

Donations Accepted Edition No. 648

Thursday, July 23, 2026

**By Yue Stella Yu
and Kristen Hwang,
CalMatters**

Editor's Note: This story was originally published by CalMatters. Sign up for their newsletters here: <https://calmatters.org/subscribe-to-calmatters>

California voters will decide on 14 statewide policy proposals come November, including the high-stakes billionaire tax, an \$11 billion affordable housing bond, and voter ID requirements.

On November 3, Californians will vote on 14 statewide ballot measures on the environment, taxation, election, housing and healthcare.

For months, interest groups sponsoring ballot initiatives spent heavily on ad blitzes and signature gathering to get on the ballot, but some agreed to withdraw high-profile proposals after striking deals with state leaders or other interest groups last week, ahead of Thursday's deadline to finalize the November ballot.

Rideshare giant Uber and the state's trial lawyers pulled rival measures in a deal with state lawmakers and healthcare labor

Read the rest of
Measures
Over on Page 9

**By Sergeant J. Woida,
for MCSO**

On July 7, 2026 at approximately 5:15 pm, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Covelo resident deputy was patrolling the 46000 block of Highway 162 between Covelo and Willits, when he observed a black Chevrolet Tahoe traveling in the same direction ahead of him.

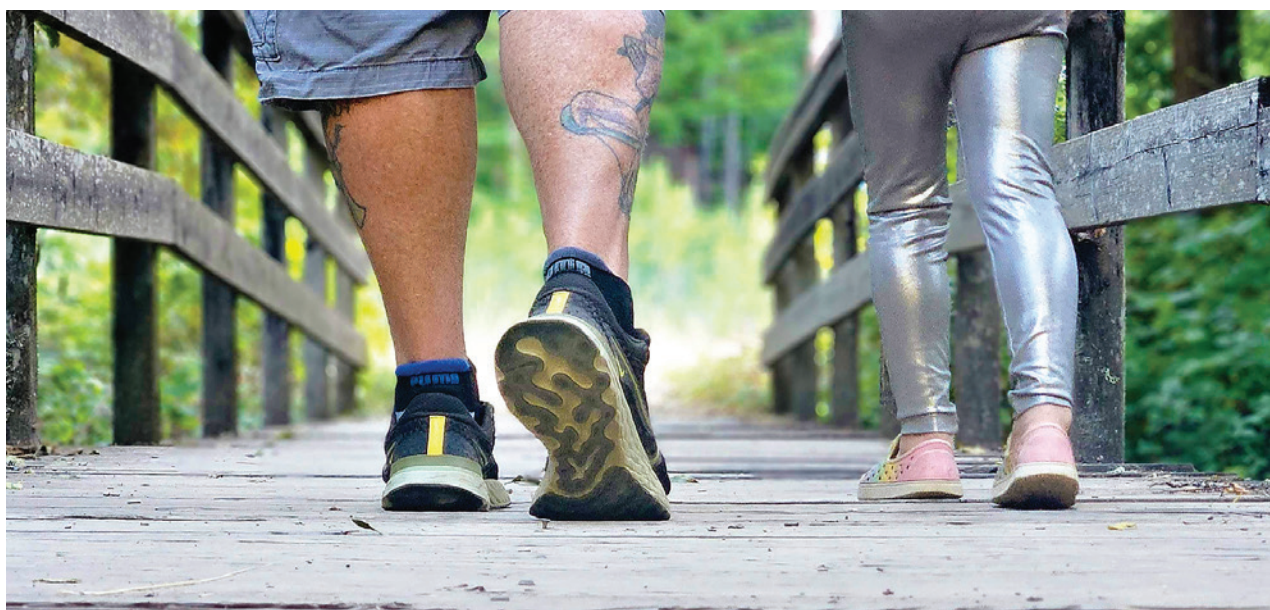
The Tahoe used a turnout to pull off the highway, allowing the MCSO deputy to pass. As the deputy passed the vehicle, he recognized the driver as Manuel Rodriguez, 31, from Covelo. The deputy was familiar with Rodriguez and knew he had two active felony warrants for his arrest. One warrant was for 3455(a) PC – Violation of Post Release Community Supervision, and the other was for 2800.2 VC – Reckless Evasion of a Peace Officer.

Post Release
Community Supervision
is a form of community
supervision established
under California law for
certain offenders released
from state prison after
serving a sentence for a
non-serious, non-violent,
and non-sex-registerable

Read the rest of
Warrants
Over on Page 9



From left: Helpful maps show which way to go at the Brooktrails Par Course, which has wide-open walking and biking spaces, as well as workout stations, and even a small playground, too.



A few installed bridges cross over still-wet creeks around the Par Course trails.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

... or a gentle walk,
whatever works, but get
out and enjoy some
nature in Brooktrails

Even if it's hot in the sun, it's cool in the shade at the Brooktrails Par Course, located just south of the Brooktrails Lodge on Birch Street, in Brooktrails, the township north of Willits. The area offers trails that have flat and hilly stretches, perfect for walking or biking.

Tall redwood trees, wildlife in the land, air and water, giant ferns, wildflowers, and a still-running creek all are sights to see as you journey along the trails.

A playground with a funhouse, swings and a spinning ride, and the old ball field, not in use any

Shorter and longer loops are possible by combining trails to adjust to your fitness, and interest, level. There are a few exercise stations set along the paths, guiding visitors through stretches or strength-building motions.

Tall redwood trees, wildlife in the land, air and water, giant ferns, wildflowers, and a still-running creek all are sights to see as you journey along the trails.

A playground with a funhouse, swings and a spinning ride, and the old ball field, not in use any more, but a great place to run and play, both sit at the beginning of the trail. Learn more and see the full map of trails throughout Brooktrails online at www.btcscd.org.

– *Maureen Jennison*

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

It started raining at my house in town around 11:20 am on Tuesday. It suddenly got quite dark, so I went outside to check it out, and it was sprinkling. It rained here for about an hour and half, and it was raining moderately hard for about 15 minutes of that stretch.

An app called RainDrop, which the farm was reporting .02" of rain in Willits and also .02" of rain in Brooktrails at 1 pm on June 21. Weather Underground reported "light rain" for a couple weather stations in the Willits area between 11 am and 1 pm.

The beautiful smell of petrichor was in the air, as the dry earth and plants enjoyed the brief rainfall, along with the people.

The National Weather Service did predict a 20% chance of rain on Tuesday for the Willits area.

There was still some water in Broadus Creek flowing under Main Street on Tuesday, too, though it was pooling more than flowing all that much.

Measurable rain in July in Willits is considered “extremely rare”; as the AI overview from Google search results puts it:

Read the rest of **Rain**
Over on Page 4

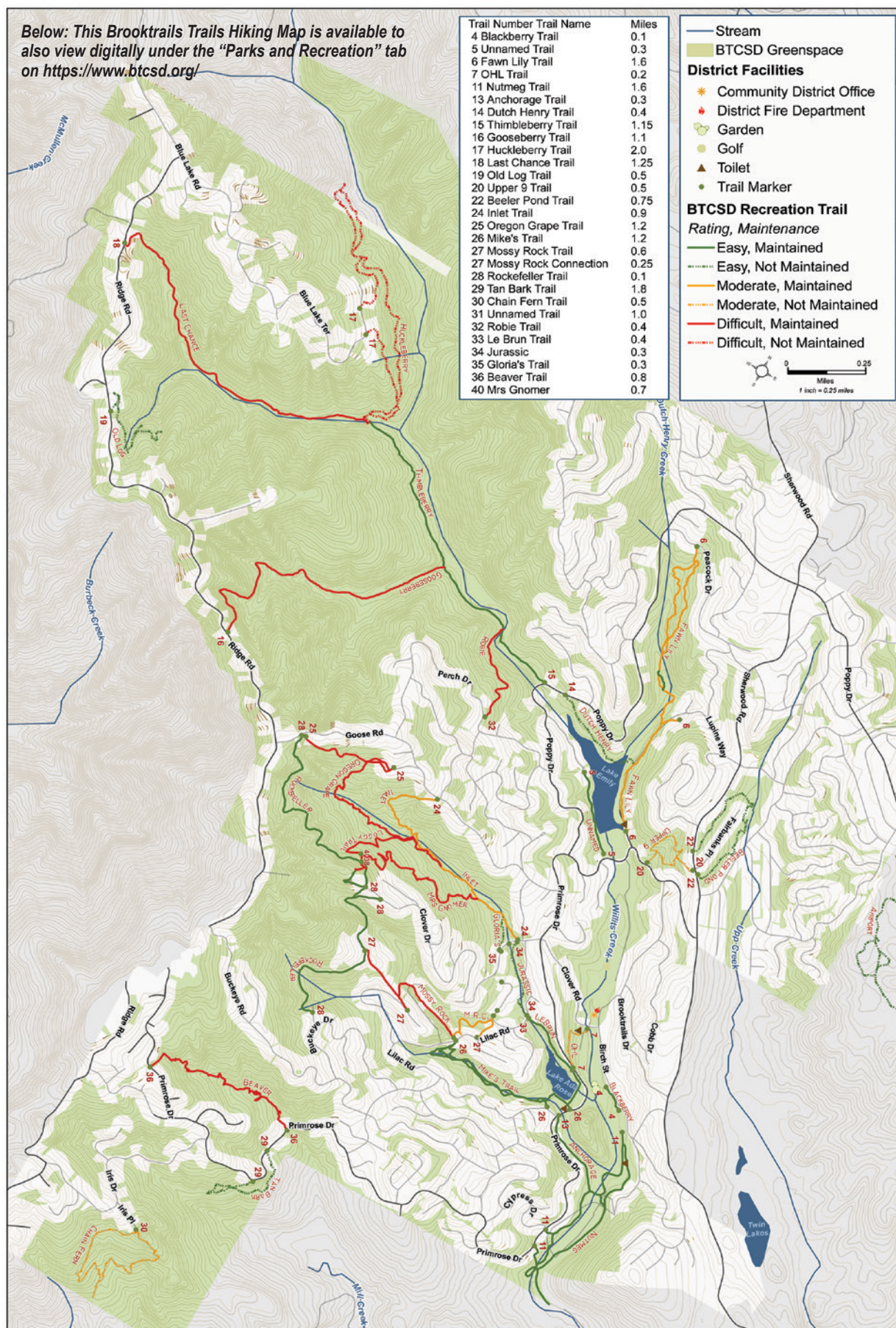
**By Captain Quincy
Cromer for MCSO**

July 15 – As a part of the continuing investigation into the homicide discovered July 9 in Covelo, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies and investigators were able to identify and notify the legal next-of-kin for the decedent. The decedent was identified as Josepha Littlewolf Basurto, a 31-year-old female from Covelo.

An autopsy was performed on July 15, 2026, and the preliminary cause of death was determined to be a gunshot wound of the torso, with the manner of death being a homicide. The final cause and manner of death will not be released until the forensic pathologist completes all investigative reports associated with the autopsy and coroner's investigation.

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

Read the rest of
Victim
Over on Page 4



Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

ON THE TRAIL WORD SEARCH

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

ALTITUDE SICKNESS
BACKPACKING
BASE CAMP
BLAZE
CAIRN
DAYPACK
ELEVATION
FILTER

GAITERS
HEADLAMP
HIKE
LEAVE NO TRACE
LOOP
POLES
REGISTER
REST

SCRAMBLING
SECTION
SWITCHBACK
TENT
TRAILHEAD
TRAIL MIX
TREKKING
WILDLIFE

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

CLUES ACROSS

- Listen to
- Presents
- A type of guitar
- Actor Idris
- A citizen of Iran
- Preteniously artistic
- Harness
- Diamond weight measurement
- 'Better Call ___'
- Fervent support
- Male cat
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Disposed to venture or take risks
- A way to nail
- Cool!
- Women's ___ movement
- 'Losing My Religion' rockers
- Step-shaped recess
- A princess can detect it
- Tractor-trailer
- Leslie and Leon are two
- Color at the end of the spectrum
- Lines where fabrics are sewn
- Dodgers great Hersheiser
- Floor covering
- Traveled aimlessly
- Rocker Stewart

- Body art
- Congressman (abbr.)
- No seats available
- Breaks apart
- Hand gesture
- Ballplayer's tool
- Sword
- Baseball team
- Upper bract of floret of grass
- Italian Seaport
- Mars crater
- Tube on a shoelace
- U. of Miami mascot
- South American nation
- Video game series 'Max ___'
- Upper body part
- Defunct monetary unit
- Challenges
- Body part
- Tell on
- By way of
- Shady green alcove
- Egyptian city
- ___ and flowed
- Widens a hole
- Eurasian wheat
- Act incorrectly
- 'Be back later'
- Al Bundy's wife
- Ocean
- Large root eaten as a vegetable
- Units of subjective loudness
- Music genre
- A way to drench
- Popular hot beverage
- Silk-like cotton fabric
- Rumanian city
- Come back
- Vaccine developer
- Canadian law enforcers
- Wings
- Observational comedian Bill
- Small fry
- ___ Clapton, musician
- Take a chance
- Semi-liquid food for babies
- Consumed food

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

June 29 to July 4
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **103 incidents** in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

June 29
12:43 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.
10:53 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.
3:05 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
4:45 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
8:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
8:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
9:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
9:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of California Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.
9:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of Locust Street and issued a warning.
10:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.
11:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Wood Street.
11:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of School Street and Wood Street and issued a warning.

July 3
12:23 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.
3:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a citation.
8:31 pm: LANGENDERFER, Thomas David (56) of Willits was contacted in the 600 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole.

July 4
11:07 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Penn Street and East Valley Street and issued a warning.
12:13 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive and issued a warning.
3:24 pm: NEELY II, Joel Dean (42) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of willful cruelty to a child and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol.

July 5
12:17 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
12:29 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Madrone Street and issued a warning.
12:41 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
12:52 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

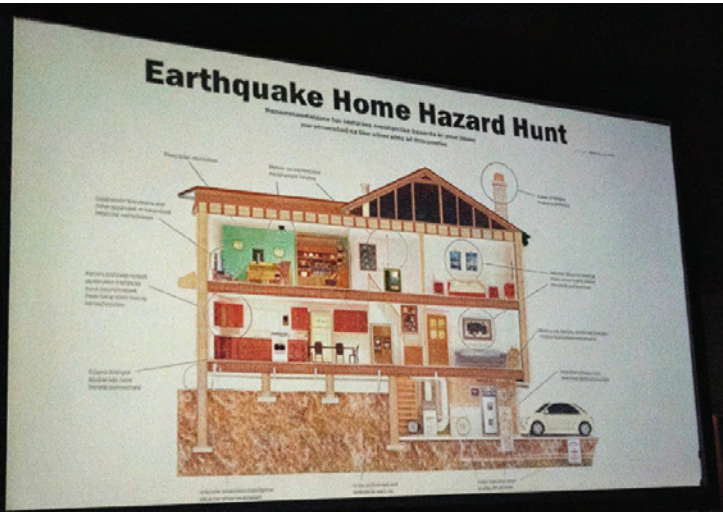
The rest of
Rain From page 1

"Because July is the height of the dry season, the historical chance of a wet day is basically 0%, though extreme, localized summer thunderstorms have occasionally brought brief, measurable downpours to the area."

According to the Western Regional Climate Center, one of those summer storms brought 1.25 inches of ran to Willits on July 8, 1974.

The rest of
Victim From page 1

As reported in the original MCSO press release, "On July 9, 2026 at approximately 8:58 pm, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a female advising she located her family member deceased in a rural area outside of Covelo.
"The 911 caller stated their deceased family member was located inside a vehicle in the 22000 block of Rifle Range Road northwest of Covelo.
"Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were in Covelo at the time the call was received and responded with their emergency lights and sirens to the scene. Emergency medical personnel were dispatched, and deputies requested additional law enforcement personnel from throughout Mendocino County to include the California Highway Patrol.
MCSO deputies arrived in the area within approximately 15 minutes and assessed the scene. An adult female victim was located inside a silver 2007 Toyota Tacoma pickup and was confirmed to be deceased at approximately 9:17 pm on July 9, 2026....
"MCSO deputies noted numerous apparent gunshot wounds. The scene where the victim and vehicle were located was at a large illicit marijuana cultivation operation, which was also investigated by law enforcement personnel who responded to this incident."



Above, left: This chart how to mitigate home hazards in case of a major earthquake. Above, right: Christina Tipp, who works with SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists in Willits, and is a certified engineering geologist as well as a Buti instructor at Flourish & Flow, holds up one of the three guidebooks that were provided to attendees during the recent meeting.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Cowboy Dallas

Dallas is a big lovable mixed-breed male dog, 5 years old, and 75 pounds. He's a people-loving, endlessly loyal, treat-motivated, tail-wagging kind of guy who loves squeaky toys and making humans laugh with his goofy expressions and antics. He'd love a home where he can join the family for all the fun stuff: tricks, walks, couch snuggles, and maybe a little taste-testing in the kitchen.

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.mendocinanimalshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

Adorable Argentina

Argentina is a beautiful female Calico kitten, with short hair with black, orange and white markings. She has with three adoptable and adorable siblings: Messi (male, black and white), Haaland (male, grey with white tuxedo markings), and Norway (another female Calico, with longer hair). These beauties are 2 months old, new to the shelter, and are ready to steal your heart.

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



Argentina



Haaland

Getting Ready
How to prepare your home for and protect yourself during the next big earthquake

"That June 24, 5.6 earthquake really shook up the neighborhood," started Christina Tipp, an engineering geologist at SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists here in Willits, at the Earthquake Preparedness & Fault talk at the Flourish & Flow studio.

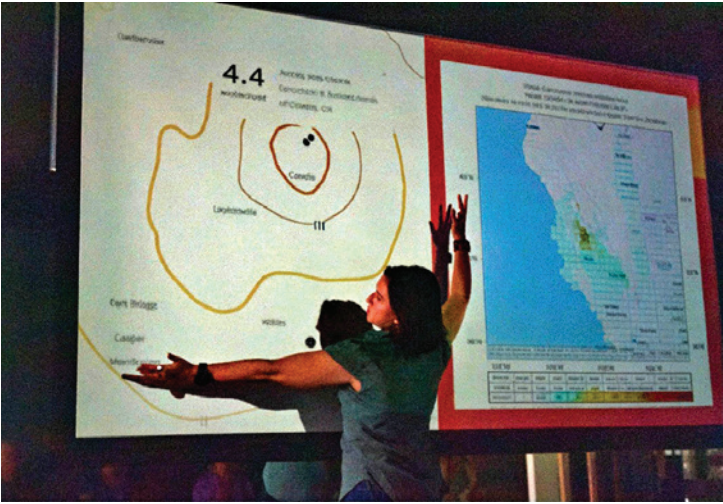
Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"A lot of people here just froze, not knowing what to do. Then they wondered, 'What do we do to get ready at home?' I heard a lot of talk here in the studio. I said, 'well, I can tell you people what to do if you want.' People were just interested. A lot of adults do not know what to do when an earthquake hits. There hasn't been a big one up here for a very long time. I gathered some resources, my knowledge from the earthquakes down in Southern California. I also had four years up in Arcata, near the Triple Junction. We've had some sizable earthquakes up there, too."

Last Saturday evening, a small but interested group of locals, including a couple from Covelo, who had a recent 4.4 magnitude earthquake, gathered in the studio room at Flourish & Flow Mendocino, where Tipp is also a Buti Movement and Strength Training instructor, to hear about the nature and geology of earthquakes and ways that they could protect themselves and their families by preparing ahead of time.

Tipp did mention that getting ready for wildfires, as people in the area have done, is similar to earthquake preparation, which gives the people here a head start on gathering resources and making plans for the steps to take after a major quake occurs. "I feel this community is probably more prepared than they realize, based on all the wildfire preparedness. People having their go bags, and being ready to stay at home during storms when power is out," Tipp said.

"A fault runs right down Main Street. I have some photos to show today. There are signs of it in the streets, but they're small enough that most people wouldn't notice. I know where to look so I check on them. I walk on my lunch break and check out these locations. I'm going to show some pictures right in town, right near the Post Office, right in downtown Willits on where the fault goes, where you can see where the fault is." Through her slides and photos, the group was able to see some of the effects of the Maacama fault, which runs through Willits.



Above: Geologist Christina Tipp utilized several charts to show how magnitudes of earthquakes diminish in distance from the epicenter.



Christina Tipp interacts with attendees from Willits and Covelo, both sites of recent earthquake activity.



From left: This chart showed most of the materials that people should keep on hand to sustain life after a major earthquake. The charts at the "Earthquake" Tipp's charts showed how to stay as safe as possible during an earthquake. Erin Corley generously provided the space for the earthquake session by one of her instructors, Christina Tipp

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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church

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

Amazing Grace Church Assembly of God Church

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

Church of Christ

"What must we do to be saved?"

Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-
6-7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-
7-8:00 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

- A University for Soul
 - Spiritual Living Courses
 - Spiritual Discussions
 - ECK Light & Sound Services
- More information?
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www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church

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

St. John Lutheran Church

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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

Willits United Methodist Church

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

If you want to be included in
this column please call:

April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Thursday, July 23

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, July 23 from 3 to 5:30 pm, for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

Friday, July 24

"Louisa@Fruitlands" at WCT: the closing weekend for the world premiere of acclaimed writer Daniel Rover Singer's remarkable new play, "Louisa@Fruitlands," the true story of wild child Louisa May Alcott drawn from her memoir, "Transcendental Wild Oats." Directed by Eric Ward. Desa Holt stars as the vibrant young Louisa, with her real-life mother Haley Morse as the grown-up Louisa. The cast includes Phaedra and Joe Swearingin, Schuyler Marcier, Prana, Garrett Moore, Hiram "Jonesy" Jones, Jeff Shipp, Jeshua Holt, and Jeremy Daw. Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25 at 7 pm and Sunday, July 26 at 2 pm, at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Tickets: \$25; available at wctperformingartscenter.org

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

Saturday, July 25

'Running to Win' Campaign Training: The second part of a campaign training workshop presented by the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, Saturday, July 25 from 10 am to 2 pm. Designed for anyone thinking of running for office and those planning to assist candidates, campaign staff, and volunteers. This training is open to everyone. Willits Environmental Center, 630 South Main Street. Registration is \$25, and for MWPC members, the training is free. More info: Val Muchowski at vmuchowski@gmail.com or Lynda McClure at (707) 272-0580 or mclurelynda48@gmail.com



space for mothers & littles hosted by doulas Kaitan and Suraya. The last Saturday of every month, Saturday, July 25 this month, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Healing House, 48 East San Francisco in Willits. Tea & snacks provided. \$5-\$20 suggested donation. Info: 707-599-4207.

FOWL Pop-up Book Sale, August 8 to 18

Friends of the Willits Library presents a Pop-Up Book Sale at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Saturday, August 8 to Tuesday, August 18. A wide assortment of books in excellent condition. Only \$1 each. Willits Library 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.

First Fridays Summer Concert Series resumes August 7

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



Mid week promotions: Wednesday - Matinee prices to all shows all day.



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

"Louisa@Fruitlands" at WCT: the world premiere of Daniel Rover Singer's remarkable new play, the true story of wild child Louisa May Alcott drawn from her memoir, "Transcendental Wild Oats." Saturday, July 25 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, July 24 listing for more details.

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

Sunday, July 26

Willits Frontier Days Horse Show: the annual Willits Frontier Days Horse Show, on Sunday, July 26, starting at 8 am, at the Jack Sharp Arena on East Commercial Street. Free admission. Equestrians have been showing their skills at the WFD Horse Show since the beginning of the event in the late 1920s. Awards are given for high point and reserve high point winners in age classes. Local perpetual trophies are also awarded, in memory of Barbara Hamilton, John Fish, Randy Clark, and Don and Petie Coleman, and two sponsored by the R Horse Ranch and the Goss family. These trophies are for local riders aged 17 and under who live in Mendocino County.

Grange Pancake Breakfast: Join us at the Grange for a wonderful collection of comfort foods -our "scratch" pancakes (sourdough wholegrain, Hank's famous buttermilk, or gluten-free) plus organic, local farm-fresh scrambled eggs, Beeler's Quality bacon, real butter, juice and organic coffee or tea for only \$131 (\$11 for Senior plate, \$5 for kids under 10). Extra sides of organic fruit, Amish organic maple syrup, fresh fruit syrup



Friends of the Mendocino County Museum: 400 East Commercial Street.

Wednesday, July 29
Karaoke at the Whistle Stop: Garraoke presents the Whistle Stop Summer Series of Karaoke, every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, July 29 this week, outside on the patio, from 5 to 9 pm. 280 East Commercial Street. All ages. No cover.

Thursday, July 30

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

Friday, July 31

Self-Fulfilling Prophecies at Shanachie: Mendocino County band plays original music with elements of punk, folk and rock, featuring Morgan Stocker, Buckminster West, and Bodhi Idarius, who all grew up in Ukiah, formed a band, moved to Portland and came back to their hometown. Also, Blair Rowland on drums. Friday, July 31, 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main.

Saturday, August 1

Musical Storytime at the Library: Richard Jeske, also known as Tootreese, will present a story hour at the Willits Library on Saturday, August 1 from 1 to 2 p.m. This fun, interactive Storytime will feature stories and inclusive songs, accompanied by guitar music, guaranteeing an afternoon of fun and enjoyment. Tootreese has been leading the Willits Farmers Market Band for over 20 years. He loves sharing stories and music with people of all ages. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. More info: www.mendolib.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

or bacon for a small additional fee. Every fourth Sunday, Sunday, July 26 this month, from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Punch cards are available for purchase: \$100 buys 10 months of breakfasts, a savings of \$30 a year.

"Louisa@Fruitlands" at WCT: the world premiere of Daniel Rover Singer's remarkable new play, the true story of wild child Louisa May Alcott drawn from her memoir, "Transcendental Wild Oats." Closing show this afternoon, Sunday, July 26 at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, July 24 listing for details.

Sunday History and Waffles at the Museum: Join us for a fun afternoon watching the great historic and local film, "The Prowler," produced in 1939 by Willits High School. Enjoy the historic footage of Willits and the great work of local students depicting a bygone era. Sunday, July 26, 2 to 3 pm. "Waffle" ice cream cones will be provided by the

August show at WCA: Join us at Willits Center for the Arts for the opening reception for "Burning and Turning," featuring metalwork by Morgan Rex and wood turning by Ken Burton. Saturday, August 1, from 6 to 8 pm, with food, refreshments and artful vibes. Morgan Rex has been producing home and garden décor made from metal and glass in Willits for over 40 years. Ken Burton, aka Woodturned707, has been turning wood for over 10 years, crafting bowls and other vessels from beautiful local woods. The exhibit runs through Sunday August 30, with gallery hours Fridays through Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. More info: visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Night Animals at Shanachie: six-piece funk band from San Francisco plays infectious originals and electrifying covers, with seductive vocals, twisting horn lines, hypnotic rhythms, and delicious guitar licks. Saturday, August 1, 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main.



COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES



Dan Essman
Columnist

'The Odyssey'

The Story: The Trojan War has finally ended. Odysseus (Matt Damon), the Greek warrior king of Ithaca, sets sail with his men on the long sea journey home, back to Ithaca and especially back to his beautiful, tough, politically savvy wife Queen Penelope (Anne Hathaway). After 20+ years away, most folks believe that Odysseus is dead. A crowd of greedy/slimy men have invaded Ithaca. They are competing to marry Queen Penelope, but she's absolutely refusing. She knows in her fierce and stubborn heart that her beloved King Odysseus will return.

Meanwhile: Odysseus and his men are confronting a long list of monstrous problems: There's the one-eyed giant "Cyclops" who kills a bunch of them, then there's the powerful witch "Circe" (Samantha Morton) who hates men because they rape and kill, then there's the "Sirens" whose song drives sailors to suicide, and (but no more spoilers) the list of obstacles to Odysseus' return home goes on.

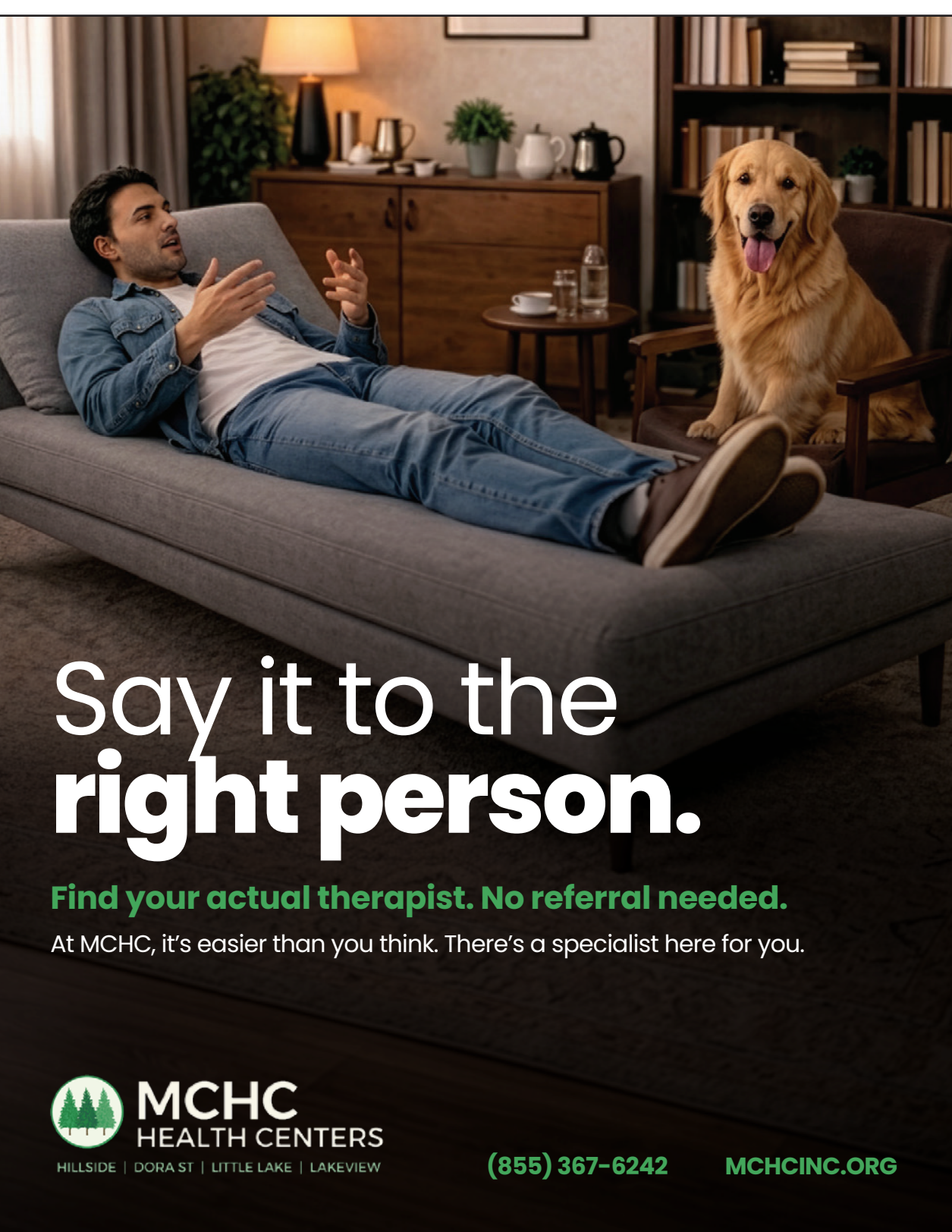
My Thoughts: 'The Odyssey' is a totally non-stupid movie. At its center is the Greek idea of 'hubris' the sin of pride. Because Odysseus is famous among the Greeks for his clever intelligence, his prideful strength has become a flaw - a fatal flaw. He believes he can solve any problem, but he can't. A man can't "out-think" Fate, nor defy the Gods.

Odysseus and his men, who have beaten the Trojans and just want to go home, will suffer for their pride. This is a great story. It has values. It is meaningful and coherent. I've seen it twice.

(Plus, I'd like to make a special shout-out to actor Robert Patinson who plays a truly creepy suitor).

Parents: This movie is too complex and adult for children. Teens and up.

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





Above: Willits Community Services Executive Director Wendy Copperfield, center, with her crew at the Willits Food Bank, give the thumbs up in thanks for the donation.

At left: Mendo Food Network loaded up a truckful of food last week, donated by Willits Grocery Outlet, to transport to the Willits Food Bank.

Trash along Baechtel Creek

Editor's Note: Willits Weekly reader who preferred to remain anonymous sent in these photos and comments.

Hi Willits,

This morning, July 15, we picked up household trash and four tires at the beginning of Muir Mill Road. I'm appreciative that someone before us had collected a bag, too, but probably couldn't fit it in their car, so left it up top for easy pick-up.

Much of Muir Mill Road follows the course of Baechtel Creek as it comes down into Willits.

I'm not sure if people are too poor to pay the dump fees, THINK they're paying someone else to go to the dump (who pockets the fees), or are just STUPID and don't care about the fish, wildlife, or those downstream.

I am saddened by the choices people make. I'm thankful for neighbors that pick up trash like we do.



At left: Assorted trash fills one of the bins of garbage picked up at the top of Muir Mill Road last week. Below: Dumped tires and tubs and a bag of trash picked up on Muir Mill Road on their way to the transfer station.



Grocery Outlet donates food to Willits Community Services

Grocery Outlet, which expects to be closed for a few more weeks, has donated nine pallets of food to the Willits Food Bank – helped by the Mendo Food Network, which loaded and transported the food to the Food Bank warehouse.

"The good news is we've got a lot of good stuff going over to the Food Bank," said David McKinney of the Willits Grocery Outlet in his latest video posted on Facebook. "The bad news is, we're still a few weeks away [from reopening]. We've reported a lot of things, just trying to give you the best information we can, and [sometimes] the information that we get is not always 100% accurate or it changes. We'll keep you posted as best we can."

"This is what community looks like," posted Mendo Food Network about their organization's part in facilitating the food donations. "When challenges arise, our community shows up."

Grocery Outlet "made the generous decision to donate perfectly good food that needed to be used rather than let it go to waste," they posted.

"This is what partnership is all about – businesses, nonprofits, and neighbors coming together to care for one another. In difficult moments, kindness has a way of multiplying. A heartfelt thank you to Willits Grocery Outlet for your generosity and commitment to our community, and to everyone who works behind the scenes to make sure good food reaches local families," posted Mendo Food Network.

"Together, we're stronger. Together, we feed Mendocino County."

"Mendo Food Network saves the day!" posted the Willits Food Bank.... "Thank you Renee, Robert, and David & Karin of Willits Grocery Outlet, for helping our food bank receive these items. Our little van was never going to be able to get this back to our warehouse."

Willits Food Bank gave out food to 300 families on Wednesday last week, "with lots of extras for Friday," they posted. "Thanks to Grocery Outlet."

The rest of Measures | From page 1

unions, and the California Hospital Association agreed to pull two measures that would have capped hospital executive pay and restricted spending by healthcare unions.

Here's what's on your November ballot:

Proposition 40: Billionaire tax

What it does: This high-profile measure would apply a one-time 5% wealth tax on the assets of roughly 200 California billionaires, to be paid over five years. Ninety percent of the revenue would go to pay for healthcare for low-income Californians and 10% toward education and food assistance programs.

Supporters: Service Employees International Union–United Healthcare Workers West, independent U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, Teamsters California and AFSCME California

Opponents: Gov. Gavin Newsom, prominent billionaires including Google co-founder Sergey Brin and Ripple Labs co-founder Chris Larsen, the California Teachers Association, California Primary Care Association and California Medical Association

Proposition 41: Audit new tax spending

What it does: This measure in response to the billionaire tax proposal would require state audits of programs funded by new taxes. It would also apply revenue from new taxes to the state's spending cap, which requires that spiking revenue go back to taxpayers or toward education. That would effectively cancel out the wealth tax proposal. If voters approve both measures, the one with more votes will prevail.

Supporters: Building a Better California, primarily funded by Brin and venture capitalists John Doerr and Michael Moritz, Reform California and California Chamber of Commerce

Opponents: Proponents of the billionaire tax initiative

Proposition 42: Prohibit new personal property tax and retroactive taxes

What it does: This measure is also aimed at undercutting the wealth tax proposal. It would prevent new taxes on personal property, which would offset the wealth tax. If both pass, the one with more votes prevails.

Supporters: Building a Better California, Reform California, the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California and California Chamber of Commerce

Opponents: Proponents of the billionaire tax initiative

Proposition 3: Make high-earner income tax permanent

What it does: The measure seeks to make permanent a temporary income tax – up to 12% – on high earners that voters approved in 2012. The tax applies to household income over \$721,000 for couples and over \$360,000 for individuals. The tax generates between \$5-15 billion each year for K-12 schools and community colleges. It is set to expire in 2031.

Supporters: California Teachers Association, California Federation of Teachers and California School Employees Association

Opponents: California Taxpayers Association

Proposition 43: Higher threshold for local special taxes

What it does: This would raise the threshold for citizen-driven special tax ballot initiatives to pass from a simple majority to two-thirds, making it harder to impose or increase taxes. The measure, placed on the ballot at the last minute by state lawmakers, reflects a deal state leaders struck with Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Supporters: Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Opponents: Editor's note: this CalMatters story didn't list any opponents to Proposition 43, but the draft of the Official Voter Information Guide for the November 3, 2026, General Election for public review at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/public-display has an argument against from the No. on Prop 43 committee out of Sacramento.

Proposition 1: Affordable housing bond

What it does: This would allow the state to borrow a record \$11.25 billion for affordable housing, with \$10 billion to buy, build, rehabilitate and preserve affordable homes and \$1.25 billion to help veterans buy homes.

Supporters: Newsom, Democratic state lawmakers, the California Apartment Association and AFL-CIO California

Opponents: Republican state lawmakers

Proposition 37: \$25 billion homebuying loan

What it does: This would create a \$25 billion mortgage loan program for home buyers who make less than 200% of the area median income. The measure would offer fixed-rate mortgages for up to 17% of the purchase price on homes priced under \$1.5 million. Home buyers must pay at least 3% of their down payment.

Supporters: Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Hertzberg, Building a Better California, the California Association of Realtors, United

Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and Western States Regional Council of Carpenters

Proposition 2: Rainy day fund

What it does: This constitutional amendment from top Democratic leaders would allow the state to deposit up to 20% of its general fund tax revenue into its rainy day fund each year, instead of the current 10%. The state could also spend some tax revenue to pay down its \$20 billion federal unemployment insurance debt.

Supporters: Newsom and legislative Democrats

Opponents: Legislative Republicans

Proposition 45: Expedited environmental review

What it does: This would amend the state's landmark California Environmental Quality Act to create deadlines for environmental reviews of most housing, transportation, water, health and clean energy projects to speed up permitting and limit the court's ability to stop or delay developments.

Supporters: California Chamber of Commerce, Building a Better California, the California Building Industry Association, PG&E and Edison

Opponents: Clean and Healthy California, a coalition of environmental advocates and the California State Building and Construction Trades Council

Proposition 39: Voter ID

What it does: This constitutional amendment would require voters to present government-issued ID when voting in person or the last four digits of their ID number when voting by mail.

Supporters: Reform California, Californians for Voter ID and Republican U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert

Opponents: League of Women Voters of California, ACLU California Action and California Donor Table

Proposition 4: Public campaign financing

What it does: This measure would give California governments the authority to set up public financing systems for state and local political candidates. Public campaign financing has been banned in California since 1988. State lawmakers approved the measure last year to send it to voters this November.

Supporters: California Common Cause, California Clean Money Campaign, League of Women Voters and ACLU California Action

Opponents: California Taxpayers Association

Proposition 5: Recall election reform

What it does: After a recall, this constitutional amendment would eliminate the election to pick a successor immediately, such as when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger replaced the recalled Gov. Gray Davis, instead leaving the post vacant until it's filled in a separate election. It would also allow the recalled official to run for the office again.

Supporters: League of Women Voters, California Common Cause and Secretary of State Shirley Weber

Opponents: Election Integrity Project California

Proposition 44: Clinic funding

What it does: This measure would require federally qualified health centers to spend 90% of revenue on direct patient care and services that aid in providing care to low-income and underserved people. Clinics that don't comply would be fined; the money would go into a state-operated account for worker training and staffing.

Supporters: Service Employees International Union–United Healthcare Workers West

Opponents: The California Primary Care Association, which represents clinics, the California Medical Association, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California and the California Teachers Association

Proposition 38: Immunology research bond

What it does: This would allow the state to borrow \$8.4 billion in debt to research immune system-based technologies for treating conditions including cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's. The money would be divided between a University of California-affiliated nonprofit and a grant for public or nonprofit institutions. Any resulting technology and drugs from the research would be sold at 20% below the national average.

Supporters: Gary Michelson, philanthropist and funder of the California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy, Meyer Luskin, philanthropist and institute board member, The ALS Association, The Alzheimer's Association and Blood Cancer United

Opponents: Robert Kaplan, former associate director of the National Institutes of Health

CalMatters' Ben Christopher contributed reporting to this story.

The rest of Warrants | From page 1

felony. Individuals placed on PRCS are supervised by the County Probation Department and are required to comply with specific terms and conditions of supervision.

Rodriguez had been sought by the Sheriff's Office since June of 2026, when the warrants were issued by a Mendocino County Superior Court Judge.

As the MCSO deputy turned around to contact Rodriguez, Rodriguez also turned around and began driving eastbound and back toward Covelo. The deputy initiated a traffic enforcement stop; however, Rodriguez failed to yield, leading the deputy on a slow-speed pursuit for several miles.

Rodriguez ultimately decided to stop the vehicle, and was taken into custody without further incident. The MCSO deputy also detained the passenger, Donald Rettig, 62, from Covelo. Rettig was determined to have an active felony warrant for his arrest for 1320(b) PC – Failure to appear, with the originating charge being 11395(b)(1) HS – Possession of a dangerous drug with two or more prior convictions. Rettig was also arrested without incident.

Rodriguez and Rettig were transported to the Mendocino County Jail and both are being held on a no bail status. Rodriguez was additionally booked into the Mendocino County Jail on new charges of 2800.1 VC – Evading a Peace Officer, and 3544(a) PC – Violation of Post Release Community Supervision.

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

The rest of Program | From page 2

First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom has championed California's Farm to School Program to expand access to healthy, locally grown food for students. First launched in the 2021-2022 budget, the program has helped drive lasting change in California's school food system. Administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Farm to Fork, the Farm to School Incubator Grant program supports sustainable, local food procurement, minimally processed school meals programs, and hands-on education for students from early childhood education through 12th grade. With ongoing funding secured in Governor Newsom's 2026-27 state budget, in partnership with the California Legislature, this program will continue to improve children's health while strengthening local food systems and creating new opportunities for small and mid-sized farmers.

The initiative supports California farmers and local economies by helping schools purchase more food from nearby farms and producers, ensuring that more dollars stay within local communities. Through the Farm to School Incubator Grant Program, every \$1 invested leads to \$2.10 of economic activity generated for communities, illustrating the bigger impact beyond the cafeteria.

"Thank you Governor Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom for the many actions you have taken to support school children," said CDOA Secretary Karen Ross. "Farm to school programming helps students build lifelong relationships with nutritious food while providing consistent demand needed to sustain local small farmers. It has been a pleasure helping 49% of California students benefit from the Farm to School Incubator Grant Program so far, and CDOA looks forward to continuing this important work of sustaining local, resilient food systems."

To date, 80% of Incubator grantees are Title I schools and 100% of farmer grantees are small, mid-size, or socially/economically disadvantaged producers (veterans, women, indigenous, people of color, and limited-resource farm households). Additionally, 100% of producers funded through the grant program utilize climate smart, organic, and regenerative agricultural practices.

With 1 in 6 children facing hunger in the U.S., California became the first state to guarantee every public school student – nearly 6 million children – free school meals regardless of income. California is paving the way for the country to make healthy, minimally processed school meals a part of every child's school day.

Visit www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Farm-to-School-One-Pager-FINAL.pdf to read a graphic summarizing California's Farm to School Program.

The rest of Projects | From page 2

This month's approved list of funding includes:

- \$257 million to build a network of mobility hubs in southwest Los Angeles County to facilitate the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and highway commuters. These projects and other ongoing investments in California's vast transportation network enhance connectivity for all transit users, including thousands of residents and global visitors traveling throughout the state to attend major cultural and sporting events.

- \$99 million to replace historic Whiskey Creek Bridge on State Route 299 in Shasta County.

- \$64 million to rehabilitate pavement and upgrade safety elements on about nine miles of Interstate 215 in the Riverside County.

- \$60 million to build a new interchange on State Route 156 at Castroville Boulevard in Monterey County.

Other notable projects include:

- \$6.7 million to widen sidewalks and add lighting and high-visibility crosswalks along Milpas Street in Santa Barbara, which is considered one of the city's most hazardous.

- \$727,000 to close a short gap in the Joe Rodota Bike Trail in downtown Santa Rosa.

- \$518,000 to install signals, bikeways and enhanced pedestrian crossings along Marysville Boulevard in Sacramento.

Projects approved in District 1 include:

- Approximately \$6.8 million in supplemental funding toward the Last Chance Grade project on U.S. 101 south of Crescent City in Del Norte County.

- Approximately \$2 million toward lighting, guardrail and pedestrian safety improvements on Route 53 in Lake County from Anderson Ranch Parkway to 40th Avenue in Clearlake.

- Approximately \$1.8 million in SB 1 funding for road and drainage upgrades and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure on Route 299 in Humboldt County near Willow Creek from Titlow Hill Road to the Trinity County line.

- Approximately \$1.5 million toward guardrail and drainage upgrades on U.S. 101 near Hopland in Mendocino County.

- Approximately \$600,000 in SB 1 funding toward revegetation and erosion control improvements on Route 299 from Cedar Creek to the East Fork Willow Creek Bridge in Humboldt County.

- Approximately \$1.3 million in SB 1 funding for emergency allocations toward road repairs and drainage upgrades on Route 200/North Bank Road near McKinleyville in Humboldt County.

California has received approximately \$19 billion in infrastructure funding since passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. Those dollars are leveraged along with SB 1, which invests an estimated \$5 billion annually, split between state and local investments. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of funds, including projects that are partially funded by SB 1.

For more information about transportation and other infrastructure projects funded with state and federal investments, visit build.ca.gov.



We treat the whole you. Because you are so much more than your cancer diagnosis.

From cancer screening to diagnosis and beyond, our expert specialists and compassionate staff support you through every step. It's a team approach designed to get you back to the life you live and the family you love. So you can enjoy all the moments you were made for.



Determine your risk for cancer by taking a quick health risk assessment at AdventistHealthMendocinoCounty.org/Cancer





Congrats to the Sh-Kee-Ye' Volleyball Team, Round Valley

Congratulations to the Sh-Kee-Ye' Volleyball Team representing Round Valley at the UNITY Volleyball Tournament at the UNITY National Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Sh-Kee-Yé team played an undefeated 5-0 games to take home the championship title.

Congratulations to players Sunny McCloud, Kalia Whipple-pina, Malachi McCloud, Simone Oxendine, Makalyn McCloud, and Kai-mi Redhawk and to Coach Rachel Redhawk.

A video of the Sh-Kee-Yé team members commenting on their favorite parts of the UNITY National Conference was posted on Facebook by Elacia Redhawk here: www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2629663214116175

And here's a link to some clips from the volleyball games posted by Coach Rachel Redhawk: www.facebook.com/rachel.redhawk.7/posts/pfbid025RTwrDNCivtpcT9deU-6wXE3a2yhjyrmnfuNB4xFHNEhLdZzPhoFQn4jgGR3U2l

UNITY is celebrating 50 years of tradition and Native Youth empowerment, with its 50th anniversary National UNITY Conference, a five-day youth-led event held every July, this year in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (July 10 to July 14, 2026). The National UNITY Conference, sponsored by United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc., is complete with general sessions, regional caucuses, workshops, career/education fair, and fun evening activities, and provides hands-on leadership development activities.

Above: Sh-Kee-Ye' Volleyball Team being honored for their first-place win at the UNITY Volleyball Tournament in Oklahoma City. Photo courtesy of UNITY National Conference Below: Sh-Kee-Ye' Volleyball Team from Round Valley pose for the camera at the UNITY Volleyball Tournament in Oklahoma City. Photo courtesy of Coach Rachel Redhawk





Dobbe Wattenberg

Dobbe Wattenberg was born in San Francisco to Ellen Schiff and Harold Wattenberg on June 11, 1948. She grew up with her brothers, Ted and Steven Wattenberg in Redwood City. She met her former husband, Tom Varney at Sequoia High School. The two moved to Mendocino County in 1977, buying property at the top of Pine Mountain, in Willits. There they built a home, planted a garden, raised animals and parented two children, Spring and Gabriel. Dobbe was a devoted, caring, and generous mother. She gave her children a peaceful childhood, full of wonder, delight, creativity, and joy.

After parting ways with Tom, Dobbe worked at Tsunami Restaurant - a local institution and community gathering place. She then worked for Mendocino County Aids Volunteer Network, providing support to many individuals who were marginalized and forgotten. It was at MCAVN that she met Don Willis, to whom she was eventually married for many happy years. She was a courageous advocate for the underdog, she championed the unseen, the complicated, and those who suffered. She worked for justice and gave voice to unseen communities. She was instrumental in founding the first legal needle exchange in the county and carried this work into the county jail.

Dobbe was a highly spiritual person, who searched out many traditions and pathways. She had a love of ceremony and ritual. She found her true path in Authentic Movement, which she learned directly from its founder, Janet Adler. She continued to practice and teach it to others throughout her life.

Dobbe was a deeply intuitive bodyworker, using acupressure and other techniques to heal and nurture many individuals in her community.

Dobbe loved her home, always creating beautiful spaces that welcomed many stray teens, toddlers and friends over the years. She inherited her mother's green thumb and always had healthy gardens and plants. She always loved animals and had pets, most recently adoring her dog, Ginger.

Dobbe is deeply mourned and warmly celebrated by her close friends, colleagues, and her surviving family: Don Willis, Spring, Indigo & Salvio, Gabriel, Mona, Zivah & Viraj, Ted Wattenberg and family, Steve Wattenberg and family, Anton Willis and family.

Dobbe was a humble and deeply private woman; many people knew only parts of her life and story. We honor the breadth and depth of her work, presence, and life. We remember her generosity, humor, keen intelligence, fierce loyalty, kindness, and her warm, soft heart.



Above, left: This year's sign welcoming visitors to Round Valley – with the “God Bless Firefighters” addition. Above, right: Tall, cool and delicious-looking beverage at the Round Valley Blackberry Festival. Below: The Blackberry Fest is full of live and local music Saturday and Sunday.

Photos courtesy Round Valley Blackberry Festival



43rd annual Round Valley Blackberry Festival

Submitted by RV Blackberry Festival

Saturday, August 15 and Sunday August 16, 2026 mark the weekend of the 43rd annual Round Valley Blackberry Festival. The festival kicks off at 10 am on both days, and runs through 6 pm on Saturday and 5 pm on Sunday. Free admission! Festivities include over 30 artisan vendors offering their arts & crafts and food, including blackberry delicacies, Mendocino wine tasting, and live music both days. Children's activities promise fun for the entire family.

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.

Visit the Blackberry Festival's website at www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com for more details – don't miss the video of the Blackberry Festival Anthem, “Blackberries chase all my blues away” – and check them out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RoundValleyBlackberryFestival

ONGOING GENERAL

“Adornment” at Ridgewood Ranch: A community art exhibition featuring works by Willits artists, makers, and everyday creatives, curated by Renata Abbade. The show takes its name and its inspiration from one of the oldest human impulses: the desire to beautify. “Adornment” will run through September 11 at Ridgewood Ranch, 11800 Orchard Lane, 7 miles south of Willits off Highway 101.

‘Metalwork, Collage, Painting’ at WCA: July exhibit features three local artists, Katie Gibbs, Laura Wiecek, and Sandy Strong. Runs at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, through Sunday, July 26. Gallery hours are Fridays through Sundays, 11 am to 5 pm.

Trivia Night at The Munchery: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 6 pm at The Munchery, 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

Trivia Night at Northspur Brewing Co: Put your knowledge to the test on the first and third Wednesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm at Northspur Brewing Co., 101 North Main Street.

Food Not Bombs at Rec Grove Park: Receive a free meal, supplies and zines every first and third Friday of the month at 4 pm in Rec Grove Park at the picnic tables. Everyone is welcome.

Skunk Alley Improv Lessons at WCT: Every Sunday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm with instructor Schuyler Marcier at Willits Community Theater. Cost is \$5, cash or Venmo.

Free Meal by Willits Daily Bread: Every week on Monday through Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at 66 East Commercial Street.

Willits Tennis Club: Meets every Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School Tennis Courts. All levels welcome. More info: 707 484-3385.

Drop-In Life Drawing Group at WCA: Every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm at Willits

Center for the Arts. Cost is based on sliding scale. More info: Margaret 707-459-9251.

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

Willits Indivisible Democracy Vigil: Every Friday from 5 to 6 pm at Babcock Park on South Main Street. More info: “Willits Indivisible” on Facebook.

Pickleball: Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 5:30 pm and Saturdays at 9 am at the Willits High School tennis courts. Free to play and all levels welcome.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every Monday at 6 pm at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866.

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Friday at 7 pm, at St. Francis of the Redwoods on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. 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: Mobile shower is in Willits every Monday and Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, behind St. Francis Church at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Toiletries, towels and washcloths provided. Those with disabilities may need to bring a helper. Sack dinners are served from 4:30 to 5:30 by Willits Daily Bread.

Inland Valley Women's Chorus: Every Thursday (except holidays) from 6 to 7:30 pm to sing songs of peace, joy, social justice and healing. No audition or experience required. Carpooling available from Willits. Holy Trinity Church, Mary & Martha Room, 640 South Orchard Avenue, Ukiah. More info: Madge Strong, 707-459-1493.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW620

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Filed June 29, 2026

CASE NUMBER 26CV03586

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

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

ROCHELLE MARIA HARN to ROCHELLE MARIE HARN

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

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

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

Ukiah Ca, 95482

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

Date: 6/29/2026

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

WW619

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Filed July 2, 2026

CASE NUMBER 26CV03587

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

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

MARIO JOSEPH ROVILLE-HARBULA to MARIO JOSEPH SEIBEL

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

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

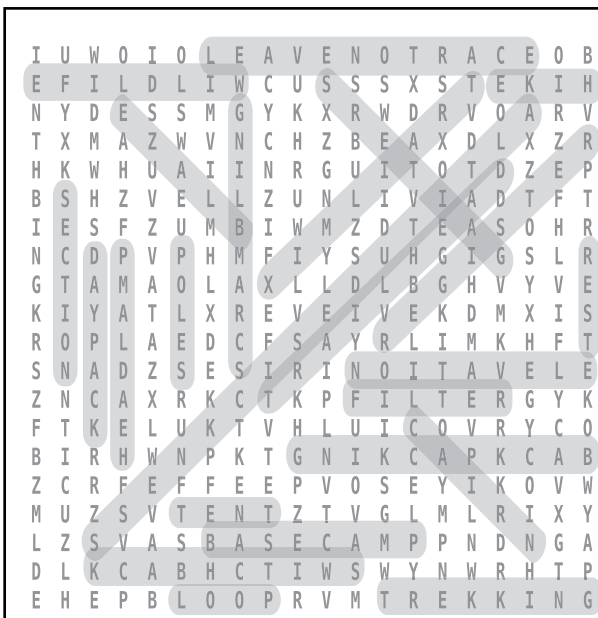
Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino
100 N. State Street

Ukiah Ca, 95482

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

Date: 6/29/2026

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



LEGAL NOTICES

WW616

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0231

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

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

This business is conducted by an individual.

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

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

/s/ Robyn Cabrera

Publication Dates: July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

WW621

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F021

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

Registered owner: James William Walker, 200 North Humboldt Street, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on June 8, 2026.

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

/s/ James William Walker

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

The rest of

Wildlife

From page 3

tour began.

“These are the ancestral lands of the Pomo people. This area was known as Toes in the Water, which is a great reference to the seasonal nature of this place, getting very flooded,” Wolitzer continued. “The mitigation lands are 2,087 acres. It’s a good amount of land. There’s a lot to learn here, and Marisela [Marisela de Santa Anna, the previous tour guide] told me it took her about two years just to get the hang of how it all connects out here. The area I was most drawn to instantly is a spot called ‘Lusher.’ It’s known as the Lusher Forest and it’s full of ash trees. I’m very much a tree person. I went by the name ‘Valley Oak’ for a few years. Getting to know ash trees has just been a really cool experience, and I want to show you this forest that I think is magical. It’s about a mile walk.”

Although the wetlands have dried up for the summer months, the water table is rather high in the valley, so it supports a great number of plants and the animals that feed on the plants and the insects that are drawn to the blooms. One of the first things the group saw was a couple of bats, swooping and flitting as they fed on the insects.

These are riparian lands. “Riparian is creek way,” said Wolitzer. “Riparian refers to where the water goes. Out here, these creeks, they change how wide they are frequently. Historically, they would have changed their paths, but as this area was farmed and ranched, there was a lot of dredging done to try and make the water go to a predictable place, to just facilitate ranching operations. What the wildlife here really evolved for is this ever-changing landscape. Every year the water runs a little bit of a different course, creates different habitats.”

Along the road, a series of valley oaks was planted by Caltrans, and they are doing rather well with their growth. “These are Valley Oaks,” Wolitzer said. “Valley Oaks are very hearty, adaptable trees. Most of the creeks here, Outlet Creek, Davis Creek, Berry Creek, had very little left in the way of vegetation after hundreds of years of cattle grazing. Mill Creek, I am told, always stayed pretty wild because it did not respond well to the dredging. This area always flooded and got too wild to support the cattle, which is part of why it is a lush area now. But it was mostly just the ash trees and some willows. The oaks are valuable because they feed the forest. Once the taproots get to ground water, they will grow. They were planted along the road because that is where Caltrans can water them.”

Throughout the tour, the group was treated to a vast collection of flowers, plants, trees, birds, and voles. In the Lusher Forest, Wolitzer stopped to check her wildlife camera, on which were some birds and elk. At the end of the session, some of the group chose to go a little further and see if they could view some of the elk who live in this part of the valley.

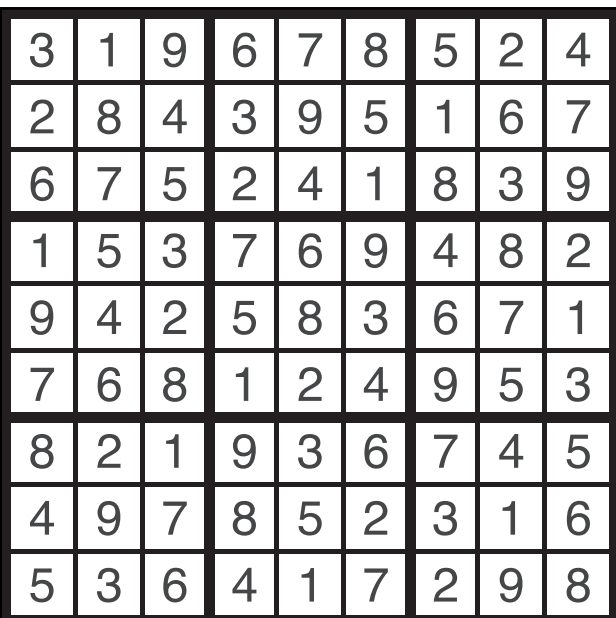
Even though the roar of the highway could be faintly heard throughout the walk, Wolitzer mentioned that she didn’t mind the sound as she enjoyed knowing that such a lush natural wonderland existed so close to civilization.



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CLASSIFIEDS

Do you need food?

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

Garage Sale

Clothes, collectable books, antiques, Oakland As and sports items. Furniture and another booth of gems and jewelry. Saturday July 25 and Sunday July 26, 10 am to 4 pm, 1724 Elm Lane in Willits.

Granny Car?

Do you have an elderly family member who stopped driving, did you just upgrade your car, or do you have an otherwise extra, low-mileage, cheap-to-insure, well-kept vehicle hiding in your garage? Looking to purchase a car for commuting-to-work, and learning-to-drive teenager. Sound like something you have to sell? Give us a call: 707-972-7047

Listen to Your Heart for Healing

Join us for an open spiritual discussion on Tuesday, July 7, at 10 to 11 am at the Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St. Questions? Call Joy 707-367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of CA & NV

Room for Rent

For rent master bedroom and bath. Private entrance, no shared space, includes refrigerator, utilities, internet, AC. 1 person 50 or older. \$800 month; rental referral required. 805 259-9155.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers – starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

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

SHANACHIE PUB ONGOING EVENTS

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, one of our locals will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub. Bring any instrument and explore your creativity!

Bluegrass String Jam: An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm, with all Bluegrass musicians welcome!

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Every Wednesday–Enter your name in the lottery from 3 to 7 pm to choose your 20-minute time slot, with performances beginning at 7:20.

WILLITS LIBRARY ONGOING EVENTS

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. There will be limited services at the Library, Tuesday, July 28 through Tuesday, August 4 due to an upgrade of library software. During that time, patrons will be required to use their library card to check out materials; new holds will not be placed; items will not be checked in; and new library cards will not be issued.

Lunch at the Library: The Willits Branch Library offers a free lunch for all youth 18 and under this summer, followed by a fun activity, Tuesdays through Fridays from noon to 1 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 707-459-5908.

LEGO Club: Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. “Bring your imagination and start building.”

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Wednesdays, 2 to 4 pm, in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a “cup of joe.”

Tech Help: Closed for July 4, but usually Saturdays from 11 am to noon, come get computer help and your technical questions answered!

Spinning and Knitting: Closed for July 4, but usually Saturdays at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome!



Ad your local event to our calendar!



SHERWOOD VALLEY *Independence* DAY

PLAYERS CLUB MEMBERS WHO REDEEM
30 POINTS
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\$100 IN FREE PLAY.

IF THE WINNER HAS A VALID TRIBAL ID CARD,
THEY WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL
\$100 IN FREE PLAY!

ELIGIBLE AFTER 100 POINTS ARE EARNED



SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026



DRAWINGS WILL BE
AFTER 9 PM

Thank You For Being A Valued Guest!