of federal

budget cuts, there will

be only one monthly

pop-up In Willits, on

1st Thursdays, from

10 to 11:30 am at

1250 Blosser Lane. In

Laytonville, every 4th

Thursday, 12 to 1 pm

at 300 Cahto Drive.

In Covelo, every 2nd

Thursday, from 12 to 1

pm, at NEW ADDRESS:

24065 Rifle Road. In

Leggett: Every 1st

Tuesday from 12 to

1 pm at 65100 Drive-

Thru Tree Road. Info:

Rachelle@mendofood.

org; 707-615-6654.

presents

Mendocino

Network

(707) 459-3333

John Ford Ranch

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-

Moving Sale Date: Saturday, July

19th, 2025. Location: 1272 Locust St, Willits, CA 95490. Time: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Description: Moving sale to sell many items from home and yard. Items include artwork. furniture, equipment, garden pottery, tall fruit ladder, decorations, etc. Contact: Rick Hewett. Phone: 707-841-1139.

**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.oaknvine.net/tp

> Tattoo Shop Tattoo Shop

Downtown Clean, cute, and private shop with 10 years experience. Love to tattoo botanicals, cute critters, and sceneries! Appointments and bookings: kikibtattoos.





At left: Winter Fawn Piñedo at her Indian Child Welfare Act booth at the Big Time, with her daughter, Aurora Little Fawn Bancho Piñedo, who helped with the booth. Above: Honhoya travels around the West to various Native events, selling his crafts from his home base in Arizona

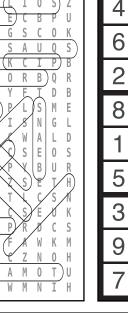
Photos by Mathew Caine

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- HELP WANTED: -

### **Casino Controller at Sherwood Valley Casino**

The Casino Controller directs the cashiering, vault, drop and count areas in a manner that safeguards the assets of the Sherwood Valley Casino, while establishing and maintaining acceptable accounting procedures and internal controls and assures all external and internal regulations are met. Has direct supervision of Cage/Vault, Drop, and Count Supervisors. Exercises management responsibility for all activities of the Accounting/Finance Department. Activities nclude direct hands-on oversight of audit, accounting, general ledger, reporting, payroll, purchasing, cashiering, and count room operations. Responsible for the company's overall operating and capital budgets, internal control policies, nsurance and risk management programs, and relationships with financial institutions, casino's compliance with provisions of the State Compact, NIGC, Tribal ordinances, Gaming Commission regulations, cash transactions reporting, and IRS withholding and reporting requirements.Contact the General Manager at mfitzgerral@svrcasino.com



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Above, from left: 25 year award recipients smile with Adventist Health Howard Memorial officials including from left: Jessica Branscomb; Shelly Moore; Nika Patterson and Henrietta Simonsson. At right: 30-year recipient Bernie Billasana smiles with AHHM Chief Operations Officer Jeff Mock, left, Deanna Cruise who spoke about Billasana during the ceremony, and AHHM Patient Care Executive Amy Buckingham, right, At right, below: Mock, left, and Buckingham, right, stand with presenter Hany Boutros, center left, and award recipient Vickie Schiemann, center right. At right, bottom: Volunteers were honored for their service, including, from left: Susanna Wilson, Diana Franceschini, Marla Schroeder, and Sandy Smith, who also received the Jann Lamprich award this year. At bottom: Honorees stand with their years-in-service plaque for each grouping of years.

# Service Awards

### Adventist Health Howard Memorial holds annual ceremony to recognize years of service

Submitted by Shelby White, for AHHM

We're celebrating an incredible milestone – over 600 years of combined service from 51 outstanding team members across our hospital and clinic as of this year!

In honor of these remarkable individuals, we hosted our annual Day at the Races Service Awards event on Wednesday, June 25, at the Frank R. Foundation Commonwealth Garden. This special celebration brought together our honorees, team members, and guests for a Kentucky Derby-style event, paying tribute to our Seabiscuit heritage.

These dedicated team members have poured their hearts into their work year after year, leaving a lasting impact on our patients, our team, and our community. Their unwavering commitment, passion, and excellence are what make our organization truly exceptional.

Most notably we had Jessica Branscomb, Shelley Moore, Nika Patterson and Henrietta Simonsson celebrating 25 years, Bernie Billasana celebrating 30 years and Susan Karp and Vickie Schiemann celebrating 35 years!

Thank you for everything you do. You are the heart of our mission.

### SPOTLIGHT ON VICKIE SCHIEMANN

### Vickie Schiemann: 35 Years of Compassion, Community, and Commitment

Howard Memorial in 1990, she had no idea just still with us today, was my supervisor." how deeply rooted she would become in the heart of the community.

"I started here in 1990, when we moved here with small children. I had years of experience before I took this job," Vickie recalls. Her early days were humble but pivotal. "When I started, I took a parttime job as a phlebotomist in Ukiah for a short time. and when I needed childcare, I had Kathy Garrity (chief technologist) taking care of my children. She told me I needed to speak to her husband, Ed. I met with him and was introduced to Dr. Stetz, who was the pathologist on site, and he provided me

Musicians\*

When Vickie Schiemann began her journey with with a job as phlebotomist. Kathy Grupp, who is

From that moment on, Vickie's presence became a constant, comforting thread woven into the fabric of the hospital and the town itself

When asked what's kept her here so long, she doesn't hesitate. "The people. It starts from the top with our providers. The camaraderie I've experienced and had, moved from the old hospital to the new one. Kindness, willingness to help, respect - it's all here. It's easy to come to work. I

Read the rest of Awards











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Un desayuno y almuerzo saludables se brindan GRATIS a niños de 0 a 18 años, inscritos en WUSD o no, independientemente de sus ingresos. Disponible de lunes a viernes, del 9 de junio de 2025 al 8 de agosto de 2025, en la Escuela Primaria Brookside Elementary School.

Group: Be the Antidote - Willits

• Desayuno de 08:00 a 09:00 • Almuerzo de 11:00 a.m. a 12:30 p.m. \*Almuerzo caliente en el lugar o comida fría para llevar\*















A healthy breakfast and lunch are provided FREE to children 0-18 years old, enrolled in WUSD or not, regardless of income.

Available Monday-Friday, June 9, 2025, through August 8, 2025, at Brookside Elementary School. • Breakfast 8:00am-9:00am

- Lunch 11:00am-12:30pm
- \*Hot lunch on site or a cold meal to go"

Questions? Please call the WUSD Food Director at (707)459-7700 ext.1554

\*\*Closed 6/19 and 7/4\*\*

Reactions

From page 1

Stranske said he started hearing discontent from employees at Public Works, during his routine visits, and that he got a visit at home from one Public Works employee, who was distraught about losing her job.

"I asked her what the problem was, and she said she was fired. I said why were you fired, you do a good job .... And that started me thinking, 'What is going on?'

"I started checking, really started checking," Stranske continued, "when each of us on the council got a copy of these evaluations of Bender and Assistant City Manager Cathy Moorhead done by employees."

"I was amazed at all the negative things that were said. I think there were 15 people who answered it. in great detail. "Two of the responses had positive things to say about Bender, and one of those responses was from Moorhead, he said.

"I just couldn't believe this," Stranske said. He told Willits Weekly that he then learned from an employee "that they had gone to the Grand Jury and asked them to check the situation over, and they did it because they were frightened for their

"I was called in {by the Grand Jury] and went down there," Stranske said. "I don't know who else they called – they don't name names.

"The thing that bothered me the worst," Stranske said, "was that Bender and [Moorhead] did the same thing and harassed people, and said nasty stuff to people.

Stranske also confirmed reports that Assistant City Manager Moorhead was out, saying the interim city manager had told him she'd be on leave until September and then would retire.

In addition to the disturbing comments from employees, Stranske said he was also concerned that Financial Director Manuel Orozco was put on administrative leave.

botch up with putting the finance department on leave.... I was really concerned that we were going to run out of money.'

Stranske, like Mayor Tom Allman, was also concerned about the use of consultants when, in in December.

The rest of Awards

From page 10

love what we do, serving the community, and our work is incredibly important."

That sense of purpose and human connection has inspired her every day. "I would have to say a lot of the team and the community, all the people I meet every day. they all have their stories and we're all well-connected. Neighbors and friends, my kids growing up here, their parents - it goes on and on. I have people who tell me, 'You took care of my mom, my grandma, me.' We're all committed to caring for the generations now and to come."

After 35 years, being recognized with a service award is no small feat. For Vickie, it's deeply personal. "The organization is community, and it makes a world of difference to me. The support and care we provide and all that we give back. It means so much to me to accept this award and work with this group of people."

Her impact is evident in the trust and familiarity patients have when they walk through the doors. "I think because I've been here so long, I have connections with people I've known and seen for a long time. They appreciate coming in and seeing a familiar face – it eases everyone. I think it's important as a healthcare organization to have that rapport with people to feel comfortable with their healthcare."

At the core of her approach has always been a simple steadfast principle: "I always treat people with respect and kindness, and I feel that it's important as a human being in healthcare to take that time to make them feel secure, confident, and cared for in all they come to us for. It makes it easy for me to come to work knowing I can do that for people."

She fondly remembers one particular patient who reminded her just how valuable her presence was. "One of the stories that sticks out most – I had a patient I've known for a very long time and he was in the ED. They weren't able to get his blood, and he was very upset. When I came in to help, he said: 'There you are! Where have you been? I'm so glad you're here – you're the only one who can take my blood.' I eased it over, I was able to get his blood. Then he was admitted, and in the morning, they couldn't get it again. The team came down and said, 'I need the old lady!" she laughs. "I'm older, but not that old!" The memory still brings a smile, and that patient still visits her today.

Vickie believes deeply in the power of teamwork and mentorship. "For us it's important we lead and set good examples. I train a lot of the people who come through and teach them all the things I know. This way we can all work together, and always treat people respectfully, with kindness, and be helpful wherever we're needed."

Despite all the years and lives touched, Vickie remains grounded. "I don't feel like I've done anything different or better than anyone else. Everyone has a purpose. Mine's always been caring for others - my work, my family, the people around me. It's easy - when you love what you do, it makes the job easy."

And when asked if she feels proud of what she's accomplished?

"I don't like to say I'm proud, but I'm very grateful to live and work in a place I love."

Congratulations, Vickie, and thank you for your amazing 35 years of service. We're so grateful to have you here

his estimation, there were city employees already on staff who could do the job.

The rest of

officer was empowered to take care

of regarding the communication

network which was owned by the

school district of Mendocino. It

was bought out by the City of Fort

Bragg in order to preserve and

ensure internet access for both

Continuing, Tyler-O'Shea said,

'The golf course ad hoc committee

met on July 2 and reviewed the RFP

[request for proposals] and made

suggestions for changes which are

reflected in this meeting's packet."

Neary if he had anything to add.

Neary said: "Yes, I have a couple of

things. The golf course operators

retained an attorney, Colby Friend,

and today I heard from him that the

operators want to withdraw their

notice of termination. That would

require the board to accept that

or to consent to it and that will be

the board at the July 22 meeting.

In the meantime, Mr. Friend and I

have agreed to meet to see if we

can work out some of the issues

and see if we can proceed with

District General Manager

Tamara Alaniz reported that the

new district office across the street

from the current office is just about

ready to be moved into and upon

opening there will be an exhibit of

Brooktrails memorabilia on display

in the front lobby for the public to

She said: "The office had also

noted quite a bit of online hubbub

and discussion, and we received

several calls regarding the level

of water in Lake Ada Rose. What

was occurring was maintenance.

For several years the dam safety

folks have wanted for us to

completely remove all of the cat

tails and rushes and have them

cut down so that when the lake is

full those are below the lake level.

That helps us for two reasons. By

enjoy viewing.

developing a termination plan."

She asked the District Counsel

communities – a good thing."

Stranske said the city council had given Bender a cap of \$60,000 to make decisions about hiring consultants on his own. Over that he was supposed to come before city council for approval.

"But." Stranske said: "he could do it two or three times, and then you were at \$180,000. We had no dea about that."

City Councilmember Matthew Alaniz sent Willits Weekly a statement on his reaction to the Grand

"The Grand Jury looking into citizen-led complaints is part of the democracy people are marching to protect," Alaniz said. "Still, when something like this comes out about the previous council and city manager, it's going to evoke a lot of emotions and strong personal opinions. Now is not the time for division; we must not let ourselves be distracted by our disagreements or by desperate pleas for approval and validation on social media.

"The people of Willits agree far more than we disagree," Alaniz continued, "and we need leaders who recognize our strengths; leaders that build bridges, not walls.

"I take the claims of a toxic workplace very seriously. Holding our city manager accountable for creating a constructive and productive workplace environment for all employees is the responsibility of every elected councilperson," Alaniz said.

"Regardless of what the Grand Jury report gets right or wrong, the people of Willits want their city council to put the needs of our city first, and that is my priority. My focus is on our city's financial health, finding a new city manager that represents Willits' core values, and in moving Willits forward -

Councilmember Bruce Burton also sent a comment to Willits Weekly: I wasn't following city affairs prior to applying for the position," he said, "so I was totally surprised to hear of some discontent. "We didn't have the [budget] numbers – such a I am hopeful we can reestablish a more positive environment with staff and management.

> Burton, a former city council member, was appointed in January to the seat left vacant on Willits City Council due to Greta Kanne's resignation

From page 1

chief's position, but if I had to pick one, it would be supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," joked Alvarez during a short speech about his new role.

"As I have now officially completed my probationar period, I know the job doesn't end here. It's only begun. The work of protecting lives and property never stops. As I stand here, no longer a probationary fire chief, but as a leader - fully committed and entrusted with your confidence - that trust is not something I take lightly, and it's something I'll continue to earn every single day."

The one-vear probationary period was an opportunity for volunteers to get a feel for how Chief Alvarez would perform in

a position that demands a great deal of responsibility. It seems Alvarez has proved himself more than capable. "Eric started out as a volunteer," board president Tony

Madrigal said, speaking to the group. "He took all the classes, did what he had to do. He's a perfect example of someone who started at the very bottom and worked his way to the top. I don't think he's ever stopped learning,

"The volunteers are a big part of this department," Madrigal continued. "Eric understands that, and he does everything possible to make sure they're safe, well-trained, and have the best equipment available. He does a great job keeping the board informed, and he has a great staff."

Chief Alvarez's family was there to celebrate his achievement with him. He thanked his wife, Jody, and his daughters for their love, support, and – most importantly – their patience. He concluded by thanking his staff and the volunteers "for always dropping whatever they're doing to protect our loved ones and our community."

Following the celebration, the board took a brief recess before reconvening to discuss department matters. Little Lake is still working to complete its fire safety

inspections for the city's various apartment buildings. Because it has received no response to letters requesting permission to complete the state-mandated inspections, the district has decided to proceed with the inspections and send its findings to the apartment owners or managers once completed, with a deadline of August 1.

The board and Little Lake staff also heard a presentation from Matt Keizer, chief Building and Fire Code official for the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, regarding Government Code Section 51178. The code states:

"The State Fire Marshal shall identify areas in the state

"LAFCO [Local Agency Formation reducing the vegetation we satisfy Commission] met recently, and the dam requirements, and we also there was an interesting, sort of conserve water because the plants emergency item that the executive use water."

She further stated: "We're continuing to see activity and receive feedback on abatement. Right now we are working to develop a chipper policy. Fire Chief Donaldson is excited about that, and we are looking forward to providing that to you fairly soon."

The focus then moved to the Consent Calendar's "Review and Approval of Accounts Payable Report and Authorization to Issue Checks" in the amount of \$117,424.29. The board's vote was unanimous to approve.

"Consideration of Request for Proposals for Management and Operations Services to Brooktrails Golf Course" was brought forth next for discussion.

The board of directors had decided on June 10 that staff would be instructed to circulate an an action item for consideration for RFP to solicit and recruit a new golf course operator and a new Golf Course Operations agreement. The current operator notified the district that they desired to end their management roles on December 31, 2025.

At its July 2 meeting with Alaniz, the specially formed ad hoc committee, Tyler-O'Shea and Mahonev. clarified some items, in particular what the responsibilities of the golf course manager would involve as well as the compensation for the operator.

The staff recommendation was that the board identify any final changes to the proposed RFP and move to direct the staff to circulate the final RFP and begin the search for a new golf course operator.

The board engaged in a lengthy discussion about the revised RFP. and it was agreed that a few minor changes were needed. Following the discussion a roll call vote was conducted, and the revised RFP was unanimously approved.



Above: Little Lake Fire Chief Eric Alvarez, second from left, poses at his 1-year celebration, with Little Lake staff, the board, and his wife, Jody Alvarez, at left, and to the right, Jason Whitby, Chief Alvarez's daughters Alyssa Alvarez and Kylie Alvarez, and Derrick Moore.

as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in

Recent legislation requires local fire departments across the state – like Little Lake – to adopt the state's fire hazard severity maps indicating LRAs, or local responsibility areas.

"What does that mean for our local district?" said Keizer. "What that means is that the regulations that are now the WUI [Wildland-Urban Interface] Code, and the regulations within Chapter 49 and Chapter 7A for WUIbuilt construction, will be brought into the local jurisdiction. Keizer explained that, essentially, homes in high to very high fire hazard severity areas will now have to be built

According to information on the Office of the State Fire

"The purpose of the WUI code, or California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, is to establish minimum standards for the protection of life and property by increasing the ability of a building to resist the intrusion of flames or burning embers projected by a vegetation fire and [to contribute] to a systematic reduction in conflagration losses.'

To determine the fire hazard severity zone of your property, you can visit the Office of the Fire Marshall at osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz and scroll down to "Find your Fire Hazard Severity Zone" to search with your address.

If you already have a structure or home in a high to very high fire hazard severity zone, Keizer said no changes will be required at this time. Currently, the changes apply only to new construction. More information can also be found on the City of Willits website at: www.cityofwillits. org/308/2025-Willits-LRA-Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zo

Warehouse 21

Jeremy "The Juggler"

Purdy Hall Building Closes

Flower, Fine Arts, & Home Arts Buildings Close

### \$30 PRESALE CARNIVAL WRISTBANDS AVAILABLE NOW THROUGH JULY 31 AT 2:30 PM (\$38 AT FAIR)

9:00

9:00

9:00

10:00

WTS

FG

FG

PH

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1	- THURSDAY, JULY 31s	t -	The same of the sa
S S	Kids (6-12yrs) & Seniors (65&over) Day - Free Ad		until 6:00pm
	Sheep Showmanship, Market & Breeding Show	JS	8:00
	Swine Market & Breeding Show	RP	8:00
	Welcome! Fair & Carnival Opens		3:00
	Animals From Around The World	PH	3:00-10:00
	Pony Rides	CIR	3:00
	Petting Zoo	CIR	3:00
	Arty Loon Show	FG	4:00
1	Watermelon Eating Contest	WTS	4:00
	Jeremy "The Juggler"	FG	5:00
	Beef Showmanship, Market & Breeding Show	RP	5:00
1	Arty Loon Show	FG	6:00
	DJ Ken Steely Playing Requests	WTS	6:00
	Side-by-Sides, Motorcycles, & Monster Trucks	GS	7:00
	Jeremy "The Juggler"	FG	7:00
	Junior Building Closes	JB	8:00
	Arty Loon Show	FG	8:00
	DJ Ken Steely Playing Requests	WTS	9:00
	Jeremy "The Juggler"	FG	9:00
	Flower, Fine Arts, & Home Arts Buildings Close	FG	9:00
1	Purdy Hall Building Closes	PH	10:00
đ			
	- FRIDAY, AUGUST 1st	-	
9	Swine Showmanship	RP	8:00
ÿ	Beef Ultrasound Carcass Contest	RP	9:30
ı	Pygmy Goat Show	JS	2:00
J	Welcome! Fair & Carnival Opens		3:00
	Animals From Around The World	PH	3:00-10:00
	Pony Rides	CIR	3:00
	Petting Zoo	CIR	3:00
	Arty Loon Show	FG	4:00
ı	Round Robin Showmanship – Large Animals	RP	4:00
å	Pie Eating Contest	WTS	4:00
š	Jeremy "The Juggler"	FG	5:00
	Arty Loon Show	FG	6:00
	Warehouse 21	WTS	6:00
8	Side-by-Sides, Motorcycles, Mudd Boggs	GS	7:00
ı	& Monster Trucks	FC	7:00
	Jeremy "The Juggler"  Round Robin Showmanship – Small Animals	FG JS	7:00
	Arty Loon Show	FG	7:00 8:00
	Junior Building Closes	JB	8:00
	dullor Building Closes	UD	0.00

		1						
9	- SATURDAY, AUGUST 2nd FAIR							
ı	COMMUNITY FIRST CREDIT UNION AG DAY							
ì	Junior Livestock Auction	RP	10:30					
ı	Welcome! Fair & Carnival Opens		12:00					
ı	"Fair Themed Cupcakes"	НА	12:00-3:00					
ı	Animals From Around The World	PH	12:00-10:00					
١	Pony Rides	CIR	12:00					
ı	Petting Zoo	CIR	12:00					
۱	Diaper Dash	WTS	3:00					
1	Arty Loon Show	FG	3:00					
1	Gunnie Sack Races	WTS	4:00					
1	Jeremy "The Juggler"	FG	4:00					
١	Arty Loon Show	FG	5:00					
1	Jeremy "The Juggler"	FG	6:00					
	Truck & Tractor Pulls Competition	GS	6:00					
	Black Horse Blues Band	WTS	6:00					
ı	Junior Building Closes	JB	8:00					
١	Arty Loon Show	FG	8:00					
q	Black Horse Blues Band	WTS	9:00					
Ì	Jer <mark>e</mark> my "The <mark>Juggler"</mark>	FG	9:00					
ì	Flower, Fine Arts, & Home Arts Buildings Close	FG	9:00					
ı	Purdy Hall Building Closes	PH	10:00					
ė								
1	- SUNDAY, AUGUST 3rd	-						
ı	Livestock Awards Ceremony	WTS	10:00					
ı	Welcome! Fair & Carnival Opens		12:00					
ı	"Fair Themed Cookies"	HA	12:00-3:00					
	Animals From Around The World	PH	12:00-9:00					
i	Pony Rides	CIR	12:00					
	Petting Zoo	CIR	12:00					
3	Ukiah Idols Finals "Little Idol & Junior Idol"	WTS	1:00					
ř	Ukiah Idols Finals "Grand Finals"	WTS	2:00					
d	Arty Loon Show	FG	3:00					
1	Hula Hoop Contest	WTS	4:00					
1	Jeremy "The Juggler"	FG	4:00					
į	Arty Loon Show	FG	5:00					
1	Jeremy "The Juggler"	FG	6:00					
	Boat Races & Junior Mudd Boggs	GS WTS	6:00 6:00					
9	Banda Pacifica, Elegancia RM, Marka LV, Traviesos De La Costa	WIS	0.00					
į	Arty Loon Show	FG	8:00					
١	Junior, Flower, Fine Arts & Home Arts Buildings Close	FG	8:00					
Jeremy "The Juggler" FG 9:00								
	Purdy Hall Building Closes PH 9:00							
	The state of the s		3.00					
۱	FAIR ADMISSION							
	Adults: \$10 • Senior 65+/Child 6-1	2: \$8						
1	Children 5 & Under: FREE							



At Adventist Health Howard Memorial, we're more than just your caregivers — we're your neighbors, your biggest supporters and your partners in wellness. We're dedicated to providing exceptional care for every stage of life throughout Mendocino County. Because when you feel your best, you can make every moment count.

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