

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 649

**By Lt. Aaron Clark,
for MCSO**

Between July 1, 2026 and July 24, 2026, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, with the assistance of the Lake County Sheriff's Office, served numerous search warrants at unlicensed commercial cannabis cultivation sites in the Covelo, Laytonville, Potter Valley, and Redwood Valley areas. These operations were conducted in collaboration with state and federal partners to target unregulated and unlicensed marijuana production and its impact on public safety, the environment, and the quality of life for Mendocino County residents.

Over the course of several weeks, authorities identified numerous illegal grow sites operating without the licenses required to legally cultivate cannabis under California law. These operations not only violate state law, but also pose substantial risks to public safety, environmental integrity, and the health of the surrounding community. These operations included over 30 sites that were investigated during the month of July.

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

**By Captain Quincy
Cromer for MCSO**

In a July 24 update, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office announced four arrests in the investigation into the homicide of Josepha Littlewolf Basurto, 31, from Covelo, on Rifle Range Road northwest of Covelo on July 9.

"During this continuing homicide investigation," the press release begins, "Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Investigators processed the crime scene and interviewed numerous witnesses from the homicide on July 9.

"Investigators developed information about parties involved in this homicide, to include two brothers who were staying at the illicit marijuana cultivation site where the homicide occurred. The two brothers left the scene of the homicide and were not located during the initial investigation.

"Jesus Hernandez Sosa, a 35-year-old male from Covelo, was contacted in Sonoma County on July 10, 2026 and determined to be involved in the illicit marijuana cultivation operation at the Rifle Range Road property. Sosa was

Read the rest of
Arrests
Over on Page 9



Above, from left: Ellie Ruiz and Tazzy canter along the rail during the annual Willits Frontier Days Horse Show. Judge Melissa Zanetti watches riders as they circle her in the ring. Danielle Barry and Rebel ended up winning the 18 and Over High Point award. Below: Fearless and gutsy Caroline Pinon rides pony, Flopsy, over the jump in the Hunter Hack class, even after taking a spill just before. This brave 8-year-old rider hopped right back up, got right back on her pony, and they both sailed right over the fence! Way to go!



Willits Frontier Days Horse Show names class, perpetual trophy, and high-point winners during last of 100th year events

Even though most of this year's Willits Frontier Days festivities happened in the second half of June and first week of July, the Horse Show was held on Sunday, July

26, and was the final event in this year's 100th annual celebration.

Riders compete in English and Western disciplines, showcasing their riding skills, and the skills of their horses around the ring in the area at different speeds – “gaits” in horse language – as well as over jumps, and trail classes with obstacles and situations one might need to overcome out on the trail.

There are a few age groups that divide riders into brackets including: Leadline (the littlest riders); 12 and Under; 13 to 17, and 18 & Over. Each age group gets a high point and reserve high point winner, which are the top two point earners from the day's classes. These included: 12 & Under: High point winner: Caroline Pinon, and reserve: Cora Brunner; 13 to 17: High point winner: Kaydance Lopez, and reserve: Madison Lawrence; 18 & Over: High point winner: Danielle Barry, and reserve: Emily



Above: Madison Lawrence on *Skipping Frosty* Sox rides along the rail. **Above, right:** Kaydance Lopez on CE Irish Furry jumps the second fence in the Hunter Hack class. **At right:** Nicol Persico Kunka and Two Tone Hero jump big to easily clear the first fence. **Far right:** Bayleigh Maughs and her horse Poncho, ride alongside Maughs' mom, Jessica Koehr, and her horse Earl during the warm-up time.



Pendergrass. Madison Lawrence also won Ranch High Point, as well.

Several perpetual trophies were also handed out during the show to the winner of special local-rider-only classes. Their names will be added to the trophies. See lists of previous winners and additional horse show history in the July 9, 2026 edition of Willits Weekly.

Individual class placings are as follows:

Model Horse 2 & Under: First place: Emily Pendergrass and Shez Berry Dreamy; Second place: Madison Lawrence and Skips Royal Butter; and Third place: Danielle Barry and Dance-ta-Jets.

Model Horse 3 & Over Sponsored by: R Horse Ranch;
First place: Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds;
Second place: Amy Forrester and 6V Miss Leo's Play Gun;
Third place: Macy Lawrence and Offer Me a Light; Fourth
place: Kelsey Escobedo and Tappy Tucker; and Fifth place:
Bayleigh Maughs and Poncho.

Read the rest of
Horse Show | Over on page 12



Jennifer Poole
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There won't be a road tax on the November ballot in Mendocino County after all. With all five supervisors attending the July 21 board meeting, when considering a 1% transportation sales tax was on the agenda again, the two "no" votes were enough to block the measure. Supervisor Maureen Mulheren and Supervisor Madeline Cline voted "no."

First District Supervisor Cline said she appreciated the informative presentation from staff. "I found it to be really helpful and well-done," she said. "It answered my questions."

But, Cline said, her position hadn't changed since the board's discussion in March, "when I did not support moving forward with [a road tax]. "I didn't want to continue to invest time in it because my constituents, frankly, are not interested in supporting it."

"We had an ad hoc that was working with the department to come up with a more specific plan," Third District Supervisor John Haschak commented.

Read the rest of
Road
Over on Page 4

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An Associated Press story this week about statistics from the June primary in California reported that nearly 150,000 mail-in ballots were rejected statewide, a rate of 1.73% of all mail-in ballots. Most of those ballots – 93,479 – rejected ballots – were rejected for being late.

That's up some from the 2024 primary, when 108,982 mail ballots were rejected, a rate of 1.56%. In the 2022 primary, 105,818 mail ballots were rejected.

Statistics for Mendocino County's June 2026 primary have been released, too. In Mendocino County, 54,691 vote by mail ballots were sent out, and 26,218 mail-in ballots were returned. Of the returned ballots, 25,767 were accepted, with a total of 451 ballots rejected, a rejection rate of 1.72% of mail-in ballots.

In Mendocino County, 298 ballots were rejected for being late; 132 ballots were rejected for having non-matching signatures; 21 ballots were rejected for not having signatures (state law requires the county voter office to make efforts

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

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. To-go lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, in front of the main desk, 1501 Baechtel Road. Due to increasing food costs, dine-in and to-go meals are now \$9.

Thursday, July 30: Caprese Chicken Sandwich

Friday, July 31: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

Monday, August 3- Friday, August 7: August menu N/A

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

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

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

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

Fire restrictions in effect in Mendocino National Forest

Submitted by Mendocino National Forest

July 27, Willows – Mendocino National Forest officials are issuing fire restrictions due to increased risk of fire starts. The combination of dry fuels, low humidity, and high temperatures create conditions that elevate risk of ignition and rapid-fire spread.

Fire restrictions are now in effect as of July 28 through the end of the 2026 fire season. Fire restrictions prohibit the following activities:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or within the designated recreation sites shown in Exhibit A of the forest order, available here: www.fs.usda.gov/r05/mendocino/alerts/fire-restrictions-effect
- Operating an internal combustion engine, except on National Forest System roads or trails.
- Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with an open flame.
- Using an explosive.
- Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.

With a valid California Campfire Permit, visitors may use portable stoves or lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel. Additionally, visitors with a valid California Campfire Permit may enjoy a campfire or stove fire in the Designated Fire Safe Recreation Sites, see Exhibit A of the order available here: www.fs.usda.gov/r05/mendocino/alerts/fire-restrictions-effect, and as well as in federally designated Wilderness Areas, see Exhibit B at the same link.

Fire Safe Recreation Sites in the Covelo Ranger District of the Mendocino National Forest include: Eel River Campground, Little Doe Campground, Howard Lake Campground, Howard Meadows Campground, Atchison Campground, Green Springs Campground, and Grizzly Flat Campground.

Read the rest of
Restrictions | Over on page 9

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly
A Strategic & Media Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Jury Duty notice glitch

Editor's Note: Below is a notice posted on the Mendocino County Superior Court website www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov/ngp about incorrectly dated Jury Duty notices some locals have reported getting in the mail. A second notice on the court page warns residents of jury scams in general.

"Due to a processing computer glitch prospective jurors may have received a jury summons for a jury duty appearance for a date in March of 2025 (last year). The court is aware of this problem and is actively working to resolve the issue to ensure that it does not reoccur. If you received such a summons, please double check your jury duty appearance date. If the date is for March of 2025, you may disregard the summons. Thank you."

Court warns about jury duty scams

"Bogus phone calls or emails on jury service may lead to fraud. If you receive a phone call, text, or email notifying you that you're in big trouble for failing to show up for jury service, be suspicious. It's probably a scam. Visit our Jury Scams webpage at www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov/divisions/jury-service/jury-scams for more information."

The court does not ask for financial information from jurors. Do not provide any information having to do with your bank, credit card, or other financial information to anyone claiming to be an officer of the court.

What is happening? Throughout the state and country, imposters representing themselves as a court employee or law enforcement officers contact members of the public that they have missed their jury duty and that a warrant is now out for their arrest. The imposters say that if the juror pays them hundreds of dollars, the matter would be resolved. This is just one of many scams.

How can you tell this is a scam?

Please be aware that the court will NEVER contact a person via telephone or email and demand payment of a fine to avoid being arrested for failing to appear for jury service. People who fail to appear for jury service may receive a letter from the court with a date to appear to explain to a judge why they failed to appear. Only a judge can require people to pay a fine for failing to appear for jury service, and this can only occur after a person has been given the opportunity to explain themselves in open court.

What you should do

If you receive one of these phone calls, do not provide any personal or confidential information to these individuals. This is an attempt to steal your identity. It is an attempt to defraud you. Contact law enforcement immediately.

You can report scams and suspicious communications to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/?orgcode=CASCMC>.

You can report jury duty fraud to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office at <https://mendocinosheriff.org/> or 707-463-4084 or to the Willits Police Department at <https://cityofwillits.org/148/Police/> or 707-459-6122

Heroes. Heart. Community.

Posted by HSIMC

Editor's note: This is a post from the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County about a vegetation fire Monday night, July 27 in the field behind the Uva Drive Shelter in Redwood Valley.

Last night was a reminder of why this community is so special.

When a fire ignited on the neighboring property, just feet from our dirt kennels housing nine dogs, there wasn't time to hesitate. There was only time to act.

Before sirens could even be heard, Elia jumped the fence with nothing but a garden hose, putting himself between the flames and the animals. At the same time, Becca called 911, activated the emergency phone tree, and immediately began evacuating the dogs closest to the fire.

That kind of response doesn't come from luck. It comes from commitment. It comes from people who dedicate countless hours, often behind the scenes and after hours, because they believe every animal deserves to be safe.

Anyone who knows Becca and Elia knows this wasn't extraordinary for them, it was simply who they are. Day after day, they pour their hearts into the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, often sacrificing their own time and energy without expecting recognition. Last night, that dedication became the difference between fear and safety.

But this story isn't only about two incredible people.

Within minutes, firefighters from Redwood Valley Fire Department and CAL FIRE arrived, volunteers rushed in, and board members showed up in full force. There wasn't hesitation. There weren't questions. There was action.

People lined up at the gates ready to help however they could. They came from near and far with one shared purpose: making sure every animal was safe.

This is what community looks like.

For years, HSIMC has worked tirelessly to build relationships, earn trust, and create a network of people who care deeply about this shelter and the lives inside it. Last night, that community showed exactly what we have spent years cultivating.

When crisis came, the village stood together.

Thankfully, every dog is safe.

To our firefighters, first responders, volunteers, board members, supporters, neighbors, and everyone who answered the call, thank you. Your courage, compassion, and willingness to show up remind us that we are never alone.

And to Becca and Elia: Thank you for leading with courage when every second mattered. Your actions embody everything the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County stands for, and because of you, nine dogs slept safely last night.

This is more than a story about a fire.

It's a story about selfless people, unwavering dedication, and a community that proves, when it matters most, love always shows up.

Protect our waters – don't move a mussel

Submitted by Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

Mendocino County – Have you heard of the invasive mussels threatening California's waterways? Quagga and Zebra mussels are native to Europe and were introduced to the United States in the 1980s. These small organisms cause massive damage to boats, public infrastructure, and local ecosystems as they spread.

Quagga and Zebra mussels have infiltrated waterways in Central and Southern California, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they do not continue spreading to other lakes and rivers. Once established in a waterbody, invasive mussels form dense populations that envelop water pipes, boat hulls and engines, as well as degrade aquatic habitat by outcompeting native species.

Fortunately, there are currently no known populations of Quagga and Zebra mussels in North Coast waterways, including Lake Mendocino and the Mill Creek Ponds. There are programs across California that aim to stop the spread of invasive mussels through education and prevention. For example, Lake Mendocino requires inspections at the boat ramps prior to launching, ensuring that no watercraft can enter the lake without confirming the vessel has been cleaned, drained, and dried. These quick, free inspections are

crucial to ensuring that watercraft entering the lake do not unknowingly introduce invasive mussels, which are nearly impossible to remove once they are established.

The local monitoring program at Mill Creek Ponds is a collaborative effort between Mendocino County, the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District. Each month, Resource Conservation District staff monitor water quality at Mill Creek Ponds, sending samples to a laboratory to test for the presence of invasive mussels. To prevent causing a new infestation, ensure that you clean your boat and all associated gear, remove any plant material, and drain all bilge, ballast, and other areas where water collects before and after launching in any body of water.

Do your part to protect our local waterways: Clean, Drain, Dry, and don't move a mussel!

Want to learn more about the mussel prevention program? Visit www.mendocinocounty.gov/dontmoveamussel. Test your knowledge of invasive mussels with our survey: tinyurl.com/QZMussel



Smokey's BBQ

A new location on the south end of town for slow-smoked BBQ, burgers, sides, and more

Dingane "Gane" Jackson loves to cook. After the original Smokey's downtown closed, he has come back with a more fully realized venture in a more suitable location, where he can grow and expand and provide the kind of food that he loves. Entering his new place, at the former La Siciliana, on the south end of town, one is treated to the thick, sweet, and aromatic aroma of his signature slow-cooked barbecued meats, cooked on his large smoker on the side of the restaurant. "Smokey's 707 BBQ serves slow-smoked barbecue, comfort food, burgers, wings, family feasts, and catering in Willits, California. All meats are smoked on-site using hardwoods. Big flavor, no shortcuts," says the banner on Smokey's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/707MendoBbq>.

Jackson tried to have a soft opening on the Saturday prior to his grand opening on Wednesday, July 22. He wanted to try out his systems and methods to ensure the opening ran smoothly. However, he was surprised – and encouraged – by the number of people who came to the soft opening and began word of mouth advertising, extolling the BBQ and sides.

"I've always had a passion for barbecue," said Jackson. "It's easy to do for me. I got tired of going places and not getting satiated with their barbecue. Everyone has their own style. This is just my take on barbecue. I make everything from scratch, all slow-cooked. I used to have some stomach ailments which really made me stop and take a look at how I eat, which brought me back into the kitchen. I try to make everything with real ingredients, no processed foods, no triglycerides, no preservatives. I try to make real food. I know what my ingredients are. I can list them without having to have a science degree."

Jackson has been all over California, working in restaurants, learning, and gaining awards. "I've lived all around California," continued Jackson. "I was in LA for a long time, and in the Bay Area. Then I finally settled up this way. I had some businesses in Southern California. I didn't want to stay there. I looked for some property up this way. I found what I liked. I moved up here. There were some twists and turns, and I ended up here. I was doing a lot of catering down in Southern California, lots of festivals and fairs. That was one of my multiple jobs down there. I won some awards and competitions. I won the Best Gumbo in Long Beach Jazz Fest. I took third place in the Humboldt Chili Cookoff."

After the demise of his original location downtown, Jackson tried some other ventures and positions. "In the interim, I took an executive chef job in Santa Rosa," Jackson recounted. "I was the head chef at Downtown Barbecue. I revamped their entire menu. I changed everything. I implemented protocols, SOPs [standard operating procedures]. It was a great experience, but not a good fit for me. I ended up leaving. There were a lot of good people around me. I learned some great techniques, cooking avenues, but I wanted to come home."

Smokey's is a family business, filled with friends and family, who work and help out at the restaurant. Jackson's niece, Alexia Bailey, loves to help out and shares his vision for the future and the expansion of the business. "I think we are going to do a lot better when it comes to business and sales due to the fact that we have a very open kitchen. We have a very open dining area. My uncle is getting his liquor license soon," Bailey said, "and we'll be able to serve beers on tap. We have a TV up here so people can watch sports while they eat."

"When football season comes around, we'll be serving wings, burgers, hotdogs, fries, loaded French fries, actually, which we just added to the menu. You can get brisket, pulled pork, or chicken on top of your fries, with some sauce on top of it," she said. Smokey's is also planning to offer sandwiches and other offerings aimed at kids once school opens again. "We're also going to be doing high school discounts. If you are a high school student, you get a discount on whatever food you order."

Jackson believes in slow and measured growth. Dreams and business plans take patience and hard work, none of which daunts this epicurean entrepreneur with a strong sense of community. "I love this community. I volunteer here. I belong to the Lions Club. I do the Senior Center drive-through chicken dinner and have for several years."

SPARETIME
—GARDEN CENTER—

NEW HOURS
AS OF AUGUST 1ST

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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LOVING HORSES

WORD SEARCH



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CANTER	FOAL	MUZZLE
CHESTNUT	FORELOCK	PASTERN
COLT	GALLOP	PONY
CROUP	GELDING	SADDLE
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god
5. Romanian monetary unit
8. Santa's helper
11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal
13. Sea eagle genus
14. Broad volcanic crater
15. Minneapolis suburb
16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)
17. Exchange rate
18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea
20. Men's fashion accessory
21. Craft material
22. Offerings
25. Early
30. Large room
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
32. One who hauls
33. Shorthand for accepting
38. Promotional materials
41. Loss of memory
43. One who beheads
45. Photographers
48. Small, rich sponge cake
49. White clerical vestment
50. Partner to 'oohed'

55. Abba ____, Israeli politician
56. Zero
57. Owl monkey genus
59. Lace bug genus
60. Mild expression of surprise
61. Storage devices
62. Keyboard key
63. Make a mistake
64. One-time Korean president

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky, lizard
4. Rumanian river
5. Missive
6. Stout-bodied moths
7. Brings out
8. Bird of prey
9. King of Thebes
10. Cleaving tool
12. African antelope
14. Three are particularly famous
19. Satisfy
23. C. European river
24. Dictator
25. Portion of (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Consume food
28. Woman (French)
29. Scrape or wear away by friction
34. Popular vegetable
35. Pacific Standard Time
36. Brazilian state capital
37. Paddle
39. Cause to become insane
40. Drier and flakier
41. Mimic
42. ESPN host Kimes
44. One who moseys
45. Secret political clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Supernatural force
48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. Engrave
54. UNC's chief rival
58. Midway between south and southeast

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

July 6 to July 12
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **87 incidents** in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

July 6

12:49 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:29 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of South Main Street.

2:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of School Street.

7:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

7:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

11:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

July 7

8:32 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Valley Street and issued a warning.

1:17 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

3:37 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation near the intersection of State Street and North Marin Street.

5:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:40 pm: RATLIFF, Melissa Shintell (40) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Muir Lane. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

9:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

July 8

1:41 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

2:49 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

The rest of Road From page 1

Supervisor Mulheren and Supervisor Ted Williams were appointed to this ad hoc committee at the July 7 supervisors meeting. "And does this [update today] encompass the more specific plan?" Haschak asked.

"Not for me it doesn't," said Supervisor Mulheren. "There was a lot of work that went into the ad hoc meeting, and I think staff did a really good job at trying to answer some of the questions that I had. I still have concerns about the county's overall fiscal transparency and taking a sales tax to the voters. So, I don't think [today's update] necessarily provided all of the opportunities for future plans. And I think one of the challenges that the department has is that – essentially the plan is to bring more information back each year."

Supervisor Haschak moved the recommended motion: "Adopt an ordinance imposing a 1 percent county transportation transactions (sales) and use special tax in the unincorporated areas of the county, with said tax being used to fund pavement preservation and corrective maintenance for county roads and to improve road maintenance staffing."

"My feeling is," Haschak said, "hey, we hear people complaining about the roads all the time – they're coming to the board meetings from far away to complain about the roads." The "easy thing to do" he said, "would be to just say, 'No, we're going to lose,' or whatever, but I think that we need to let the people decide. And I think that if people have the understanding of what really is at stake, you know, that the longer we wait [to fund road maintenance], the bigger the hole we're digging for ourselves, then then I think that the choice really would be kind of clear."

"You know, I believe in democracy," Haschak said, "and I think that we as a board should give the people the right to decide whether they want better roads or not. And so, I would move the recommended action."

Supervisor Ted Williams seconded the motion, saying: "I think we need to let the voters decide, let the taxpayers decide directly. We've been talking about this for years, and we know there isn't any other hope for roads. If we don't allow taxpayers to decide if they want to invest in roads, the conditions will continue to deteriorate."

County Transportation Director Howard Dashiell gave the board another presentation at the July 21 meeting, an overview of the current 20-year road plan, and what the county would do with the estimated \$5.5 million a year in additional revenues with the additional road tax, if it was approved.

Watch Director Dashiell's presentation about 4 hours, 31 minutes into the recording of the meeting at www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iBzHq5y6jw

The road tax ballot measure is permanently dead for the November 3, 2026 election because the deadline for any measure to be submitted for that election is August 6. The board of supervisors don't have another meeting until September 1.

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



Sweet Peach

Peach is a sweet 1 year old girl, 47 pounds, and she's ready to find a loving home to call her own. With all the noise and activity at the shelter, Peach can be a little nervous at first, but give her just a few minutes, and you'll see her true colors – affectionate, gentle, and eager to bond. Peach loves going for walks and exploring the world at a comfortable pace. She knows "sit" and is excited to keep learning new things with someone patient and kind. We've also heard she previously lived with a cat, which may make her a great fit for a multi pet home.

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.



Bubbles

Life is more fun with Bubbles around! This friendly, energetic, and delightfully silly dog is always ready to brighten your day with goofy antics, happy tail wags, and plenty of love! If you're looking for a fun-loving best friend, Bubbles is ready to make a splash in your heart!



Banana

Banana is exactly what you'd expect from a puppy named Banana: a little goofy, a little wiggly, and guaranteed to brighten your day. This happy boy, about 11 months old, loves making friends, collecting belly rubs, and finding creative ways to turn every moment into playtime. If your home could use a little extra sunshine and silliness, Banana is ready to provide it.

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



Photos by Mathew Caine

Willits Fest
Rec Grove concert was a full day of family fun and community to benefit Willits Charter

Willits Fest was a day filled with everything under the sun, from local musical groups to fire dancing to dozens of vendors selling crafts, art, and ideas and a tribute to the birthday of one of Willits' foremost beloved citizens, and much, much more. Nine hours under the cool shade of the trees in Recreation Grove Park and so much to do that none could be bored.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Food choices at Saturday's free concert included smoothies, lumpia from Rolling Dough Temptations, and Flying Dog Pizza. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Tommy G Presents (Tommy G, Kelly Viss, and Andre Puccio), the day ran smoothly and mostly on time, and there was enough on offer to keep people at the show for hours.

"Here we are again, the second annual Willits Fest," said Willits Charter School theater arts teacher, Billy Hetherington, who with Bryan Arnold, took on the job of MCing the show all day. "It looks like a great turnout. Willits Charter School is showing up in a big way. They have some great prizes. We are so grateful to be the recipient of the benefits. The money goes to the performing arts at the school, theater, dance, fashion, any arts that we have. We're also looking forward to pushing some of the money toward WECS [Willits Elementary Charter School]. It's a great way to invest in the youth of the community, the next generation of artists that are coming through, out of Willits."

The show began with Willits group Hal A Looya, fronted by Hal Wagenet of It's A Beautiful Day and singer Nicole Aguilar, playing some well-known and some original songs, including "White Bird." Next, another Willits band, The Kingsnakes, got down with some rock 'n' roll which got some of the arriving crowds on their feet and dancing in the concrete floor in front of the bandstand. Ramun, a rap duo, consisting of husband, NZ, and wife, Luna Zaka, brought some hi-energy vibes in a very deft manner which delighted even those not so familiar with the genre. Son of Po, a young rapper continued the vibe. Mr. BMMNM!!!, a Grammy-winning beat box artist, who has shared a stage with the likes of James Brown and Ani DiFranco, lit up the stage with his energy and showmanship.

A couple of punk bands, Splynter and Tangled Ends, brought power and angst and volume to the stage.

Read the rest of
Willits Fest

Over on page 9



Above, left: Three generations found a common beat to dance to at Willits Fest. Robin Suzanne's Soul Circus plays at many of Willits' outdoor events. Below, from left: Beat box artist Mr. Bmmnm!! got the crowd off their chairs for an energetic performance. Carlin Diamond addresses the crowd as she was honored on her 88th birthday celebration. Aeon Webber of Tangled Ends belts out his lyrics. Tommy G introduced Scott Jackisch of Shen Den Wellness, one of the sponsors of Willits Fest, who is looking to create a makers space.



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WILLITS, CA

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
•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 appointment at
707-459-2252
https://santhonywillits.org/
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith!

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

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

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

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

Thursday, July 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
pm. 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.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

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.



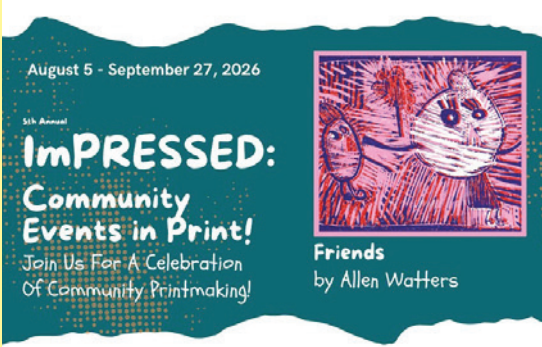
Tuesday, August 4

"How to Listen to Your Heart for Health & Healing": Join
us for an open spiritual discussion on Tuesday, August 4,
from 10 to 11 am, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial
Street. Questions? Call Joy at 707-367-3777. Sponsored by
Eckankar of CA & NV. (This program is neither sponsored
by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.)

Wednesday, August 5

2MuchFun! at Brickhouse: Dynamic musical duo Paul
Haley (Keyboards, Guitar, Vocals) and Dave Pierce (Guitar,
Vocals) performs Wednesday, August 5, from noon to 2
pm, at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

5th annual ImPRESSED at the Museum: This year's
exhibit, "Community Events in Print," showcases
handmade local event posters from the 1970s, along with work from
Art Explorers from Fort Bragg, who have contributed to ImPRESSED
from the beginning. Show
opens Wednesday, August 5
and runs through September
27 at the Mendocino County
Museum, 400 East Commercial
Street. This exhibit
and Museum
programs will once
again lead up to
the Root of Motive
Power's Steam-up
event, which will
be September 12
and 13 this year.



Thursday, August 6

Redwood Empire Fair opens: The fair is open daily
Thursday, August 6 through Sunday, August 9 at the
Ukiah Fairgrounds. Today is free admission for kids 6-12 years and
seniors 65 and over day, with \$2 rides from 3 to 6 pm. Fair and
Carnival open 3 pm Thursday, with livestock shows starting at 8
am. See www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com for a complete schedule
of events, contests, performances, activities and more. General
admission, \$10 adults, Seniors/Child 6-12, \$8, children 12 & under
free. Parking \$10. Visit <https://butleramusements.com/events/78> for
a list of rides scheduled for the 2026 Redwood Empire Fair,
with height requirements and ticket info.

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at
Summer Market outdoors at City Park on
Commercial Street, Thursday, August
6, 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.



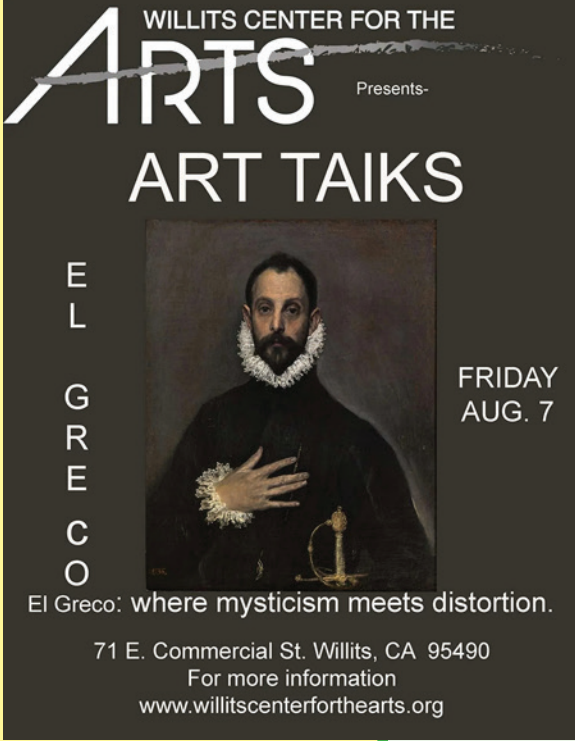
Friday, August 7

Redwood Empire Fair: The fair is open daily through Sunday, August
9 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Fair and Carnival open 3 pm Friday, with
livestock shows starting at 8 am. Side-by-sides, Motorcycles, Mud
Boggs, and Monster Trucks at 7 pm. See August 6 listing for more
info.

First Fridays Summer Concert Series: 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. Free admission. 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/](https://visitwillits.com/events/first-fridays-summer-concert-series/)
[events/first-fridays-summer-](https://visitwillits.com/events/first-fridays-summer-concert-series/)
[concert-series/](https://visitwillits.com/events/first-fridays-summer-concert-series/)

Art Talks at WCA: This month's Art
Talk at the Willits Center for the Arts
is on "El Greco: Where mysticism
meets distortion." Friday, August
7 at 6:30 pm. The presentation,
by Gary Martin, M.A., offers an
engaging exploration of one of the
most distinctive and visionary artists
of the late Renaissance. 71 East
Commercial Street.



Mr. BMMNM!!! at Shanachie: A 2x
Grammy-winning and International
Gold Recording
Artist, Mr. BMMNM!!! is an emcee and master
beatboxer whose live performances blend Hip-Hop,
vocal percussion, musicality, and crowd connection.
Friday, August 7 at 8 pm on at Shanachie Pub, 50
South Main Street.

Saturday, August 8

Junior Livestock Auction at Redwood Empire Fair: The fair
is open daily through Sunday,
August 9 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds.
Junior Livestock Auction is held
today, Saturday, August 8, starting
at 10 am. Fair and Carnival open
at noon on Saturday. See www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com for a
complete schedule of events.



FOWL Pop-up Book Sale: 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.

Wilshaker at Shanachie: Clay Hawkins blends rapid-
fire fingerstyle slide guitar and honest, heartfelt acoustic rock
songwriting, with longtime co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on
the upright bass. The duo play what some say is, "Late Night, Boot
Stomping, Road Music from the Heart." Saturday, August 8 at 8 pm
at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, August 9

Redwood Empire Fair: Closing day for the Fair at the Ukiah
Fairgrounds. Livestock Award Ceremony, 10 am. Fair and Carnival
open at noon on Sunday. Ukiah Idols finals, 1 pm. Boat Races
and Mudd Boggs, 6 pm. See www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com for a
complete schedule of events

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.

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 5 pm (new time) 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.

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.

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. 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!

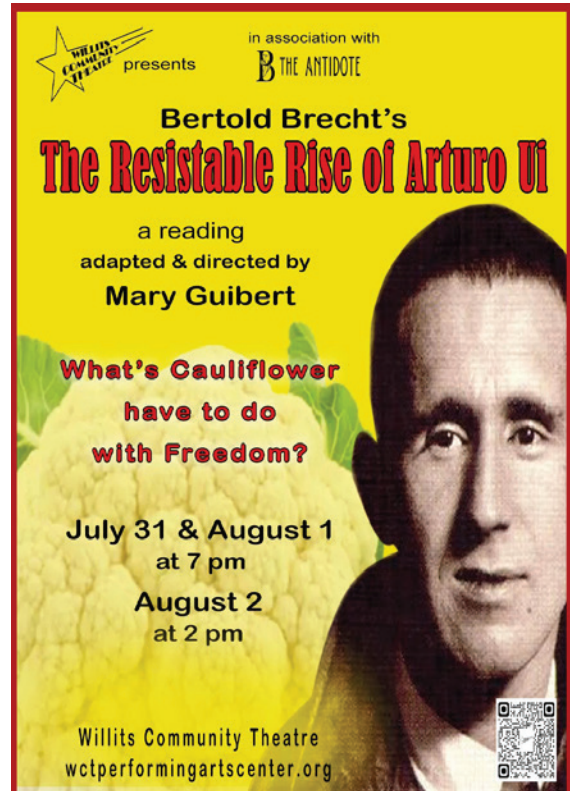
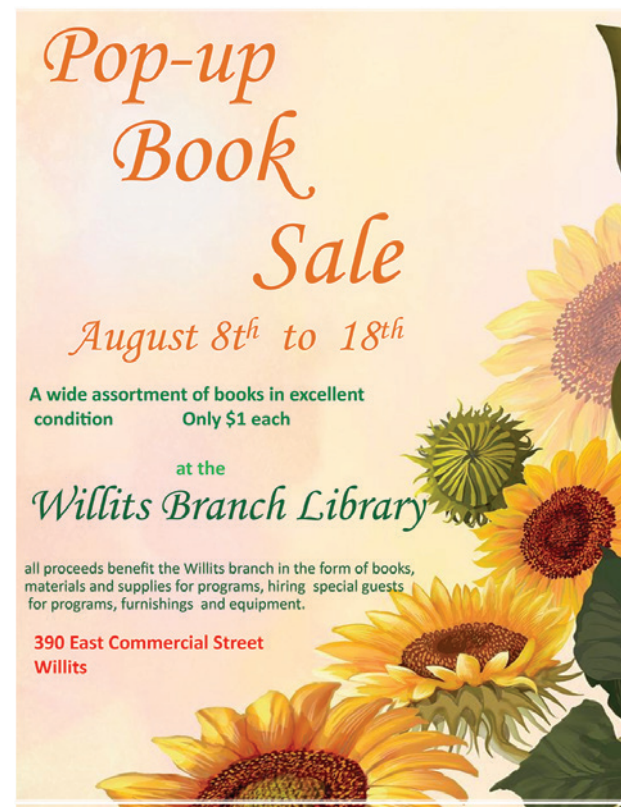
Spinning and Knitting: Closed for July 4, but usually
Saturdays at the library, from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels
welcome!

Ukiah Sundays in the
Park, August 9

The City of Ukiah's free community concert
series continues on Sunday, August 9, 6 pm
at Todd Grove Park. Featuring Jungle Fire, a
Los Angeles band that digs deep into Afro/
Latin funk music with a highly explosive
psychedelic and uniquely Angeleno flavor!
Pack a picnic or indulge in fabulous food
prepared by vendors who are onsite with
everything from pizza to shave ice. Please,
no pets and no smoking within the main
event area, low-back chairs only, personal
BBQs only allowed at the picnic table areas.
More info: 707-463-6231.

250th Anniversary of
America drone show in
Lakeport, August 7

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary
with an evening under the stars as hundreds
of synchronized drones light up the night
sky over Xabatin "Big Water" Community
Park, 800 North Main Street, in Lakeport.
Friday, August 7. Show begins at dusk. This
family-friendly event is part of Lake County's
continued celebration of America's 250th
anniversary and promises a dazzling display
of lights, music, and patriotic imagery that
everyone can enjoy. Bring your lawn chairs,
blankets, family, and friends. Come early, find
a great spot, and enjoy a summer evening
celebrating our nation's history and the spirit
of the Lake County community.





Photos by Maureen Jennison

History and Waffle Club

Mendocino County Museum shows historic movie ‘The Prowler’ while attendees enjoy ice cream

If you’ve never seen “The Prowler, A Drama of Willits,” and you enjoy seeing images of historic Willits – it’s a fun video to watch. The movie was created in 1939 and even has a tiny IMDb page. The director and writer was Charles Denny, the photographer was Kay Dee Reynolds, and the assistant was Freddie Myers. The movie was sponsored by “The businessmen

of Willits” and was produced by the Willits High School Class of 1939. IMDb notes the plot of the film as: “The Prowler is terrorizing Willits, California residents, gobbling up the milk and PEP in the town, but fortunately Willits News Reporter Scoop Kenworthy is hot on the trail of this pesky thief.”

The black-and-white film features notable Willits names like Dr. Raymond Babcock and

Ventura Perez, and also has several still-recognizable locations like the Sherwood Road intersection, the Van Hotel, and the Mazahar/West Van Lane intersection. The film also showcases the old Howard Hospital on Main Street, where you can see the now towering pines as little saplings.

The video is available on YouTube and is shown occasionally as a fundraiser for

various groups in town. The 30 or so people in attendance at last weekend’s History and Waffles Club event at the Mendocino County Museum enjoyed watching the show free of charge, and enjoyed a waffle cone ice cream, too, which was provided courtesy of the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum.

– Maureen Jennison

Above: The group who came to see “The Prowler” and enjoy ice cream smiles together with their cones – and pencils! – to celebrate the movie. Below, from left: Cones and a show: a great combo. Mary hands out napkins to those in need. Matching up footprints helped the police decide the identity of the Prowler. Carol enjoyed helping pass out some waffle ice cream cones, too.



OBITUARY |

Wanda Pietila

Wanda F. Pietila of Willits passed away peacefully at her home on June 24, 2026. Born in Oklahoma on April 1, 1936, she moved with her family when she was 3 years old. She loved camping, being out in the woods, gardening, and shopping in thrift stores. Most of all she loved her family.

Wanda was preceded in death by her husband, Bernard Pietila; Bob Walker, her partner of 35 years; and her sons Wayne, Danny, and Tommy.

She is survived by her sister Charlene Hoyt of Auberry, California, and grandsons Jason Pietila (Jen) N.Y. and Davin Pietila (Sylvia) Crocket, California. Wanda is also survived by great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and her Shih Tzu “baby”. We will miss her dearly.



OBITUARY |

Arden Fenwick

Our beloved Arden Michaelsen Fenwick passed peacefully on July 17, 2026. A proud Native Californian, Arden was born in San Diego in 1931, a member of the Greatest American Generation.

Arden married her high school sweetheart and raised a beautiful daughter eventually moving north to enjoy the best of times in San Francisco, Marin and Sonoma County finally retiring in Willits, Mendocino County.

Arden enjoyed a wonderful career in real estate and loved to share stories of coming of age in San Diego and exploring Northern California. She loved her cats, playing games, connecting with family and friends online, and gazing at the amazing wildlife out her front window. An avid reader and aficionado of history, Arden’s knowledge was enviable – even through her last days her mind was lucid.

She lived life to the fullest and was an invaluable mentor to all who knew her. Always guided by her faith, Arden lived in the Light of Jesus Christ and is now in the warm embrace of His Love.

Arden is survived by her loving daughter, Barbara Mitchell; grandson, James Mitchell and his wife, Christina; and great-grandchildren Claire, Ben and Callahan. Arden is survived by her sisters Diane and Cindy and her niece, Sarah. The family wishes to acknowledge Hospice for their support and her patient and dedicated caregiver, Maggie.



FARMERS
INSURANCE

Randall Cantua, LUTCF
Agent
Cantua Insurance Agency
16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490
786 Redwood Drive
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Tel 707.459.3276
Tel 707.923.2179
Fax 707.923.9550
rcantua@farmersagent.com
067822

The mission of the **"Be the Antidote"** project is to support the artistic community in Willits, with a strong emphasis on creating access to and participation in every kind of artistic expression the children and young people in our community are capable of.

Do you know a dynamic kid who is bursting with talent? Is there a budding actor or musician in your life? A dancer? A singer? Painter or cartoonist?

Let us know by joining and posting a pic or a story to our Facebook page:
Be the Antidote - Willits.
Or, reach out to us at
BtheAntidote@gmail.com.

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

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

WW 622

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

Sharon Colleen Convery, aka Sharon Convery, Decedent

Case No. 26PR00549

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: SHARON COLLEEN CONVERY, aka SHARON CONVERY

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Thomas James Convery III and Sean Convery in the Superior Court of California County of: Mendocino

The Petition for Probate requests that: Thomas James Convery III and Sean Convery be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an Interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: September 4, 2026, Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept: E. Address of Court: 100 No. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) **four months** from the date of first Issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner: Jennifer M. O'Brien (#278821), Neary and O'Brien, 110 So. Main St., Ste C, Willits CA 95490. Telephone: 707-459-5551

Publication Dates: July 30, August 6, 13, 2026

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CLASSIFIEDS

Brown Bag Lunch Program

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

How to Listen to Your Heart for Healing

Join us for an open spiritual discussion on Tuesday, August 4, 10 to 11 am at the Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St. Questions? Call Joy 707-367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of CA & NV

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

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.

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

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.oakwine.net/tjp>

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are just \$15
for 30 words
for two weeks.**

The rest of

Garden

From page 8

stimulated to better growth by transplanting.

What else should you plant now? Fall roots – carrots, beets, turnips, and rutabagas. Peas, fennel, dill, chard, and tarsley should be planted now as well. The challenge is keeping them moist until the seed can sprout and take hold. Most could be started in pots if space is not available or keeping them moist is difficult. But avoid transplanting carrots or peas.

Roots and peas don't need as much fertility or sun as tomatoes or beans, so if you have a spot that is somewhat (not entirely) shaded by a broadleaf tree, use it. In fall, when more sun is needed, the tree's leaves will be gone. Covering the bed with fabric, or even boards, will keep it moist. Just be sure you check often and uncover it when the seeds sprout. Carrots (and beets too) take up to 2 weeks to sprout. You can shorten that by soaking the seed 6-8 hours and rinsing in a strainer before planting. That washes off their natural germination-inhibiting compounds so they sprout in a few days.

Priority #2 is to get rid of anything that's not giving you value for your space, time, and water. Green beans that are yellowing and no longer productive? Spring flowers that have run to seed? Compost them! Weeds? Depending where they are, hoe them out (between rows and large plants), pull them up (among delicate or closely planted things), or cover them with cardboard (if you can do it without affecting your other plantings).

I put this as the second priority so that as spaces are cleared of weeds and unproductive crops, you can immediately put something else in their place – the seedlings that were your first priority. These will feed you all winter.

Summer is a sprint, with things changing every day. Your winter crops will be feeding you for months – one meal, or even one leaf at a time. No scrambling to harvest before they become unusable. No shriveling if the water goes off for a day. No big glut you have to can or freeze. Not to mention, no going to the store and no worry about weird food-borne diseases. Winter crops are like old friends. And in times like these, we need all the friends we can get.

Jamie Chevalier of Quail Seeds lives and gardens near Willits. Visit www.quailseeds.com for over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive how-to information.

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