

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Thursday, July 31, 2025

Medicine Fire in Covelo Sunday spurred evacuation order

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office issued an evacuation order around 4:30 pm Sunday afternoon in Covelo, due to the Medicine Fire, which started around 2:30 pm.

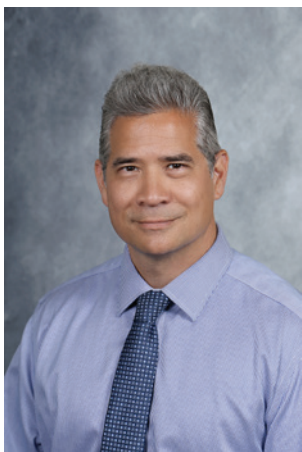
The evacuation order was declared for "North of Hopper Lane and West of Mina Road/Highway 162, Do not delay. Use the safest manner possible when evacuating."

The cause of the Medicine Fire, which CAL FIRE reports started July 27 along Rifle Range Road north of Refuse Road in Covelo, is still under investigation.

MCSO downgraded the evacuation order to a warning around 7:30 pm Sunday evening, and to a situational alert around 9 pm.

As of its 2:26 pm update on Wednesday, the CAL FIRE incident page showed the still-active Medicine Fire has been mapped at 263 acres, with containment at

Read the rest of **Fire**
Over on Page 11



John Baker, Willits Unified School District Superintendent

WUSD welcomes new superintendent of schools

Addison Alvarado
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits Unified School District Board Trustees officially appointed John Baker as Superintendent for the district on June 18. Moving from Placerville, California, Superintendent Baker has been in education since 2003, gaining experience not only as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal, but also as a superintendent before joining Willits Unified.

With preparations for the new school year in full swing, Willits Unified School District welcomes its new leader. Baker is excited to be in Willits, stating, "I'm honored to serve the Willits

Read the rest of **Baker**
Over on Page 11



Above, from left: Redwood Valley's Eatmon sisters, 4-year-old Maisie, left, and 6-year-old Aleah, brought flowers and produce to enter into the Redwood Empire Fair's Junior and Agriculture buildings. Mia stands in for Toto next to the Dorothy statue in the Fine Arts building. Mary Vickers, left, Home Arts building supervisor Loraine Patton and Nancy Trumble, right, hold some of this year's tasty edible entries.



Above, from left: Many lovely entries were showcased in the Agriculture and Floriculture Buildings, including, from left: Perfect peaches were brought in by Devon Boer; colossal cabbages from Chelsea Arnold; a sweet sunflower from Kathy Lundgren; and a beautiful "butterfly" tomato which was entered into the "unusual shape" category. Below: Rabbit exhibitors pose together Wednesday morning for a group photo including, from left: Lauren Dill and Lira Travis, holding her bunny, all of Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H and Gauge Bertorelli, holding bunny Wizard, and Tristan Woodall, all of Potter Valley 4-H.



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

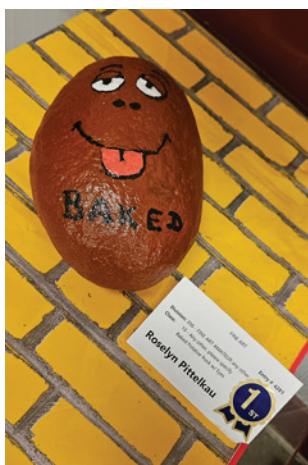
Magic is Reel

2025 Redwood Empire Fair runs July 31 to August 3 at Ukiah Fairgrounds

Whether you want to see amazing arts, crafts, collections and creations in the buildings, jump on the carnival rides, see the monster trucks, or maybe just bid on some beef, that and much more will all be available to do and enjoy at the annual Redwood Empire Fair. Gates and buildings are open daily, with special shows and live music throughout the day. Junior Livestock Auction will be the main event starting at 10 am on Saturday, August 2, and a full schedule of events can be seen at www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com



Above, from left: Aaron Schneider of Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H gives his 117-pound market lamb, Rosetta, a hug. Fine Arts Building Supervisor Brenda Hodges smiles next to her Tin Man statue created as more Wizard-of-Oz themed decor for the fair's overall theme, Magic is Reel. Jars of canned goods await display in the Home Arts Building. Below, left: Willits Madison and Adam Lawrence, left, and Potter Valley's Dolores and Natalie Johnson watch the goat show Wednesday. Below, right: Crocheted, knitted and sewn; all sorts of adorable crafts were entered into the Home Arts building. At bottom, from left: Gretchen Moore's quilted coat won Best of Division. Roselyn Pittelkau's painted "Baked Potato" rock received affectionate chuckles from the Fine Arts building crew. Christina Orozco's crocheted "Yip Yip Storage Container" entry seemed to exemplify the perfect emotion. Zhana Ortiz brought many new and interesting items to the Fine Arts Building including this "Bone Terrarium Lamp" entry in the animal skull art category.



WCC extends last year's budget another 30 days

B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter
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The City of Willits has gone another 30 days without a budget for the new fiscal year that began on July 1, and without final financial reports for the previous two years. This failure to produce a budget legally required the city council, at their July 23 meeting, to authorize a second 30-day extension allowing the city to continue in operation and not shut down.

The council approved the budget extension, again, on a 4-to-1 vote with council member Bruce Burton again voting No: "I've been here for seven months now. I've been hearing over and over that budgets are 30 days off. This just enables it to go on as business as usual until somehow this mythical budget will appear. I'm just saying that I'm drawing a line in the sand."

Council members and finance director Manuel Orozco have repeatedly pointed out that not having

Read the rest of **Budget**
Over on Page 11

Brooktrails reservoirs are full

Barbara O'Reardon
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The July 22 Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors meeting lasted just under a half hour, but was nevertheless very purposeful. All board members were present along with township attorney Chris Neary and general manager Tamara Alaniz.

President Tina Tyler-O'Shea asked if anyone had any reports, and there were none from the directors. District counsel Neary said, "There was a very positive meeting between myself and the counsel for the golf course operators this week."

Vice-President Rick Williams asked, "What's the status of our water?" Alaniz responded, "We are in good shape. Both reservoirs are full. You may have noticed that Lake Ada Rose is back up after all of the vegetation clearing work was recently done." Director Ed Horrick asked, "And, that didn't drain Lake Emily?" Alaniz responded, "It sure didn't."

The board then quickly, unanimously approved the Consent Calendar

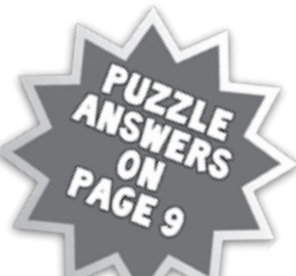
Read the rest of **Reservoirs**
Over on Page 11

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Advanced



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!

COUNTY FAIR WORD SEARCH

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ADMISSION	CORNDOG	FERRIS WHEEL	PRIZES
AMUSEMENT	COTTON CANDY	FIELD	REFRESHMENTS
BALLOONS	COUNTRY	FUNHOUSE	RIDES
CARNIVAL	COUNTRY	ICE CREAM	
CAROUSEL	CROWD	LEMONADE	STAGE
CHILDREN	DANCING	LINES	STUNTS
COASTER	DISPLAY	LIVESTOCK	SUNSET
COMPETITION	ENTERTAINMENT	MUSIC	
CONTESTS	FAIR	OUTDOORS	TICKETS

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		

CLUES ACROSS

- Popular potato snack
- Guards the Pyramids
- Furnish anew
- Herb
- Preoccupy the mind continually
- The lowest adult male singing voice
- NATO commander (abbr.)
- A major division of geological time
- New Zealand parrot
- Notions
- Lump in yarn
- Indicates position
- Lose hold of
- Hindu honorific
- Former OSS
- Electronic data processing
- Cost per mile
- Snake-like fish
- They start the alphabet
- Taylor Swift's tour
- Intermediate ecological stage

- Scarlett's home
- Of he
- Ohio city
- Breakfast item
- An evening party
- ___ Falls
- Linked together
- Mythological spirits
- Small Eurasian deer

CLUES DOWN

- Earliest human form: ___-Magnon man
- Flavoring
- Notion
- Bundy and Fenwick are two
- Qualities of sound
- One who gets paid
- Expresses surprise
- O.J. trial judge
- Pointed ends of pens
- Shield bugs genus
- Container for shipping
- Upper body parts
- Closes tightly
- Nigerian World Heritage Site

- Volcanic island in Fiji
- Commercial
- ___: denotes past
- They ___
- Confraternities
- A way to gain a point
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Brew
- Badgers group
- Sailing boat
- ___ Polo, explorer
- Elder citizen (abbr.)
- Frankish law code
- Exclamation of surprise
- Groan
- It presses clothing
- Do not allow
- Gelatinous substance
- Common Japanese surname
- Present in nature
- Electronic countermeasures
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- Commercials
- News agency

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

July 14 to July 20

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **61 incidents** in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

July 14

2:02 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

4:10 pm: BELL, Robert Wayne (42) of Laytonville was contacted in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue following a report of trespassing. He was arrested on felony charges of resisting an officer and on misdemeanor charges of trespassing (refusal to leave) and property damage.

6:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of East San Francisco Avenue and issued a warning.

10:16 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

July 15

11:00 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

11:23 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1000 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:49 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

July 16

8:03 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:00 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Alder Court.

July 17

1:24 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:39 am: WOODS, Rachel Marie (22) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Alameda Avenue. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher, and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher.

12:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

4:24 pm: KUBAS, Michael Dennis (45) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Railroad Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance with 2 or more prior convictions and on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and violation of probation.

9:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of

Muir Lane.

10:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Raymond Lane and Harms Lane.

11:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

July 18

12:37 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue and issued a warning.

2:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

6:03 pm: BERG, Connor Howard (20) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of Margie Drive following a report of suspicious activity. He was arrested on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm and resisting an officer, and on misdemeanor charges of assault, minor in possession of alcoholic beverages, public intoxication, drinking or possessing alcohol in public, and disorderly conduct (alcohol).

July 19

9:40 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

3:23 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:31 pm: AGUILAR, Gabriel Vincent (23) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of conspiracy to commit a crime and on misdemeanor charges of shoplifting, receiving stolen property, and driving with a suspended license (revoked for DUI).

7:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Railroad Avenue.

9:10 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

10:08 pm: MORRIS, Dena Darlene (63) of Ukiah was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole and violation of parole (to remain under legal custody to return to prison) and on misdemeanor charges of drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages in public.

July 20

1:09 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

9:07 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

1:04 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:32 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 500 block of South Main Street.

9:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

Pursuit on 101 north of Leggett ends in 2 arrests

Submitted by CHP Garberville

On July 24, 2025, a Garberville Area California Highway Patrol officer attempted a speed enforcement stop on a Toyota Camry driven by Jose Gonzalez (29). Gonzalez refused to yield and fled at a high rate of speed northbound on US-101, south of Standish-Hickey State Park.

Gonzalez drove towards an active construction zone; at which time CHP discontinued the pursuit. CHP located the vehicle north of the construction zone and re-initiated the pursuit headed towards Confusion Hill.

Gonzalez crossed over double yellow lines multiple times throughout the pursuit and continued northbound into Humboldt County. CHP again discontinued the pursuit through Richardson Grove. CHP located the vehicle again north of Big Foot

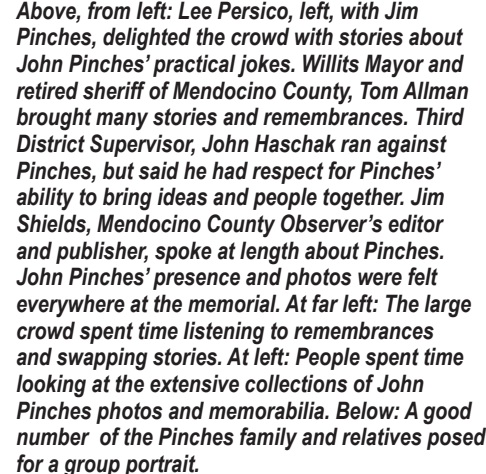
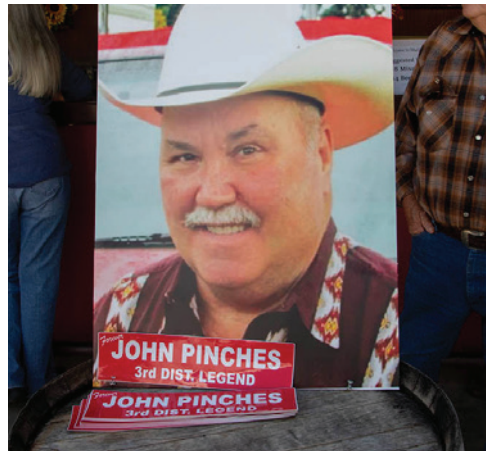
Burl and continued the pursuit.

The pursuit concluded, after a successful deployment of a spike strip, on US-101 at Dean Creek. Upon taking Gonzalez into custody, CHP officers located an unresponsive passenger in the Toyota, later identified as Josh Madison (35). CHP officers immediately rendered aid, administering Narcan, and awaited medical transport.

Numerous stolen items of clothing, with retail tags and anti-theft devices, were located in the vehicle. Both Gonzalez and Madison were taken to the hospital for medical clearance and ultimately booked into Humboldt County Jail. Gonzalez was booked for 2800.2(a) VC, 23152(f) VC, and 11350(a) H&S. Madison was booked for 11550(a) H&S. Additionally charges for 496(a) PC will be recommended.

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.



Above, from left: Lee Persico, left, with Jim Pinches, delighted the crowd with stories about John Pinches' practical jokes. Willits Mayor and retired sheriff of Mendocino County, Tom Allman brought many stories and remembrances. Third District Supervisor, John Haschak ran against Pinches, but said he had respect for Pinches' ability to bring ideas and people together. Jim Shields, Mendocino County Observer's editor and publisher, spoke at length about Pinches. John Pinches' presence and photos were felt everywhere at the memorial. At far left: The large crowd spent time listening to remembrances and swapping stories. At left: People spent time looking at the extensive collections of John Pinches photos and memorabilia. Below: A good number of the Pinches family and relatives posed for a group portrait.

Remembering
John Pinches

Rancher, businessman, and former Third District supervisor honored at Laytonville memorial

"John Pinches was a legend," proclaimed Amy Williams, a sentiment that was much in evidence amongst the hundreds of relatives, friends, and admirers at the memorial, last Saturday in Laytonville, for the former Third District supervisor, rancher, and businessman. People gathered to offer their remembrances, anecdotes, and love for the man whose life touched so many.

Supervisor John Haschak, one of Pinches' rivals to represent the Third District on the county board of supervisors, had respectful words to say: "He was a good public servant. He was always there. He always showed up, and people appreciated that. I think he was a man of his word. If he had a conflict with another supervisor over an issue, they would work it out. They would be yelling at each other in the back room and when they came out, they had it all worked out. He would do what he said he was going to do. That was something to emulate," recalled Haschak.

As is the custom in the tight-knit community of Laytonville, no one could go away from the Pinches memorial hungry. The potluck created about 25 yards of food, good food that ran the gamut from salads to a taco bar, and many desserts. Of course, there was beer to enjoy in the hot sun. Kids played and ran around as the adults greeted each other and shared their stories.

Read the rest of
Pinches Over on page 9

Cold Creek Compost Inc.

NUTRIENT-PACKED COMPOST, PLANTER MIXES & CUSTOM BLENDS MADE IN UKIAH, CA

WHY USE COLD CREEK COMPOST?

- CLOSE THE LOOP
- SAVE MONEY
- REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
- GROW MORE

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Performers

the ANTIDOTE

Page: Be the Antidote Group: Be the Antidote - Willits



Above: Two of John Pinches' nieces, Ora Sizemore and Arya Sizemore sang the National Anthem. At right: 90-year-old, Ernie Phillips played a song to honor his old friend. Far right: Natalie, Guy, and Jack Bondi came to pay their respects and to enjoy the company of those who knew Pinches.



WILLITS ROTARY CLUB INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AT

Claws FOR a Cause

AUG. 30th 5:30PM

A BENEFIT FOR THE SEABISCUIT THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER
HOWARD HOUSE-RIDGEWOOD RANCH • WILLITS, CA

WINE • LOBSTER • PRIME RIB

Tickets - \$100

Dinner, Live & Silent Auctions, Beer & Wine,
AND Live Music by The Back Porch Trio

For more information or tickets call 707-354-0714 or 707-272-1918

STRC is a therapeutic horsemanship program dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities through teaching the skill of horsemanship to help with daily life. We provide services to residents of Mendocino and Lake Counties.

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.agapebilechurch.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/
sainthanonywillits@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
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 31

Redwood Empire Fair and Junior Livestock Auction: The fair is open daily July 31 to August 3 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. See www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com for a complete schedule of events.

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at City Park with vendors along State Street for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food, and tasty treats from local businesses, 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 1

Redwood Empire Fair and Junior Livestock Auction: The fair is open daily July 31 to August 3 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. See www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com for a complete schedule of events.

Shrek The Musical Jr. at the Willits Charter School: Bring the family to enjoy the culminating production of WCT's annual Gateway to the Stage summer youth program. Directed by Joni McLeod of UPT Ukiah and SPCLed, and including 24 local children, performances will be held at the Sports and Performing Arts Center on August 1 to August 3 and again on August 7 to August 10. Shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday are at 7pm and Sunday matinees are at 2pm. Seating is festival style. Tickets are \$15 and available at the door or online at wctperformingartscenter.org. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street, Willits.

Animal Show at the Library: Conservation Ambassadors Wild Things presents an afternoon filled with natural wonders and adventure as they share stories of the animals in their care and educate on the importance of conservation. All ages are welcome for this free event, Friday, August 1 from Noon to 1 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street, Willits.

Food Not Bombs in the Park: Food Not Bombs Willits presents a free meal, zines and supplies at the Rec Grove, every first and third Fridays around 5 pm, starting August 1. Everyone is welcome. Join us at the picnic tables at Rec Grove Park, 300 East Commercial Street, Willits.

TOWN-WIDE ONGOING EVENTS

Willits Food Bank Donations: Our Willits Food Bank is in dire need of non-perishable food and toiletries! Donation bins (Sponsored by Willits Indivisible) have been placed at the following locations: Brickhouse Coffee, Mendo Mill, Willits Branch Library and the Senior Center. Please drop off whatever you can, whenever you are able as donations will be picked up weekly.

Food Not Bombs in Rec Grove Park: Food Not Bombs Willits presents a free meal, zines and supplies every first and third Fridays around 5 pm. Everyone is welcome. Join us at the picnic tables.

Willits Indivisible Democracy Vigil: Come join us every Friday from 5 to 6 pm at Babcock Park on South Main Street. For more information visit "Willits Indivisible" on Facebook.

Farmstand at the Commonwealth Garden: Come by the Commonwealth Garden's weekly Farmstand on Fridays from 10 am to 1 pm for farm-fresh produce and treats. Get there early, some things sell out fast! The garden is located on the right-hand side of Haehl Creek Drive, past the new Howard Memorial Hospital building complex. For more information call the Howard Foundation at 707-459-2777.

Soccer or wiffle ball games for teens at Rec Grove Park: Teens aged 13 to 17 are welcome to join every Wednesday through the third week of August at 6:00 pm.

Lunch to Live Music at Brickhouse Coffee: every Wednesday from noon to 2:00 pm featuring various artists. Corner of South Main and East Commercial Streets, Willits. For more information on upcoming musicians visit Brickhouse Coffee on Facebook.

Open Mic Night every Friday from 5-8pm at Inner Earth Tea House: Bring your songs, poems, stand-up comedy, instruments, etc. to this family-friendly event. Admission is \$12 and includes unlimited tea. 48 East San Francisco Street.

Summer Evenings at The Munchery: Join us Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 5 to 8 pm through the month of August for nightly patio parties featuring cornhole, darts and ping pong along with our new Small Bites menu. There will be some nights we are closed for private events

Duniya at Shanachie: Duniya is an amazing West African band, composed of musicians from Mali, the USA, & India that fuses together ancient and modern sounds and instruments. Their music is highly rhythmic and extremely danceable, interspersed by moments of slower, deeply profound cultural grooves. Duniya is guaranteed to move your body and soul and create a unique musical experience you won't soon forget! Friday, August 1, at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, Willits. For more information about the band visit duniyaband.com.

Redwood Empire Fair and Junior Livestock Auction: The fair is open daily July 31 to August 3 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Junior Livestock Auction will be held today, Saturday, August 2 starting at 10 am. See www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com for a complete schedule of events.

Free School Supply Give-Away at the Library: Come and have fun Saturday, Aug 2 preparing for the upcoming school year as you choose from a wide variety of school supplies including folders, pens, pencils, and much more. This is open for students ages 18 and under and will supplies last. For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

Shrek The Musical Jr. at the Willits Charter School: A children's production brought to you by WCT and directed by Joni McLeod. The show begins at 7 pm at Willits Charter School Sports and Performing Arts Center, 1431 South Main Street, Willits. For more info see August 1 listing or visit wctperformingartscenter.org.

Sovereignty Meet-Up Group with Runa at Inner Earth Tea: Join us from 12:30 to 2:00 pm for connection, visioning, meditations, and song to inspire peace in uncertain times. Saturday, August 2 at Inner Earth Tea, 48 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits. For more info see www.rememberingwithruna.com. Runa accepts donations.

so keep an eye on our calendar and posts! The Munchery, 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

Flourish and Flow Yoga in the Park: Classes will be held every Sunday in Rec Grove Park on South Lenore Street from 10 to 11 am with rotating instructors each week. All levels are welcome and each session ends with crystal bowl sound healing. Bring a mat and some water. Children are welcome if supervised and with an adult. Classes are donation based.

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

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

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

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

Mobile Showers Available in Willits: The mobile shower trailer will be in Willits on Mondays and Tuesdays each week from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, in the parking lot in back of St. Francis Church at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Toiletries, towels and washcloths are provided. One of the rooms has a ramp to the door, but there is no room inside for a wheelchair, so those with disabilities may need to bring a helper. Sack dinners are served from 4:30 to 5:30 by Willits Daily Bread.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Tommy G will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main street. "You're invited to bring any instrument, meet new musicians, discover new genres, and explore your creativity!"
Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm – welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association,



and the rich harmonies of jazz into the modern world in a way that satisfies our ears, eyes, and soul. Do not miss this truly unforgettable experience! Saturday, August 2 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, Willits.



Shrek The Musical Jr. at the Willits Charter School: A children's production brought to you by WCT and directed by Joni McLeod. This matinee show begins at 3 pm at Willits Charter School Sports and Performing Arts Center, 1431 South Main Street, Willits. For more info see August 1 listing or visit wctperformingartscenter.org.

Tuesday, August 5

Eckankar meeting at the Library: Come raise your spiritual IQ on Tuesday, August 5th from 2:30 to 3:30 pm with this discussion on "Soul Travel Explorations: You are Soul - an eternal, creative atom of God. Discover the wonder of you!" at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. For more information call Joy at (707) 367-3777. (This program is neither sponsored by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.)

Wednesday, August 6

History Makers Printmaking at the Museum: Come learn printmaking and paper craft, each Wednesday through the month of August from 2 to 4:30 pm, with a different craft featured

“The Fantastic Four: First Steps”

The Story: As the flick begins: It seems to be a late 1960's "Jetsons" futuristic paradise with cute little robots that beep, and a kitchen where drawers open because you tell them to open. Marvel Comics superheroes Sue Storm (Vanessa Kirby) informs her husband Mister Fantastic (Pedro Pascal) that she's pregnant. He's joyful, though he's worried that the baby may be abnormal in some way. Human Torch (Joseph Quinn) and Ben "The Thing" Grimm (Ebon-Moss Bachrach) are thrilled and have no doubts. And heck, the whole City is excited because the Fantastic Four are famous and beloved superheroes.

And then: an alien metal female they called the Silver Surfer arrives from Outer Space. She informs the Fantastic Four and everyone else that planet Earth's days are numbered because the monstrous/gigantic robot-like being Galactose (aka the Eater of Worlds) is going to eat the Earth. And Silver Surfer Means Literally: "Eat the Whole Planet!" There are more surprises and more bad things happen. But you'll get no spoilers from me, though in all the known Universe apparently only the Fantastic Four can ruin Galactose's Grotesque Dinner Plans.

My Thoughts: The filmmakers examine in some surprising depth how the thought process of a man (Mr. Fantastic) conflict/horriify/enrage the thought process of a woman—especially a particular pregnant woman named Sue Storm. Hooray for the deft screenplay! The complex humanity of the main characters sucked me right into the story. I hope other viewers enjoy this superhero-flick as much as I do.

Parents: The story is complex. The good guys win. The mysterious power of Motherhood is quite uplifting. Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

Teen Game Night: Meet up, hang out, and crush your friends playing cards and board games every Thursday from 5 to 6:30 pm in the Willits Library Conference Room. Light refreshments will be provided. Open to teens ages 13 to 17. Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. (Due to scheduling conflict, next Thursday's game night will be held Friday, August 8 from 4 to 5:30 pm).

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

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

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

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

Blue Luke at Shanachie: Come and enjoy the stylings of "Blue Luke" Andrews, a prodigious guitarist, born and raised in Mendocino County, who started playing the guitar at the age of 12 and began performing on stage by age 14. He has worked with countless artists, most notably Julian Marley, with whom Luke has spent the last 10 years touring the world as his lead guitarist. Luke takes the soul of the blues, the groove of the funk, the grit of rock & roll

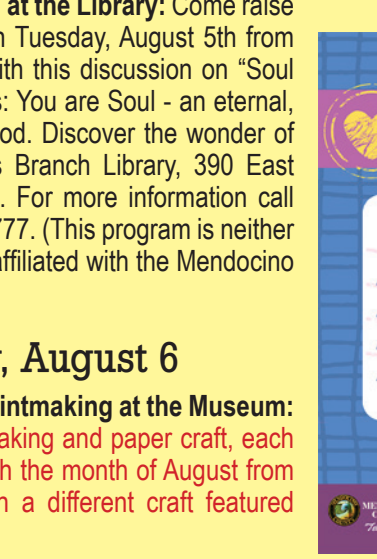
each week. This week showcases marbled paper and garland craft and is free with the price of admission to the museum. Those who present their Mendocino County Library card receive free admission! (Wednesdays only). Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits.

Thursday, August 7

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at City Park with vendors along State Street on the north end of the park for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food, and tasty treats from local businesses, 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. Consider parking at the City or Skunk Train parking lots/

Shrek The Musical Jr. at the Willits Charter School: A children's production brought to you by WCT and directed by Joni McLeod. The show begins at 7 pm at Willits Charter School Sports and Performing Arts Center, 1431 South Main Street, Willits. For more info see August 1 listing or visit wctperformingartscenter.org.

Sgt. Splendor & Welcome West at Shanachie: Duo Eric McFadden and Kate Vargas perform a blend of alt-funk, desert rock and dirty blues. McFadden is a guitar virtuoso and singer/songwriter, and vocalist and songsmith Kate Vargas, has a singing style and sound that have been compared to Tom Waits. Welcome West is a modern bluegrass band that sets themselves apart from your standard local bar band as a cohesive unit that features virtuosic instrumentalists, tight vocal harmonies, and an engaging and interactive stage show. Friday, August 8 from 8 to 11 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, Willits. For more info on the bands visit sgtsplendor.com and welcomewestband.com.



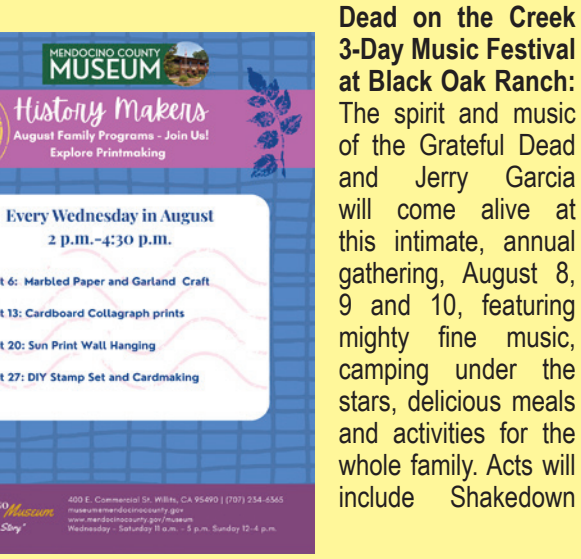
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Strings, Freestone Peaches, Brown Eyed Women, Broken Compass Bluegrass Band, Da Grand Pooba and many more! Other amenities include tie dye workshops, kids' activities, yoga sessions, creek access and craft vendors. Central to the show is the production and sharing of high quality meals. These are prepared on site by the in-house crew. Ingredients are sourced from the local agrarian community and fused to create healthy food for the various food preferences. Spaces for tent or vehicle camping. Black Oak Ranch, US 101, Laytonville. For more information and tickets visit deadonthecreek.net.

Monthly "Art Talk" at WCA: The Willits Center for the Arts is proud to invite the public to a special presentation on one of the most electrifying figures in art history: Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. Often called the father of Baroque painting, his revolutionary approach forever altered the course of Western Art. Presented by curator Gary Martin, M.A., this is not an academic lecture, but an accessible and visually powerful experience, perfect for those curious about art history as well as seasoned enthusiasts. Participation is free but seating is limited and so early arrival is encouraged. Refreshments will be provided for this engaging evening, Friday, August 8 at 6:30 pm. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, Willits. For more information, please contact: Gary Martin gtm1950@gmail.com, (707) 972-3326.

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Saturday, August 9

Word-Music Continuum at WCT: Join us on Saturday, August 9 at 7 pm for an exciting poetry and musical performance by Mendocino County poet Kirk Lumpkin and Bay Area musicians Paul Mills and Mark Wieder in celebration of the release of their third CD, Wildflowers of Collaboration. "Absolutely astounding. Wonderful, empathetic accompaniment. Kirk Lumpkin's voice is so expressive...every cut a great adventure." Admission

Once in a Blues Moon Fundraiser, August 16

Come join us for a powerhouse performance filled with fiery guitar solos, soulful vocals, and heart-pounding rhythms from Tommy Castro & the Painkillers, well known for their electrifying blend of blues, rock, and soul. This event raises funds for the Mendocino County Museum and Roots Of Motive Power and will also feature opening live music acts by local artists, and curated food, beverages and craft cocktails by local vendors and bartenders. Doors open at 6 pm with music until 11 pm in the County Museum courtyard on Saturday, August 16. Get tickets online at Eventbrite, or at Moon Lady in Willits and at the door. 400 East Commercial Street, Willits.

Cult2Clysm: Into the Cultiverse at UPT July 31 to Aug 2

The last weekend to see an original musical written and directed by Chuck Mordock with musical direction from Eddie Haehl. In this long-anticipated sequel to Cultaclysism, two hapless friends get sucked into the "Cultiverse" where chaos ensues. The 20-person cast performs songs from various "cult" movies and musicals including Heathers, High School Musical, Rent, Spring Awakening, and many more. All lyrics have been rewritten by Mordock, and almost all of the cast are playing fan-favorite cult characters. Due to adult content including mature themes, swearing, and nudity, you must be 18 or older to attend. Shows start at 7 pm on Thursday July 31, Friday Aug 1, and Saturday Aug 2 at the Ukiah Playhouse, 1041 Low Gap Road, Ukiah. For tickets or more information visit ukiahplayerstheatre.org.

32nd annual Art in the Gardens August 2 and 3

Come enjoy a celebration of creative expression and blooms at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens on Saturday, August 2, and Sunday, August 3. This beloved summer fundraiser will feature assemblage artist Virginia Ray along with more than 50 other talented artists showcasing stunning ceramics, photography, jewelry, woodwork, and more. There will be live performances by Mendocino Coast musicians including The Real Sarahs and the Sonoma County Pomo Dancers. Art, food, craft brews, and wine, will be available for purchase. Parking is free, but limited; please plan to carpool. This year, we are also offering a free parking shuttle that will pick up from the Mendocino Community College parking lot. Due to large crowds, dogs will not be permitted. Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, 18220 North Highway 1, Fort Bragg. For tickets and more information visit www.gardenbythesea.org/aiag.



is donation-based and an open reading will follow the performance. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, Willits.

GOH at Shanachie: Referred to by many as the Bicultural Musical Samurai, Goh Kurosawa has been touring locally and internationally since 2005 and is currently in the midst of his Lovetap Tour. Kurosawa has worked throughout his life to share honest stories and life connections through music, bringing fresh original songs, electrifying soundscapes and stunning arrangements of familiar global melodies. Saturday, August 9 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, Willits. For more information visit composelife.com.

WCA Founders: Then & Now Exhibit opens: Saturday, August 9, from 6 to 8pm and features over 25 veteran artists who were key to the transformation of a historical building into a vibrant art and cultural center. Both galleries will be filled with original work by jewelers, ceramicists, quilters, painters, sculptors, and more. As always, the Center will offer food, refreshments, and fellowship. The exhibit runs through Sunday August 31, with galleries open from 11am to 5pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, Willits. For more information, please email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org.

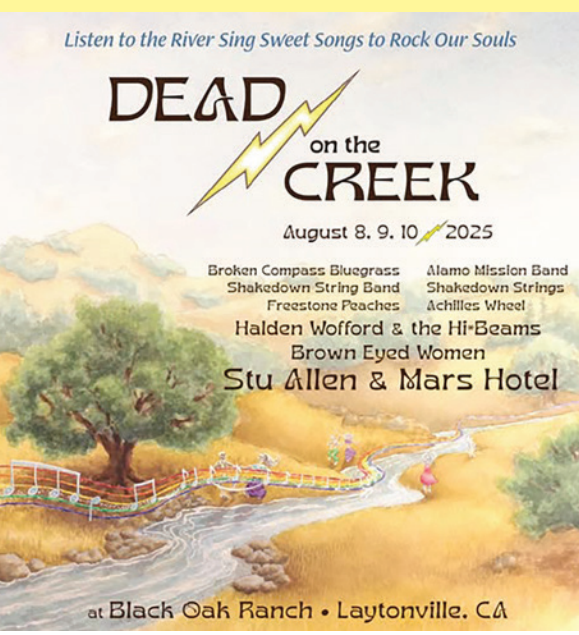
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Dead on the Creek at Black Oak Ranch: The spirit and music of the Grateful Dead and Jerry Garcia will come alive at this intimate, 3-day music festival. For more info see Friday, August 8 listing or visit deadonthecreek.net.

Sunday, August 10

Shrek The Musical Jr. at the Willits Charter School: A children's production brought to you by WCT and directed by Joni McLeod. This matinee show begins at 3 pm at Willits Charter School Sports and Performing Arts Center, 1431 South Main Street, Willits. For more info see August 7 listing or visit wctperformingartscenter.org.

Dead on the Creek at Black Oak Ranch: The final day of this 3-day music festival honoring the Grateful Dead. For more info see Friday, August 8 listing or visit deadonthecreek.net.



COME DOWN AND JOIN US
AUGUST 22, 2025
DINNER AT 6PM MOVIE AT 7PM





WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WCA Founders: THEN & NOW

OPENS SATURDAY AUGUST 9 ~ 6-8pm

Over 20 founding artists with work from the early days of the Art Center to the present.

Exhibit will be extend through August 31

WCA Galleries are open Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays from 11am to 5pm.

WILLITS FOOD BANK

Mural by Bakewell and Wiecek

Willits Food Train

Sponsored by Willits Indivisibles

Our Willits Food Bank is in dire need.

We have placed donation bins to accept non-perishable food and toiletries at the following locations:

Brickhouse Mendo Mill Library Sr. Center

Many thanks to these establishments for their help in this endeavor.

This is an ongoing effort...Please drop off whatever you can, whenever you are able, and we will deliver to the food bank on a weekly basis.

ELLIOTT EXCAVATION

707-841-7692

800 Hwy. 20

Willits, CA 95490

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CEO & Financial Advisor
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207 W Stephenson St, Ukiah, CA 95482
675 S Main St, Willits, CA 95490
www.ncfinancialgroup.com

Investments | Tax Planning | Insurance | Business Solutions | Retirement

NC Financial Group 2022 awarded Gold in Corporate Accounting Firm, Financial Advisor honor prize in 2024, and Top Firm, The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Business Media to elite level services for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Recognition is provided by the community and after the nomination period's completion, the names of individualized businesses in each of the categories are featured and ranked on the official Best of Lake and Mendocino website. The business can then win or lose choice in each category. Votes are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, the vote per company per 24-hour period is allowed. Listing in this publication and/or award is not a guarantee of future investment success. This recognition should not be construed as an endorsement of the award by any client. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the recipient for participation or in connection with obtaining or using the third-party service or award.

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‘WCA Founders: Then & Now’ opens August 9

Submitted by WCA

“WCA Founders: Then & Now” comes to Willits Center for the Arts for the month of August, opening with an artists reception Saturday, August 9, from 6 to 8 pm. The exhibit, featuring over 25 veteran artists who were key to the transformation of a historical building, formerly the Women’s Improvement Club, into a vibrant art and cultural center.

The Willits Center for the Arts galleries will be filled with work both old and new from the people that made the art center happen, many of whom have been practicing their art for 40 years or more.

Both galleries will be filled with original work by jewelers, ceramicists, quilters, painters, sculptors, and more. Artists will offer written reflections on their decades with the WCA, highlighting how their work has grown and changed over the years.

“WCA Founders: Then & Now” opens Saturday, August 9, from 6 to 8 pm. As always, the center will offer food, refreshments, and fellowship, along with lots and lots of ART. The exhibit runs through Sunday, August 31, with galleries open from 11 am to 5 pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. We look forward to your visit at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. For more information, please email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org.

At left, top: “Cypress,” an 8x10 watercolor by Ann Maglente. At left, above: A bas relief portrait of Karen Karnes by Doree Chase. At left: The poster for the WCA Founders Show 2025. At right, top: “Mike Persico with His Kids,” 2001, a photo by Larry Melious. At right: Sulin Bell’s “Dragon Pillowcase on Silk.”

Photos courtesy WCA

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Athletic Lily

Lily is an active, full-throttle kind of girl! Grab life by the horns and run with it ... or grab a big stick rather! She LOVES running and chasing sticks, the bigger the better!!! She is super confident, a bit bossy, and selective about the company she keeps. Lily isn't a social butterfly, no dog parks for her, she would love a home with a couple active adults who don't have a ton of social activity in the home. She will protect, and maybe get possessive if allowed, so best to keep some boundaries with her! Smart, athletic girl who needs dog savvy folks with a yard and time to provide lots of love, play time (big sticks!) and ongoing training and stimulation.

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



Cherry

Cherry is as lovable as her name – gentle, affectionate, and always happy to be near her people. She's been patiently waiting, 137 days and counting, for a foster or forever home where she can feel safe, comfy, and cared for. Whether it's lounging on the couch, going for walks, or



soaking up some sunshine, Cherry is just happy to be by your side. She's a total lovebug who deserves her own cozy spot in someone's heart (and home).

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all

of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumaneociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Adventurous Patrick

Patrick is your typical playful, friendly domestic shorthair kitten! He is 20 weeks old, neutered, and is quite adventurous. He would make a great companion to another feline. Patrick spent some of his kittenhood in a foster home where he got lots of attention and affection! We think Patrick will make a great addition to any family.

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.



The rest of
Pinches | From page 5

Even those who disagreed with the man had great respect for his straightforwardness, his honesty, and his mountain ways. “I disagreed with 90 percent of what he stood for, but I voted for him every time because I liked him. He was honest. And he had some good ideas. John was a great guy. We knew him for 40 years. There will never be another one like him,” said Bear Kamoroff.

This was a memorial but not a sad event. Attendees were joyous in their recollections as they recalled how much he helped those who came to him and those who benefitted from his largesse.

His brother, Jim Pinches, told of his journey from butcher at Geiger’s to rancher, politician, landowner, and businessman. “John Pinches, he was born in 1951, and we were raised on the Blackrock Ranch. When he was a young man, he went to work at Geiger’s Market. When he was 17, he leased the butcher shop in Geiger’s Market and he took over being the butcher.

“He had a great life. He started this rodeo. He loved rodeos. He loved people getting together, having fun, kids riding the sheep. He drove down to behind Harwood Park. He said to me, ‘See that property.’ Which we’re standing on right here. He said, ‘That’s going to be where the rodeo will be. We’re going to build it up. I bought it.’

“He knew a lot of people that could do stuff,” Jim Pinches continued. “He started putting his dream in action and look at it now. That was probably in the early 1970s. In any thing he’d do, he could get people, competent people, to do the job. After Geiger’s, he went into being partners with Geiger’s son, Bernard, and they had cattle. They owned one store in Leggett, the Park and Take it, a Texico station, a hardware store, Brown’s Corner in Willits, a gas station in Laytonville, a bar [the Redwood Empire Club] in Laytonville.

“He bought the Island Mountain Ranch, way north of Laytonville. He was a hillbilly at heart. In the meantime, when he was ranching, he started buying land, selling timber off of it. Later on in life, he bought the Chief Drive-In and Laundromat. He was always scheming and doing something.

“Along the trail, he decided he would run for supervisor,” Jim Pinches said. “He didn’t like the way things were going there, and he told me, ‘Jim, I think I can make a difference.’ The county was \$5 million in debt. So, the whole family, the whole town of Laytonville and Covelo, they all came out, and we won the election. In four years, the county was rated the most fiscally solvent amongst the 58 California counties. The debt was wiped out.”

“You never think of him not being here,” Tom Allman reminisced at the memorial. “Johnny was bigger than life because Johnny was Laytonville. When he ran for supervisor the first time, he must have had 200 used tires, each one, on one side, was painted white with a red ‘Pinches for Supervisor.’ People would just hang them on their fence post. It was a brilliant marketing idea. If you had a Pinches tire on your front yard, and you were in Laytonville, you were somebody. You were supporting the right guy.”

Throughout the afternoon, people came up to the microphone to share their favorite stories about John Pinches. One old friend, Ernie Phillips, 90 years old, picked up his guitar and sang a song that reminded him of the man. Jim Shields, editor of the Mendocino County Observer, spoke at length about the man that he knew so well.

Lee Persico told of a practical joke that Pinches played on a banker friend, when the kids at the rodeo caught chickens, he told them to bring them to the bank and receive \$5. The banker paid up but registered his umbrage.

Ora and Anya Sizemore, Pinches’ nieces, who sang the National Anthem, remembered how he used to take them hunting and kept giving them chickens every time he saw them. Everyone at the gathering had something good to say or remembered something that Pinches did to enrich their lives or cut through the bureaucracy to help make their lives a little bit easier.

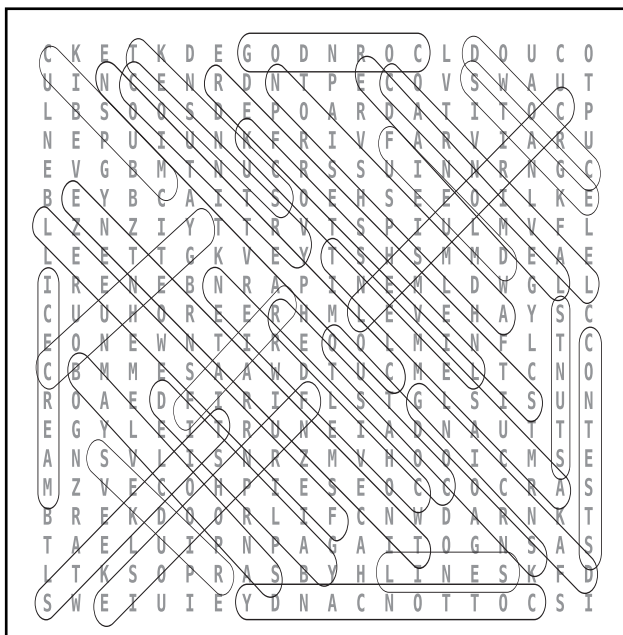
John Pinches was a doer. His tenacity and adherence to doing the right thing enriched many lives. One of his favorite expressions was about just figuring out what needed to be done and doing it: “Spur up: Get your spurs on, and ride that horse.

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW549 Fictitious Business Name Statement 2025-F0319 The following person or persons are doing business as Barnes Bookkeeping, 245A South Humboldt Street, Willits, CA 95490. Registered owner: Stylist of Willits, Inc., 245A South Humboldt Street, Willits, CA 95490. This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 15, 2025. /s/ Necole Aguilar Barnes Publication Dates: July 24, 31, August 7 and 14, 2025	WW550 Fictitious Business Name Statement 2025-F0332 The following person or persons are doing business as Mary Me Mendo, 20110 Hanson Road, Fort Bragg, CA; 707-357-8019. Registered owner: Monica Edman Kirby, 20110 Hanson Road, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on July 17, 2025. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 23, 2025. /s/ Monica Edman Kirby Publication Dates: July 31, August 7, 14, and 21, 2025
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The rest of
Willits Fest | From page 3

Billy Hetherington and Bryan Arnold deftly handled their duties as hosts and announcers, throughout the 12-hour event, swapping jokes and cutting up, to the delight of the crowd. “What a turnout. I can’t believe that we got so many people for our first annual event,” exclaimed Hetherington. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen this many people in the Rec Grove all at once. It’s pretty spectacular. It far exceeds our expectations. We have a parade of kids making their way through. People are sharing their talents left and right. It’s hard to stay focused.”

The entertainment began with Hal Wagenet’s group, Hal A Looyah, followed by spoken word from Aurelie Clivaz. Next up was local fixture, the Cosmic Family Band. Bands from the Charter School, Cosmic Transmutation, The Posers, Friends Anonymous, and Tangled Ends, entertained the attendees with their earnest and much-practiced musical musings.

Tastes Like Chicken played standard rock and some originals. Leza, consisting of Brazilian musicians and some locals, rocked the park. Self-Fulfilling Prophecies got people on their feet in front of the stage, as did several of the other groups, with their driving rhythms. Young Azalea Morninglight sat on the front of the stage with her guitar and created simple, but moving songs, and was followed by her “Uncle Tootreesee” of the Farmers Market Band, singing his original song, “Coming Down the Hill,” which would make a great anthem for Willits.

The final group of the evening was the much-too-rarely-seen Soulevity, fronted by Azalea’s father, Tucker Morninglight. As Soulevity played their energetic vibes, the Wildfire Dancers and Pyrophoria fascinated the kids and adults with their deft fire spinning.

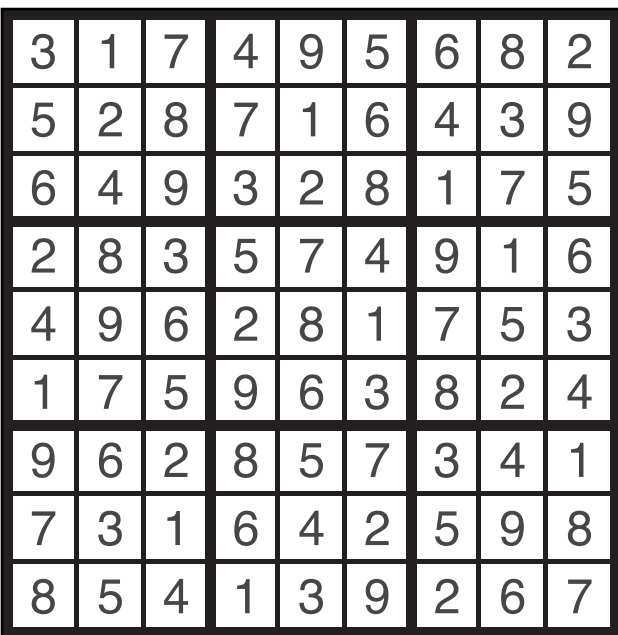
There was so much going on throughout the day that it was difficult to concentrate on one aspect. For the hungry, there was the Turtle Island Indian Taco truck, kettle corn, and more. The vendors were an eclectic group of local makers, botanicals, informational, art posters, drawings, etc. Raffle tickets were called during the event by Hetherington and Arnold, who finally auctioned off two three-day passes to Reggae on the River, won by Jake McFadden for \$500. All the funds collected went to the Willits Charter School art programs.

HELP WANTED:

Casino Controller at Sherwood Valley Casino

Benefits, Salary: \$98K - \$110K

The Casino Controller directs the cashing, vault, drop and count areas in a manner that safeguards the assets of the Sherwood Valley Casino, while establishing and maintaining acceptable accounting procedures and internal controls and assures all external and internal regulations are met. Has direct supervision of Cage/Vault, Drop, and Count Supervisors. Exercises management responsibility for all activities of the Accounting/Finance Department. Activities include direct hands-on oversight of audit, accounting, general ledger, reporting, payroll, purchasing, cashing, and count room operations. Responsible for the company’s overall operating and capital budgets, internal control policies, insurance and risk management programs, and relationships with financial institutions, casino’s compliance with provisions of the State Compact, NIGC, Tribal ordinances, Gaming Commission regulations, cash transactions reporting, and IRS withholding and reporting requirements. Contact the General Manager at mftzgerrai@svrcasino.com or 707-459-7350.



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!	Love Willits Weekly? Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a “street subscriber”! You send in an annual donation, and pick up the edition on the street each week! We love our regular subscribers too: \$75 for home delivery in the Willits area; \$100 for a year’s subscription in the U.S. mail. Visit https://form.jotform.com/61915582053153 for a signup form and more info.
Do you need food? Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, new expanded distribution hours: 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	Multi-Family Yard Sale Clothes, shoes, kitchenware, household items, baby items, toys, furniture, and more. Saturday August 2nd, 300 East Valley St., 8 am to 2 pm
For Rent Clean & Quiet 2 Bdrm. 1 bath, close to shopping center, garbage pd. Washer & Dryer included on hand. \$1350.00 plus Security Deposit, Amco Management 707-354-0048	Raise Your Spiritual IQ Soul Travel Explorations, a spiritual discussion. You are Soul – an eternal, creative, atom of God. Discover the wonder of you! Tuesday, August 5th, 2:30 to 3:30. Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St. Sponsored by Eckankar in California, Info? (707) 367-3777 (This program is neither sponsored by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.)
For Sale 10 year old Bowflex system with free weights, \$200; 2 stand alone Klipsch speakers, \$50 each; 2 shelf Klipsch speakers, \$25 each; sit down spinner with monitor, free. (707) 459-6085	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.oakrivine.net/tp
Help Wanted Truck Driver/ Warehouse Associate 1250 Blosser Ln. Willits. Part-time: 24/30 hrs week. Pick up an application or visit: www.mendofood.org/about/careers	Tattoo Shop Tattoo Shop in Downtown Willits! Clean, cute, and private shop with 10 years experience. Love to tattoo botanicals, cute critters, and sceneries! Appointments and bookings: kikitattoos.com

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two weeks. Email us your ad today to be included!

It was a brilliant afternoon and evening for the kids, adults, dogs, bands, vendors, and everyone involved. It was so well planned that the promoters were laid back and actually were able to enjoy the day. Hopefully, this is not the last of Willits Fest.

WCT Summer Youth Program presents

‘Shrek The Musical Jr.’

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

“Shrek The Musical Jr.” opens for a seven-show run at the Willits Charter School on August 1. The Willits Community Theatre young person’s production is directed by Joni McLeod, a veteran actor, singer and director at the Ukiah Players Theatre and SPACE. McLeod is also co-owner of Ukiah-based media company, Hardly Artists. The production is the culmination of WCT’s annual Gateway to the Stage summer youth program.

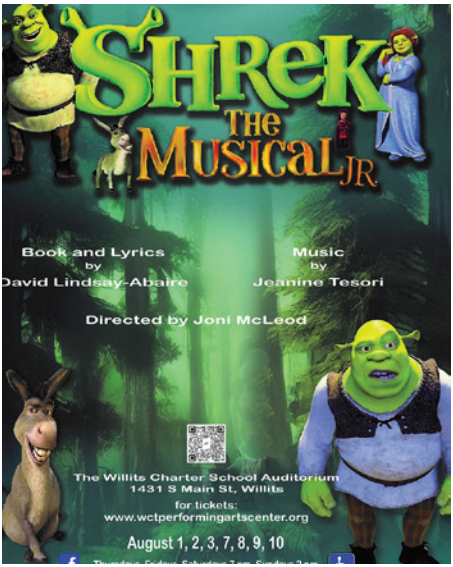
The cast includes Aidan Hult as Shrek, Desa Holt as Fiona, Cori Balthrop as Donkey, Addison Hulsey as the Dragon, and Amiel Hult and Illia Pavlov as Lord Farquaad. Other players include Cedar L’Angelle, Leila Clarke, Rose Groah, Daylee Ward, Miles Fainer, Tula Clark, Miles Mattson, James Mattson, Dyllilah Lawson, Delaney Burkhead, Norah Henckell, Scarlett Schwindt, Noah Smith, Luna France, Finn Shipp, Meadow Waluk, and DeeOra Fredricey.

“Shrek The Musical, Jr.” was written by David Lindsay-Abaire, based on the book by William Steig and also the Dreamworks motion picture. Music was composed by Jeanine Tesori.

In the story, Shrek the good-natured ogre faces losing his home unless, on the orders of Lord Farquaad, he rescues the mysterious Princess Fiona from the clutches



Above, left: Director of “Shrek The Musical Jr.,” Joni McLeod. Below: The cast of “Shrek The Musical Jr.” Photo by Cindi Moore.



of an evil Dragon.

Director McLeod says, “The show offers an opportunity for the kids to get immersed in the Shrek story line and actually explore what being these characters means.” She adds about the importance of Shrek’s heroism, “A lot of the story is about loving yourself for who you are.”

Performances are August 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 at SPAC – the Sports and Performing Arts Center at the Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday are at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$15 and available online at wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door. Seating is festival style.

The show is sponsored by Jerry Drew Painting, Big Fish Construction, Julia Morgan Redwood Grove, Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic, radio stations KZXY and KLLG, The Community Foundation of Mendocino County and The Penserra Group.



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

Learn more at
AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org



Above: The Word-Music Continuum, from left: Paul Mills, Kirk Lumpkin, and Mark Wieder.

Photos courtesy WCT

Poet Kirk Lumpkin brings poetry and music to WCT, August 9

Submitted by Willits Community Theatre

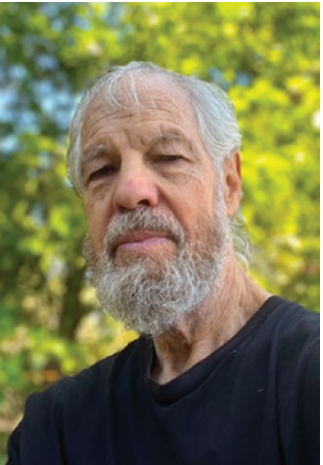
Mendocino County Poet Kirk Lumpkin brings an exciting poetry and music performance to the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, August 9 at 7pm. Lumpkin will perform his words with Bay Area musicians Paul Mills on guitar and Mark Wieder on bass in celebration of their third CD release as The Word-Music Continuum trio, “Wildflowers of Collaboration.”

DJ Kathy Rippey of KZXY radio says of the CD: “ It’s absolutely astounding. Wonderful, empathetic accompaniment. Kirk Lumpkin’s voice is so expressive ... every cut a great adventure.”

The Word-Music Continuum has performed at festivals, art centers, clubs, cafes, and bookstores from the North Beach Festival to Burning Man, the Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival to the Petaluma Poetry Walk, the Marin Poetry Festival, Mills College, Cody’s Books, and the Beat Museum, among other venues.

Kirk Lumpkin is the author of two books of poetry “In Deep” and “Co-Hearing,” and has released two CDs of original rock songs. He says, “My most persistent poetic mode is eco-spiritual, including poems of celebration, love, witness and social criticism.” His performances have included naturalist stories, rants, prayers, and a recent accent on raps in costume.

The Willits Community Theatre Playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane. Admission is by donation. An open reading will follow the featured performance.



Mendocino County Poet Kirk Lumpkin.

The rest of Grants

From page 2

• Food Service Technology Center. Access key training programs, design consultants and test kitchen plans to improve your operations and energy efficiency.

• Budget Billing: If you are a small business owner, you can have a predictable bill each month by enrolling in Budget Billing. The program averages out your monthly bill to determine your monthly payment, instead of having unpredictable summer bills.

• Energy Efficiency Programs: PG&E contracts with external companies to provide a customized solution for different business sectors.

• Find Your Lowest-cost Rate Plan: Customers can use this online tool to run a rate analysis to see if they are on the lowest-cost rate plan for their operations. Last year, customers saved \$5.4 million.

• Economic Development Rate: This offers eligible business customers the opportunity to lower costs through one of three reduced electric rate options. PG&E developed this rate to help businesses grow or maintain jobs in California. The standard 12% rate discount is available throughout our service territory.

For more information on the California Restaurant Foundation, Restaurants Care, or the Restaurant Resilience Fund, visit restaurantscare.org.

The rest of Fire

From page 1

55 percent. “Crews continue to mitigate hot spots and strengthen containment lines,” CAL FIRE’s summary states.

The latest update shows 375 personnel currently assigned to the Medicine Fire, with a helicopter, 39 engines, 3 dozers, 7 water tenders, 12 crews, and 40 “other assigned” personnel. “Numerous firefighting air tankers from throughout the State are flying fire suppression missions as conditions allow,” the Medicine Fire update states.

Three firefighter injuries have been reported due to the Medicine Fire.

Cooperating agencies on the Medicine Fire are listed as: Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office, Covelo Fire Protection, US Forest Service, California Conservation Corps, and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show looks for junior contestants for new youth Applejack contest this September

There’s a new contest to find a Little Applejack and a Junior Applejack this year for the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show this September in Boonville. Contestants must live in Mendocino County and be within the ages of 2 to 6 for the Little Applejack contest, and 7 to 13 for the Junior Applejack contest. Contestants must be signed up by August 8.

Nichole Wyant, event organizer, explains the new event: “The contestants are required to sell raffle tickets, one set for a cash prize, and the other is the four wheeler/beef raffle. The contestant that brings in the most money in each age division will be the winner. They will be crowned Saturday during the Parade of Champions. We ask that the winners participate in handing out the blue ribbon and Grand Marshal awards that same evening, and then participate in our parade on Sunday. The contestant that wins each division will receive a sash and a buckle.”

More details and entry forms are available at the fair office, located at 14400 CA-128, Boonville, or by calling Wyant at 707-684-0473 or the office directly at 707-895-3011.

The rest of Baker

From page 1

community, and I’m very committed to building a district where every family and staff member can be proud.”

With over 20 years of experience in education, Baker’s experience in teaching and leadership roles in small communities has prepared him to prioritize unity, collaboration, and effective communication within the district. Baker acknowledges that small school districts come with their challenges, being limited in funding and resources, emphasizing that it is critical that everyone has a voice and that collaboration is strong to provide a stable school environment.

Baker is working on improving the district to ensure that WUSD is providing good resources to prepare students for the future, explaining, “What we do here, just remember that we are doing that for the students.”

Baker’s primary goal is to build rapport with teachers, staff, and the community to foster trust and transparency during his administration. Superintendent Baker says he is setting clear goals, supporting people, and demonstrating leadership through effective communication and active listening – listening to people, gathering community feedback, and collaborating with others to piece together the puzzle of the school district’s success. To accomplish his first goal, Superintendent Baker is making himself readily available, explaining, “I’m there to listen and make myself accessible, and I’m not the type of guy who’s gonna sit behind my desk and wait for people to come.”

Reporting that the primary focus during his administration is conducting conversations, Baker is building relationships with the Willits Teachers Association and the California School Employees Association and listening to people’s concerns. However, Baker confirms that action will be taken based on the needs of the students and school sites to provide teachers and students with the tools for success. Collaborating with his executive cabinet, Superintendent Baker intends to analyze the needs of students and work with principals to ensure they are “moving together in the right direction.”

After being in the office for a few weeks, Baker has identified gaps in English Language Arts and Math. Currently analyzing the data in depth and examining professional development, Baker is preparing a plan of action. In the short term, his focus is on building relationships, trust, and strong communication. Still, in the long term, Baker is working to ensure the district has access to good instructional materials, is equipping teachers with a broad skill set, examining facilities, and assessing where improvements and repairs are needed, ultimately closing the academic gaps in the district.

Superintendent Baker expresses to the community, “I’m working very hard at this time so that we are ready for the first day of school, and I just know it’s going to be a great school year.”

The rest of Reservoirs

From page 1

item: Review and Approval of the Accounts Payable, in the amount of \$61,980.58.

Director Mary Ziady had a question regarding an expenditure. She said, “Just out of curiosity it looks like we had a fairly good size project requiring base rock and hydraulic elbows and all kinds of things and I’d like to know what that’s about.” Alaniz explained: “We’ve had quite a few significant leaks that have used up base rock, so we’ve bought more base rock to repair those leaks. For example, rerouting pipes is necessary.”

Ziady responded, “Glad to know you’re on the leaks.” Alaniz said, “The crew was out on one the other night super late. As it gets warm there’s seismic activity and that causes shifting.” Ziady then said, “Well, I had a conversation with a geologist several years ago who said, “Brooktrails is always moving!”

Next up was Agenda Item: “Consideration of Resolution 2025-07 Rejecting Withdrawal of the Operator-Initiated Notice of Termination of the Golf Course Operations Agreement.” Alaniz started by saying, “The board has made significant progress after its decision to move forward with an RFP [request for proposals] for golf course operations. This resolution goes through those steps that were made in that process and the public has been engaged already in the process. So, staff’s recommendation is derived from the fact that the board took the steps since May 27, taken in response to the operator-initiated notice of termination, and should probably not be reversed by acceptance of its withdrawal.”

It’s helpful to note that the operator-initiated notice of termination was preceded by the operator’s admission that he was significantly encumbered in fulfilling his duties by the fact that his health was impaired and continues to be affected by multiple surgical procedures that he has had to undergo in the past year.

Director Susan Mahoney made the motion to approve the Resolution 2025-07, and it was seconded by Ziady. O’Shea asked if there was any discussion or questions, and Mahoney said, “No reason was yet given as to why it was withdrawn?” Alaniz said, “The board actually hasn’t received its own correspondence on that matter. We’ve been operating on the brief email that was given to counsel that was announced to you at the last meeting.” Horrick said, “My feeling is that we are on a course of action which we’ve approved, so we need to continue.”

O’Shea asked if there were any comments from the public. A gentleman stepped to the podium and said, “I’d like to comment, please. I’m Colby Friend and I’m actually the counsel for Marcus and Jacklyn [Newby/Christian]. I wanted to introduce myself and I just wanted to say that I also have a property up here in Brooktrails, so I’m part of the community. I have children who attend schools in the community. Marcus and Jacklyn have been great advocates for the youth here in Willits and in

Brooktrails. I just want to say about the golf course - it looks fabulous. They’ve done a good job. I know that there’s been a lot of friction between staff, perhaps, and the operators, and as I was saying to counsel yesterday, ‘Sometimes it’s not pretty how the sausage is made, but it’s come out pretty good.

“I just want you guys to consider,” Friend continued, “that they’ve been very competent at what they do and when you put it out there for someone else to take it over, you risk the level of competence that we’ve come to expect on that golf course. It’s pretty good, pretty nice. There’s always snacks and beverages available, and the greens are looking better than I’ve ever seen them. Please be aware that when you turn over that leaf, you don’t know what you’re going to get.”

Brooktrails staff member, Deputy Finance Officer Tom Sims stepped to the podium and countered what Friend had said. “I just had the opportunity to go out and golf this past weekend. I’ve been golfing the course for 35 years. I’ve seen the course in good shape and I’ve seen it in bad shape. I was pretty horrified by what I saw when I played the course. I saw a lot of dead greens. I noticed a lot of maintenance that has not been done. I walked by many of the sprinkler heads that had wet patches around them but because they’re not set on a timer, everything around them was dead.

“Most of the fairways leading up to these greens are dead,” Sims continued. “There were wet patches of what I think are remaining sprinkler systems that are still in good repair and working. I saw no evidence that people go out and clean off the greens themselves or the driving mats; or making sure that the markers or the next spot to throw your disks or knock your ball are either done as temporary or with a cardboard sign or they’re just nonexistent. It was really difficult to figure out which direction I should be going.”

Continuing Sims said, “The course, obviously, needs a lot of maintenance through bridges and stuff like that, but because the operator has not spent enough time on the course itself, I feel they’re out of touch with what the real needs on the ground are.”

The roll call vote that followed on the agenda item was unanimously approved.

Finally, there was “Discussion and Review of Fiscal Year-end Highlights – Brooktrails funding highlights and project expenses for Fiscal Year 24-25.”

The report, prepared by Tom Sims, was very easy to understand and provided all of the information needed to see that Brooktrails is on very sound financial footing for this year and the coming year.

Before the meeting ended Manager Alaniz noted that the new Brooktrails office is just about ready to be occupied by staff. She said: “I think everyone is going to be proud and will be glad for us to get that building. We will be scheduling an Open House and everyone will be invited to see our new place.”

defended her council:

“I want to put it on the record that the previous city council did not get adequate information about the extent of the financial problems facing the city,” Strong commented. “We were actually assured a number of times that things were looking fine, and we adopted a budget on that basis.” Strong added: “I don’t want to place blame for that. There’s plenty of blame to go around.”

Council member Matthew Alaniz wrapped up the blame-game with this comment: “I’ve talked to people throughout town who are concerned about this. I often get the question, Do you trust the financial director with these numbers? My response is, No. My response is really, I trust the system, I trust the process. If we are going to start rebuilding, start healing this division, we put trust into the process. And individuals will have to earn their own trust.”

The rest of Budget

From page 1

reliable financial records on which to base a budget is due to a lack of audited financial statements, now going back two years. Orozco stated that he is “pushing” the auditors to complete the 2023-2024 audit as rapidly as possible. The delay, however, was not caused by the auditors, but by the city’s failure to produce financial statements for the auditors to audit.

With or without a budget, the city is in a severe financial crisis, and how likely or how soon that will be ameliorated is unknown. The general fund, that pays for the day-to-day operation of the city – utilities, payroll, police – is out of money. The only thing keeping the city from going bankrupt has been the transfer of cash from the Measure K fund, a special sales tax initiative approved by voters in 2020, to the general fund.

At the July 23 council meeting, interim city manager Rod Wilburn asked the

council to transfer \$2 million from Measure K to the general fund, which the council approved. But the Measure K fund is also running down, and Burton again sounded a warning: “Two months ago we had this discussion and we transferred \$800,000 out of Measure K, and we transferred a million last month, and now [with the \$2 million transfer] Measure K is down to \$1.6 million. My question is, are we going to be here in 30 days asking for another million dollars out of the Measure K fund?”

Finance director Orozco did not have an answer to Burton’s question, but commented that “we will reach a pinch point some time in September which will require Measure K so we have the funds available to start the budget process.” Orozco did not elaborate on what “pinch point” was going to be reached, nor why he needs funds to start a budget process.

Orozco also stated that the wastewater

(sewer) fund, which is completely separate from the general fund, “is having some cash flow issues as well.” Orozco did not elaborate on this ominous-sounding warning.

The one thing Orozco was clear about was to blame the former city manager Brian Bender for the city’s financial meltdown.

At the June 25 council meeting, Orozco said that the city manager had taken over Orozco’s job. At the July 23 meeting, Orozco added, “When I started everything was fine. Losing the finance department had a very, very bad drastic effect on the city plans. We fell behind by three years.”

My grandfather, a man with strong opinions, always used to say, “There’s two sides to every story.” And so there likely is with how the city wound up in such a mess. Former city manager Bender was not present to defend himself. Former council member Madge Strong was present, and



OBITUARY |

Daniel Jones

Daniel Dean Jones, 60, passed away on July 22, 2025, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Born on July 6, 1965, in Branson, Missouri, Daniel lived a life defined by resilience, creativity, and unwavering faith.

A man of many talents, Daniel owned and operated D. Jones Painting, where he poured heart and artistry into his work. Over the years, he also served as a security guard at Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital and worked as a car salesman in Tulsa – careers that reflected his strong work ethic and outgoing nature.

Daniel was a devoted Christian who expressed his faith not just in words, but in action. He served as a pastor, gifted Bibles, prayed with others, and officiated weddings. His spirituality shaped how he lived – with kindness, compassion, and a belief in second chances.

Known for his booming laugh and quick wit, Daniel had a larger-than-life personality. He could make anyone laugh, even in the most unexpected moments. Yet behind his humor was a gentle, tender soul who found joy in the simple things – painting with music playing in the background, watching sports, or relaxing with his dogs nearby.

Family was at the center of Daniel’s world. He is survived by his daughters, Taylor and Madison; his brother Michael; nephew Jacob; grandchildren Kason, Easton, Audrey, Leo, and Ivy; great-niece Emma; and great-nephew Grayson. Though family dynamics could be complicated, his love for them was unwavering.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel Paul and Nadine; sister Shelly; grandparents; and his beloved wife, Treana, whose passing from cancer 14 years ago deeply affected him. Her loss remained a quiet but enduring ache in his life.

Daniel wasn’t perfect, but he was real. He believed deeply – in God, in love, in people. He will be remembered for his humor, his heart, and the comfort of knowing that when he stood beside you, you were never alone.

He will be missed more than words can express.



OBITUARY |

Donna Dockins

Beautiful , sweet, strong, wise and independent, Donna Jean Dockins a resident of Willits for 55 years passed away very peacefully with family by her side on none other than Independence Day, July 4, 2025; at the age of 93.

Donna was born February 15, 1932 in Redwood Valley, to Ruth and Halis Myers where she was raised. She graduated from Ukiah High School, then settled in Willits after marrying. She was a devoted wife to Lonnie Lee Dockins, who died in 2006. Together they raised their three children while owning and operating successful businesses Willits Fuel and Dockins Trucking.

Donna was an adoring mom, and valued member of the community. She was active in her children’s various activities, and a hard worker as the head of the office for Dockins Trucking. She also really enjoyed working at Kimberly’s Jewelry for the Stranske family for many years.

Donna later retired and built a home on the same property where she was raised in Redwood Valley. She was an avid reader and loved to relax sitting in her rocker on the front porch. She beamed with pride over all of her kids, grandkids and great grandkids.

She was a wonderful person. A friend and confidant to many. An exceptional conversationalist. She had a great sense of humor, and an unforgettable smile. She is dearly loved. She will be missed, and remembered forever.

She is survived by daughter and son-in-law Kathi and Dan Crothers of Redwood Valley; son Richard Dockins of Willits; son Rod Dockins and daughter in law Kelli Bruce of Willits. She is also survived by brother Robert and sister-in-law Judy Myers of Bedford, Wyoming; six grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.



OBITUARY |

Clancy Rash

On a quiet afternoon in July, Clarence Rash Jr., age 76, gently let go of this life. He was at home, wrapped in love, at the end of a long illness.

Clancy was soft-spoken, a strong and gentle man, an excellent listener, and loyal friend. He was by nature independent and marched in tune to his own drummer. He was so very kind.

These are some of the things Clancy loved:

He loved his family. He grew up in Lakewood, Washington, middle child of Dot and Mic Rash, with his hero big brother Skip, and cherished little sister Kari. To the very end of his life, Clancy’s family members were central to his heart, with their spouses, children, grandchildren, and life-long friends all a part of the mix.

Clancy was infinitely proud of and delighted by his daughters, Sunrise Swanson Williams and Terra Cavolo, who brought more joy and family with their marriages and grandsons Devin, Kai, Joaquin, Gunnar, and Conner. For the past 24 years, Clancy fully shared his life, heart, and family with his life-partner Helen Falandes.

Clancy loved music. He taught himself guitar as a teenager, enjoyed singing with his sister and brother, built deep friendships around music, played in bands in high school and wherever he went after. His last group was the close-harmony Willits trio Just Enough. Clancy loved his many years of community singing with the Emandal Chorale.

Clancy loved his work as a Certified Massage Therapist, promoting health and easing pain for the past 30 years.

He loved to support everyone having enough food to live well, and so he volunteered with Willits Community Services and Food Bank, serving as Board President for seven years. He also volunteered for many years with the Brown Bag Lunch program, making lunches to distribute at City Park on Saturdays.

Clancy never sought to be the center of attention, but he liked the idea of a gathering for friends to share memories together, which will be on August 16th, 2 pm, at the Willits United Methodist Church on School Street.



OBITUARY |

Nicholas Bakewell

It is with great sorrow that we announce the tragic passing of Nicholas Britton Dills Bakewell, beloved son, brother, husband, father, and friend, on June 5, 2025. He was 36 years old.

Nicholas was born on a rainy night in Garberville, CA, on March 7, 1989, to Joseph and Carolyn Bakewell. He spent most of his life in Willits, a town he loved. The redwoods, open skies, and the familiar faces helped shape the person he became.

Nicholas had a warm heart and gentle spirit. He was effortlessly funny, incredibly kind, and had a way of putting people at ease. Known by many as Nicky B, he never pretended to be anything other than himself, true and authentic, and people admired him for that.

Bakewell graduated from Tesoro High School, where he played football and proudly helped his team win the Pacific Coast Championships in 2005. He later studied horticulture at Saddleback College, focusing on organic gardening and sustainability. Nicholas was a talented man who took pride in a job well done.

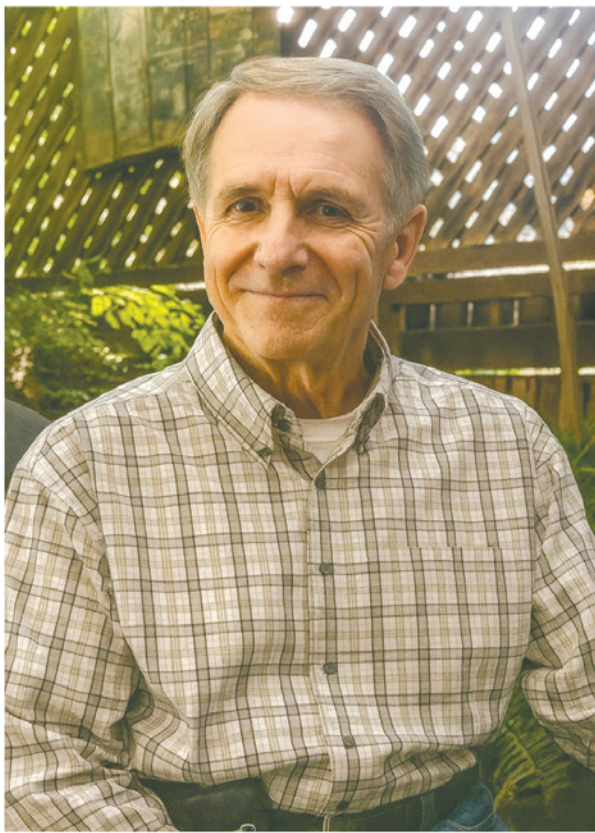
The simple pleasures in life were among Nicholas’s favorite things: a home-cooked meal, a spontaneous swing dance, stargazing, or a long walk through the forest with his dog. These things brought him peace and a deep sense of belonging. His most cherished moments were those spent laughing, playing, and cuddling with his children, whom he

adored. Nicholas found true purpose in being a father, and together, he and the children spent hours exploring, reading, building forts, and to everyone’s delight ... rough-housing.

Nicholas was musical from a young age. He often could be found singing a favorite tune or making up an original on the spot. His enduring imagination, quirky creativity, and genuine ability to build connections with people were parts of himself that he shared freely.

Nicholas is survived by his mother, Carolyn; sister, Cierra, the mother of his children, Adrienne, and his children: Brian (13), Alistair (8), and Corinne (6).

A mass will be held at Saint Anthony’s Church on August 30 at 1 pm, followed by a celebration of life at the Church Hall.



Gary E. Mann

(May 4, 1943 - June 5, 2025)

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday August 2nd at 2:00 p.m. at the Willits Senior Center. Friends, Family, and all who knew Gary are warmly invited to join us in sharing memories and honoring the life of this long time Willits resident.

Jennifer & Diana Mann



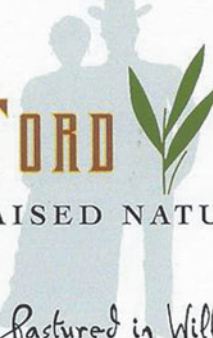
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