

Willits business Artefex hosts state small business advocates

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On August 18, Artefex, a small business in Willits that preserves art for customers nationally and globally, hosted Elmy Bermejo, director of the California Office of the Small Business Advocate, and other small business advisors to raise awareness of SCALE, "Success, Capital Access, and Leadership for Entrepreneurs."

Since 2024, SCALE has connected more than 13,500 businesses around California, including Artefex, with no-cost business advising and mission-driver lenders, helping more small businesses access the funding they need to grow and thrive.

Anton O'Hanlon, owner of Artefex said: "To every small business owner in this room and across California: You do not have to carry the entire weight of your company on your own shoulders. I strongly encourage you to lean into resources available through programs like

Read the rest of **Artefex**  
Over on Page 8

Redwood Empire Fair 2026 building results

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Each August, thousands of entries made, built, grown, and owned by local exhibitors fill the buildings at the Redwood Empire Fair.

The Home Arts building showcases talents including baking, canning, sewing and quilting; the Fine Arts building showcases talents including photography, painting, sculpting, and beading; the Agriculture/Horticulture building showcases talents including flower arranging, growing of fruits, veggies, and flowers, and creation of garden landscapes; and the Junior Building houses the talents of all the adult buildings, just entered by youth exhibitors.

The community is welcome to enter exhibits into the fair for free, and premiums are paid for winning entries.

Interested in contributing next year? Keep an eye out in late June for the premium book, mailed out, dropped off in public locations, and posted online: [www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com](http://www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com) for categories and deadlines for the 2027 event.

See a list of North County exhibitor's winnings, starting on Page 6 of this edition.



Above, left: Pick them green, let them ripen for a few days, and Bartlett pears will turn a beautiful shade of yellow and give slightly to the squeeze. One of the best uses of ripe pears is an easy pear crisp! Below: One of the most perfect, lightly blushed pears, picked right from the tree and quickly turned into the most delicious dessert!



Banana and Pear Bread by Sandy Coughlin

Posted online at <https://reluctantentertainer.com/banana-pear-bread/>

2 bananas, the riper the better

2 pears, peeled, chopped  
(I did not peel pears)

½ cup unsalted butter, softened

½ cup white sugar

½ cup brown sugar

¼ cup vanilla yogurt  
(I substituted Brown Cow Maple Yogurt)

2 eggs

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp vanilla extract

¾ tsp salt

1 tsp cardamom  
(I left this out and substituted ground cloves)

½ tsp ginger

¼ tsp nutmeg

2 cups flour

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Mash the bananas and pears on a plate, and set aside.

In a large bowl, add the softened

butter, sugars, yogurt, and eggs, and mix well until creamy.

Scrape the mashed bananas and pears into the same bowl, and gently mix.

Add the baking soda, vanilla, salt, spices, and flour. Mix well.

Pour the batter into 4 small loaf pans and bake for 31 minutes OR pour the batter into 1 large pan and bake for 50 to 60 mins (watch the time).

Cool the baked bread for at least 10 minutes before slicing and serving.

Supervisor Haschak honored as Democrat of the Year

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About 80 of Mendocino County's most prominent and involved Democrats gathered at the Redwood Valley Grange last Saturday, officially to honor the excellent work of retiring Third District Supervisor John Haschack. But the Democrat of the Year Dinner was also about the Democratic Party's efforts to flip the House and Senate blue, and local Democrats' concern that the liberties and democracy that the United States have enjoyed for the last 250 years are being eroded through the policies and personalities of the current administration.

The attendees at the August 22 dinner had a lot of good feelings about Supervisor Haschak which they expressed freely. "We are honoring John Haschak, who has served on the Board of Supervisors, honorably, with great communications with his constituents and leading the progressive cause, sometimes all by himself," said Madge Strong, ex-Willits councilmember and mayor. Bill Barksdale

Read the rest of **Haschak**  
Over on Page 3

Laytonville man arrested on multiple charges after search

By Sgt. M. Harden, for MCSO

On August 17, 2026 at approximately 3:12 am, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the Laytonville area regarding multiple reports that Benjamin Miller, 48, from Laytonville, was attempting to gain access to a residence.

Sheriff's deputies learned Miller was the restrained party in an active restraining order and was prohibited from being on the property. Miller was also reportedly in possession of a .22 caliber rifle.

While deputies were responding, the reporting party advised that Miller had entered the residence while armed with a firearm and was looking for a flashlight in the home. Miller left the area prior to the arrival of MCSO deputies.

Over the next several hours, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office received multiple calls from concerned citizens reporting sightings of Miller throughout the Laytonville area. Sheriff's deputies conducted extensive searches for Miller but were unable to locate him.

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



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

**Campaign signs**

To the Editor:

I have started to place my campaign signs for the upcoming school board election. It is important to me for you to know that wherever I place my campaign signs, I have consent to put my sign there. I never place signs without permission.

Jeanne King, Willits

## No AI data centers In Mendocino County

To the Editor

Our supervisor John Haschak has asked for a show of support for a proposed moratorium on the construction of AI data centers in our county. Co-sponsored with Ted Williams, the moratorium ordinance will go up for a vote on Tuesday, September 1, so the other three supervisors must hear from us by then if we are to help oppose the building of data centers in our county.

There is no doubt that AI data centers would have a negative fiscal and environmental impact on us here in Willits, as well as county-wide. Other communities across the country have reported that these centers require exorbitant uses of land, water, and electricity, along with noise and visual pollution. We don't have the water to spare for the immense demand of these projects; we barely have enough to grow our agriculture!

Data centers would raise our already expensive energy bills, deplete our resources, and make us desperate to shut off the incessant noise. More insidious, the original zoning permit requests are often followed by unanticipated expanded use requests, all leading to problems for local communities.

Local citizens have successfully stopped or delayed dozens of data center projects across the country. Organized community groups and local pushback have stalled billions of dollars in infrastructure, prompting hundreds of municipalities and several states to enact temporary moratoriums or permanent bans. Widespread outrage has forced state and local politicians to step in, such as executive orders and emergency moratoriums passed to block speculative builds.

To protect Willits and all of Mendocino County, we can reach out to Supervisors Maureen Mulheren mulherenm@mendocinocounty.gov, Bernie Norvell norvellb@mendocinocounty.gov, and Madeline Cline cline@mendocinocounty.gov to say we want them to vote YES on this moratorium. Please write to each supervisor individually, and no later than August 31! Our community is counting on you. Thank you for protecting our resources and our democracy!

More information and research on data centers can be found in the "Fact Sheets" of willitsindivisible.org

Mary Burns and Kim Bancroft, Willits

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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Huffman statement on proposed Roadless Rule rollback

Submitted by the Natural Resources Committee Democrats

Washington, D.C. – On August 19, House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) issued the following statement after the Trump administration proposed to finalize the rescission of the 2001 Roadless Rule, which would strip protections from nearly 45 million acres of national forests and leave these lands vulnerable to reckless development:

“The Roadless Rule protects nearly 45 million acres of the last untouched forests we have left, forests that filter drinking water for millions of families and support hunting, fishing, and small businesses in hundreds of rural communities. The Trump administration is at it again, selling out our public lands to corporate polluters, ignoring the overwhelming objections of the American people.

“And they’re doing this in the middle of one of the worst fire seasons on record,” Rep. Huffman continued. “This administration fired thousands of Forest Service employees, including people trained to fight fires, slashed the agency’s budget, and let fire prevention work collapse. Now they want to build thousands of miles of new roads through our national forests, when we know most wildfires start within a half mile of a road, all so they can make it easier to clear out old growth forests that have stood for centuries. It’s reckless.

“These forests belong to the American people, and they have said, over and over, that they want them protected. We will fight this in Congress.”

California Secretary of State issues statement on Supreme Court’s latest action on mail voting

Submitted by the Office of the California Secretary of State

Sacramento, August 24 – California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber issued the following statement in response to today’s U.S. Supreme Court opinion, allowing the Trump administration to continue pursuing changes to mail voting. While legal challenges continue through the courts, California’s current election rules remain in effect.

“At a time when voter confidence is already fragile, the Supreme Court is giving a green light to President Trump’s attempts to take over our election system and sow distrust in state elections. This unconstitutional power grab threatens to disenfranchise California voters, and it will not stand.

“Today’s Supreme Court ruling says nothing about the lawfulness of President Trump’s Executive Order; it only addresses the timing of the states’ challenge. California will continue to pursue all available options and fight against this unlawful Executive Order.”

“Rest assured, California’s elections officials will continue to do everything within our power to ensure that every eligible California voter has the right to cast a mail ballot and have that vote count.”

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, August 27: Crispy Buffalo Chicken Wrap

Friday, August 28: Turkey with Stuffing, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

September menu not available.

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

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

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

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

Lions Club 100th anniversary celebration, August 29

Submitted by Willits Lions Club

The Willits Lions Club is excited to celebrate our 100th Anniversary! Located at the Scout Hut in Recreation Grove Park, the Lions Club has provided financial and volunteer support to many organizations, programs, community events, service projects, and park improvements that have directly benefited the people of Willits since 1926!

Join the Lions and friends to celebrate the service club’s 100th anniversary with a BBQ Picnic, Saturday, August 29, from 12 to 5 pm at the Recreation Grove. Admission is free. There will be live music by Warehouse 21, food and drinks for purchase, Fire Safety Demos, Scouts Rope Climbing presentation, and lots of fun activities for kids, including the Fire Department Bounce House. Follow “Willits Lions Club” on Facebook to learn more. See you at the park!

Willits Lions Club BBQ Picnic

Saturday 8/29 12:00 - 5:00

Recreation Grove

Live Music and fun

Join our Anniversary Party

100 LIONS INTERNATIONAL 1926-2026

Disaster Preparedness Workshop, August 28

Submitted by Willits Library

Ready for the next “big one”? Whether it’s wildfire, earthquake, or flood, it is good to be prepared. Join us on Friday, August 28, from 3 to 4 pm, as LISTOS Disaster Preparedness Educator Christian Uyeno takes attendees through a five-step disaster preparedness guide, and holds open discussions on the topics reviewed. Each participant will receive a disaster guide and other emergency resources.

This program is provided through the LISTOS California program, partnered with the California Offices of Emergency Services.

The event will be held inside at the Willits Branch Library meeting room. For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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The rest of Haschak | From page 1

offered: “I think he’s possibly the best supervisor there’s ever been for Mendocino County. He was a renowned and very popular teacher, but I can’t imagine anybody better for supervisor. He seems to be unstoppable everywhere. I have the greatest admiration for him. I’m going to miss him on the board a lot.”

“I’m really glad we get to pay tribute to John,” said Laura Fogg. “He’s a good guy and a good supervisor. I think he’s the only one who put as much effort as he has into keeping his constituents up with what’s going on. I read his column in the paper, and I’m not even in his district.”

The Mendocino Jazz Collective, Will Segal, David Scollin, and Steve Baird, kept the crowd entertained with some tasty jazz throughout and before the dinner of vegetarian lasagna, with meatballs for those who wished, salad, and homemade bread.

Once the dinner was over, a land acknowledgement was given by Val Muchowski, honoring the indigenous people who stewarded the land in Mendocino County for countless years. Tekla Broz, chair of the Mendocino County Democratic Party, called more attendees up to offer their impressions of Haschak.

Damon Connelly, assemblymember for the 12th district who is running for state Senate, said: “I was a supervisor [in Marin County] and established an amazing friendship and working relationship with John. John and I served on a couple of regional boards together. One was the Workforce Alliance of the North Bay, which dealt with creating jobs and economic development. It was Mendocino, Napa, Marin, and Lake counties. The way that worked – and it is strong to this day – is because of leadership from John.”

Haschak’s wife, Janice, talked about what it was like to live with his energy and dedication to his job and constituents. “John has the most pure heart, genuine, hardworking to a fault. It became a seven-day-a-week job, and every day, including Sunday, he had to do something related to being supervisor, any opportunity to listen to and connect to the community. He just loves the community so much. It is in his heart and his soul.”

David Drell spoke about Haschak’s ability to listen, even to dissenting opinions, and to the “kitchen cabinet” that he formed to discuss the issues. “Sometimes, it ended up with people yelling. But John handled it in an amazing way and always took away from those meetings some thoughts that he was able to incorporate into his function as a supervisor.” Haschak’s older brother, Art, spoke about his brother’s years of service, including the Peace Corps in Guatemala.

The last to speak on Haschak’s behalf was State Senator Mike McGuire, who is currently running for Congress. “There is a reason the Mendocino Democratic Committee is honoring John Haschak. People love him because he’s authentic and he’s real. I think we can all agree Supervisor Haschak has a heart of gold. What I love about him is that he is a person of his word. When he makes a commitment to you, he sticks to it. You can take it to the bank.

“John Haschak is the conscience of the Board of Supervisors here in Mendocino County. When it came to fighting for working people, standing up for fair contracts, ensuring that county employees got their due, John Haschak was out there with them. John is an unapologetic progressive.” McGuire spoke about some of the projects that Haschak has spearheaded, which are many.

Then, it was Haschak’s turn to speak. “This isn’t a retirement. It’s a transformation. We’re going to keep working, because we have a lot of work to do. I want to thank all of you for being here tonight and for caring about our democracy. I am honored to receive this recognition as Democrat of the Year.” He went on to recognize others who are fighting with him and recount how he got into politics, stumping for Jerry Brown’s gubernatorial campaign, his vision for the future, and his years as a teacher in the Willits area.

Haschak received a couple plaques, but what he most received was the admiration of his peers and fellow fighters for democracy.

Come to the Table:

A Community Conversation on Faith

Sunday, August 30 • 10:30 a.m.

Willits United Methodist Church

286 School St.

There's a lot of noise out there about church and God — opinions, assumptions, and questions.

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At top, from left: Val Muchowski offered the Native land acknowledgement to open the speeches at the Democrat of the Year Dinner. Tekla Broz, Chairperson of the Mendocino County Democratic Party, was instrumental in creating the Democrat of the Year dinner and acted as MC for the evening. Janice Haschak, John Haschak's wife, gave the audience some anecdotes about living with the high-energy and concerned supervisor. Above, left: John Haschak received a Certificate of Recognition from the Office of District 2 Assemblymember Chris Rogers. Above, right: Supervisor Haschak receives a Lucite plaque from the Mendocino County Democratic Party Central Committee, with MCDC chair Tekla Broz, left, and Steve Scalamanini. At right: John Haschak's older brother, from Arcata, Art, spoke about Haschak's lifelong commitment to helping others including a stint in the Peace Corps. Below, left: Mendocino County 3rd District Supervisor John Haschak, the honoree, listens to audience members give short impressions of the work he has accomplished and of his character. Below, right: State Senator Mike McGuire works the room energetically to get donations for the Mendocino County Democratic Party.



Photos by: Mathew Caine

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Above, from left: The Home Arts building is filled with canned, baked, preserved, and hand-made goodies, including this beautiful decorated cake entry made by Lilly Crosby in the 2026 theme of the fair: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage, which won first place. Several Best of Division and additional award-winning jars surround the cake. Pat Knolle's quilted witch hat won first place in the Home Arts building. Maureen Jennison's stained-glass creation, custom-patterned from a photograph of Sherman and Kretos, won first place and a Best of Division award in the Fine Arts building.



Above, from left: Christina Orozco entered this patriotic vest into the Home Arts building. "I made this one right there," said Ryann Arnold, pointing to the little purple crocheted basket holding an amethyst crystal, which won her second place in the Junior building. The Floriculture/Horticulture building showcased many of the top-earning entries in a patriotic display at the back of the building, which included a patriotic place setting, a giant group of marigolds, a gorgeous cut dahlia, an all-white arrangement, an arrangement made with a draining colander, and more.

## North County Exhibitor Building Results

### COVELO

**Sandra Hill:** In the Home Arts Building, Hill won two awards for their Quilts Intermediate entries, a second-place award for "Country Quilt," and a third-place award for "Lincoln Logs."

**Davna Reynolds:** In the Floriculture/Agriculture building, Reynolds won 13 first-place awards including for their floral design class; Produce Characters entry; Dutch - Use Driftwood In Your Arrangement entry; Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Small 6-8 Inches entry; Silver Fox - Use Metal Candlestick Holders In Your Setting place setting entry; Cactus Dahlia entry; Sunflower entry; Marigold entry; - Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage arrangement entry; Californian - Use Ferns In Your Arrangement entry; French Angora - Use Lavender In Your Arrangement entry; Dwarf - Include Rosemary In Your Arrangement entry; and a mixed Marigolds bouquet entry. Additional first-place awards and Best of Division special awards were given to the - Silver Marten - Include Rustic Stones In Your Arrangement and Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage Place Setting entries.

Second-place awards were given for their Scarecrow entry; Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage arrangement entry; Havana - Use An Old Colander For Your Arrangement entry; Dwarf - Use A Perfume Bottle For Your Arrangement mini entry; Polish - Use A Small Mason Jar For Your Arrangement small entry; Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage mini arrangement entry; Netherland Dwarf - Use A Small Mason Jar For Your Arrangement mini entry; Crème D Argent - Use Burlap In Your Setting place setting entry; and Art With A Floral Arrangement entry. Reynolds also received second-place awards for her 6 zinnia entries including Giant Pink; Giant Rose or Salmon; Giant Orange, Scarlet or Red; Giant Cream,

Yellow or Gold; Any Other; and for a 12-stem mixed bouquet. Reynolds also received two third-place awards for her Giant Lavender to Purple Zinnia entry, as well as for her scented rose "A Rose is a Rose" entry.

In the Fine Arts building, Reynolds won seven first-place awards including for their Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage Fine Art Amateur Acrylic entry; a Animals, Domestic, Pets, a Patterns, and any other, and a Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage photography entries; and for an Unconventional Art Challenge 3-D Sculptural Floor Piece entry. Second-place awards were given for their Patterns, Trees, and "Show Me the Love" heart-shaped subject photography entries; an Animal Skull Art entry and a Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage mixed media entry.

Third-place awards were given for three additional Landscape, Reflections and Trees photography entries.

### LAYTONVILLE

**Natalie Campbell:** In the Fine Arts building, Campbell won a first-place award and Best of Division for her Fine Art Professional Pastel Animals, Domestic Or Farm "Virgil" entry; and a second-place award for her Fine Art Professional Pastel Animals, Domestic Or Farm "Ol' Blue Eyes" entry.

**Jaxson Deleon:** In the Junior building, Deleon won 15 first-place awards for his "49ers" collection entry; Acrylics "Night Scene" entry; Mixed Media "Envelope With Hearts" entry; Pencil "Mountain And Waterfall" entry; "Self Portrait" entry; Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage "Rock Flag," "Bumblebee," "Lady Bug," "Pond Night Sky," and "Sunset" entries in the Painted Rocks Crafts class; "Cala Lily" and "Pathway" entries in the Photography class; and "Bottle Brush With Clover," "Bottle Brush With Petunias" and "Fern Mix" entries in the Arrangements Wreath, Wall, Swag Or Wall Hanging - Not To Exceed 13 Inches class.

Deleon won second-place awards for their Acrylics "Flowers" entry; Watercolor "Sunset" entry; Color Pencil "Polar Bear" entry; and Pastel "Flower" entry as well as for their "Sand Medallion" Crafts category and Photography entries titled "Lilly" and "Garden Club." Third-place awards were given for their Mixed Media Pulp Paper and Watercolor Pencil "Sunset" and "Jellyfish" entries; a bracelet entry; and for a Shadow Box Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage "American Rodeo Heritage" entry.

**Kristin Deleon:** In the Fine Arts building, Deleon won a first-place award for their Fine Art "Pink Flower" entry; two second-place awards for her Fine Art Amateur Pastel Flowers Or Plant Life "Secret Garden" and Fine Art Advanced "Baby Flower" entries; and a third-place award for her Fine Art Amateur Pastel Flowers Or Plant Life "Blue Flowers" entry.

**Leo Deleon:** In the Junior building, Deleon won seven first-place awards including for "Fern With Two Bottle Brush," "Leo Clover Dried Flowers," and "Orange Flowers" entries in the Wreath, Wall, Swag Or Wall Hanging - Not To Exceed 13 Inches class; a first-place and Best of Division for their "Snowy Mountain" Landscape Photography entry; Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage "Bracelet" in the Crafts category; Watercolor Bubble Art in the Arts category; and Rock Collection in the Rocks Collection category.

Second-place awards were given for Deleon's "Jeep" and "Snowmobile" entries in the Hobbies Legos class; "Tahoe the Cat," "250th," "Bird," "Bear," and "Landscape" entries in the Arts category.

Third-place awards were given for Deleon's "Tahoe the Cat" entry in the Arts Cartooning category; "Bracelet" and "Sand Medallion" entries in the Crafts

category; and for their "Rose Pose," "Purple Flowers," and "Snow Man" entries in the Photography category.

**Samantha Deleon:** In the Fine Arts building, Deleon won four first-place awards for her Landscape, Pastures, Fields "Snow Daisies" and "Trees Tress" Photo Amateur Color entries and for her "Trout" Fine Art Amateur Any Other Art entry and Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage "Pine Cone Flowers" Fine Art Amateur Mixed Media entry. She received second-place awards for her Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage "Patriotic Horse" Fine Art Amateur Acrylic entry; and Any Other, "Feathers" Fine Art Amateur Any Other Art entry; and Landscape Pastel "Trees" Fine Art Amateur Pastel entry. She also received a third-place award for her Color "Grams" Photo Living History Contest entry.

**Arabella Doyle:** In the Junior Building, Doyle won 11 first-place awards including for her "Americana Bracelet" and "Crystal Sun Catcher" for her beaded crafts entries; and for her "Dog Looks Off Into Distance," "San Francisco Ferry Building Skyline," "Humming Bird And Flower Mural On A Building In Cozumel," "Men Swing From Their Feet From Atop A Huge Pole Above A Marketplace," "Photo Of Tulum Ruins By The Ocean," "Sunrise Shot Of Pelicans On A Bridge In Tulum Mexico," and "Looking Up At The Canopy Of Redwood Trees" photography entries.

Doyle received second-place awards for her photography entries including: "Two Cows One At The Top Of A Hill Looks Down On Another Cow," "Iguana Perfectly Camouflaged On Fence Post," "Black Bird Sits In Tree," "An Orange Beetle Rests On A Yellow Flower," "Photo Of Snow Covered Mountains And Lakes From Airplane Window," "Mushrooms Grow In A Forest," "Carnival Parade Dancer," "A Boat Is Seen Speeding By From The Foliage Of The Jungle," and "A Bonfire Burns As The Sun Sets."

She received third-place awards for her photography entries including: "Fish Seen Through Submarine Porthole," "Yellow Bird Looks At Camera With Head Tilted," "Two Trillium Flowers Grow On A Log Perfectly Lined Up," and "Photo Of A Ladybug Walking On A Rose Bush."

She also received two Best of Division awards for her Painted Rock craft entry and her Flower Pot and Saucer entry in the Painted Pottery Project class.

**Leibel Firks:** In the Junior building, Firks won first place and a Best of Division for their Container Garden Miniature Garden - Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage entry; and additional first-place awards for two Landscape entries in the photography class. Two second-place awards were also given for his "Dog" and "Waterfalls" photography entries; and a third-place award for his "Pretty Bird" entry.

**Poppy Gunn:** In the Junior building, Gunn won three first-place awards including for her "Americas Bow" art entry, and for her "Children" and "Mother Oak" photography entries. Gunn also received a second-place award for her Strawberry Jam entry, and another for her "Girl" photography entry. She also received a third-place award for her "Sunset Sea" photography entry.

**Tuli Gunn:** In the Junior building, Gunn won a first-place award for her bracelet entry in the crafts class and four second-place awards for her "Children" entry in the photography class; for her brownies and Carrot Pineapple Cake baked goods entries; and for her "Filled with Color" Flower Burst, Fresh Arrangement entry.

**Willow Gunn:** In the Junior building, Gunn received a second-place award for her Quick Bread "Chocolate Zucchini Bread" baked good entry.

**Tyler Knight:** In the Junior building, Knight won four first-place awards including for his Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage Window Display; Animal Skull Art; Landscape photography entry; and Bird House woodworking entry. Second-place awards were given for his Pie baked goods entry, and for four photography entries including photos depicting Animals, Domestic Or Farm; Animals, Wild; Landscape; and Seascape Or Marine.

**Eli Neuroth:** In the Junior building, Neuroth won 12 first-place awards including for his "Scenic View" Acrylic Art entry; "Wind Chime" and "Crystal Suncatcher" beading craft entries; "Leather Bracelet" leather craft entry; "Fair Theme" and "Painted Gourd Bird House" Tole Painting entries; Silk Screening Single Color Silk Screen On Shirt and Tie-Dye Tye Dye Shirt entries in the Painting on Fabric class; Landscape Mountain And Sky and Seascape Or Marine Sea Sunset photography entries; Pillowcase entry in the Sewing class; and "Bird House Snoopy" in the Woodwork class. Second-place awards were given for his "School Field" landscape photography entry; "Lake and Mountain" painted rock and Birdhouse Wind Chime crafts entries; and "The Game I Love" sports poetry entry. Third-place awards were given for "Tunnel" and "Road With Clouds" photography entries; and for "Earrings" in the beaded crafts class.

**Khloe Neuroth:** In the Junior building, Neuroth won 10 first-place awards including for her: "Mushroom" and "Painted Gourd Birdhouse" Tole Painting entries; "Mandala" Painted Rocks, "Beaded Earrings" and "Tiny Birdhouse Wind Chime" entries in the crafts class; "Makeup Bag," "Pillowcase," and

"Tote Bag Upcycled Tote With Pillow Sham" in the sewing class; and for her "Handmade Birdhouse" and "Wood Burning Name Sign" in the woodworking class. Second-place awards were given for her "Beaded Windchime," "Crystal Suncatcher," and "Ocean Painted Rocks" entries in the crafts class; for her acrylic "Sunflower" entry in the art class; Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage "Milk Can" Tole Painting entry; "Tye Dye Shirt" and "Stamped Tea Towel" entries in the Painting on Fabric class; and for her "Where The Mountains Meet The Sea," "Seaside Sunset," and "Sunset On The Hill" photography class entries. Third-place awards were given for her five photography entries including: "My Penny Watching The Sunset," "It's A Luner!!," "The Night Sky," "A Boy And His Pup," and "The Lost Coast," as well as for her "Loneliness Fades" poetry entry.

**Amanda Patrick:** In the Fine Arts building, Patrick won seven first-place awards for her photography entries including: "Wild Tarsier Sanctuary, Bohol, Philippines," "Structure Ruins Bacolod, Philippines," "Describe Making Music Taken With Consent Cebu, Philippines," "Sunrise Osolob, Philippines," "Under Water Snorkeling," and "Overlooking The Bay, Coron, Philippines" which also won a Best of Division award. Second-place awards were also given for her photography entries including "B. Bryan Preserve," "River Cruise," "Chocolate Hills Bohol, Philippines," and "Bay Views Coron, Philippines."

**Westin Patrick:** In the Junior building, Patrick won a first-place award for his "Cow" acrylics entry; a second-place award for his "Abstract" acrylics entry; and three third-place awards for his "Abstract 2" acrylics entry; his "Chicken" watercolor entry; and his Painted Rocks entry.

**Whitney Patrick:** In the Junior building, Patrick won two second-place awards for her Painted Rocks and "Tangerine the Peacock" watercolor entries; and three third-place awards for her "Ocean" acrylics entry, and for her "Patches" and "Quail" watercolor entries.

**Waylon Patrick:** In the Junior building, Patrick won two first-place awards for his "Peacock" watercolor entry and his "Console Table" woodworking entry; three second-place awards for his "Jimmy Hoffa's Car" watercolor entry, his Painted Rocks entry, and his "Puerta Vallarta, Mexico" landscape photography entry. Third-place awards were given for his "Wild Iguana" and "Wild Jungle Spider" photography entries; his "Blackberry White Chocolate Scones" baked goods entry; and for his "Truck in the County" pencil art entry.

**Wyatt Patrick:** In the Junior building, Patrick won 10 first-place awards including for his "Haiku to Read," "A Most Ridiculous Quest," "The Stories The Wind Tells," "Fable: A Dream," and "The Chant" poetry entries; "Church, Philippines," "Chocolate Hills, Philippines," "Philippines Bay," "River Cruise, Philippines," and "Bacolod Philippines" photography entries, the last of which also won a Best of Division special award. Second-place awards were given for his "Wild Tarsier," "Coron, Philippines," and "Twin Lagoons Selfie" photography entries; "Fantasy Map" pencil art entry; "Spontaneous Colors" watercolor art entry; and for five additional poetry entries including: "Love," "Left Unsaid," "The Art Of Art," "The True Meaning Of Friends," and "Party Time!" Third-place awards were given for his "The Flower" and "4th Of July Fireworks" photography entries, as well as his Painted Rocks entry.

**Karen Painted Feather Sequiera:** In the Fine Arts building, Sequiera won three first-place awards including for her Animal Skull Art "Buffalo Skull" "Gratitude" entry; Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage Artwork Pieces Rendition Of Old Rodeo Photos Using Charcoal & Acrylic, 100 Years Ago, 3 Pieces entry; and Painted Feather "Array" entry which also won Best of Division. A second-place award was also given for her "Wild Horse & Mt. Lion 'The Encounter'" acrylic art entry.

**McKaylee Soto:** In the Junior building, Soto won 8 first-place awards including for her "Colorful Swirls" acrylics art entry; "Flower Vase" and "Green Bamboo" mixed media entries; "Moon Night" painted rocks entry; "Earrings" craft entry; "Carnation Mix," "Fern With Daisies" and "Purple Bottle Brush" entries in the Arrangements Dry, Wreath, Wall, Swag Or Wall Hanging - Not To Exceed 13 Inches class. Second-place awards were given for her "Flowers" mixed media entry; "Sunset" pencil entry; "Green Frog" watercolor entry; and for her "Bumble Bee" and "Sunset" painted rocks entries. Third-place awards were given for her "Earth" and "Medallion" painted rocks entries and for her "Star" mixed media entry.

**Austin Zuffinetti:** In the Junior building, Zuffinetti won three first-place awards including for their "Sunflower" pencil art entry; painted rocks entry; and Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage tole painting entry, which also won a Best of Division special award. Second-place awards were given for their "Potato" vegetable entry and pencil art entry. Third-place awards were given for their painted rocks entry, and "Painted Vase" tole painting entry.

**Emmett Zuffinetti:** In the Junior building, Zuffinetti won two first-place awards including for their Accessory, Canvas Bag, Apron, Etc. painting on fabric entry and for their "Potato" vegetable entry. Second-place awards were given for their "Mushroom" sculpture entry; other craft entry; Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage tole painting entry; and stepping stones or painted rocks entry. Two third-

place awards were also given for another stepping stones or painted rocks entry, as well as for another pencil art entry.

**Hayden Zuffinetti:** In the Junior building, Zuffinetti won six first-place awards including for their leatherwork hobby entry; two pencil art entries; Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage "Eagle" tole painting entry; Accessory, Canvas Bag, Apron, Etc. painted on fabric entry and their "Potato" vegetable entry. A second-place award was given for their painted rocks entry. Three third-place awards were given for their "Rainbow" acrylics entry, watercolor entry and painted rocks entry.

### WILLITS

**Richard Bolton:** In the Junior building, Richard Bolton won a first-place award and Best of Division special award for their Animal Skull art entry.

**Michele Briggs:** In the Agriculture/Floristry building, Briggs received 18 first-place awards including for their herb entries including Chives, Dill, Mint, Oregano, and herb bouquet entries; radish entry; crookneck and zucchini squash entries; three Nature's Unique unusual/odd size entries; and two Produce Character entries.

Second-place awards were given for addition Herb entries including for Lavender, Parsley, Sage, Thyme, and Bay entries; Slicing Green and Slicing Lemon cucumber entries; and additional Nature's Unique unusual/odd size entry.

In the Home Arts building, Briggs received five first-place awards including for their two Special Salsa Contest entries; and three Pickle/Relish entries including "Dill Pickles," "Spicy Lemon," and "Hot Salsa" entries. Second-place awards were given for their "Apple Butter," "Pear Butter," and "Tomatillos" entries, and a third-place award for their "Zucchini Bread" entry.

**Emma DeFranco:** In the Junior building, DeFranco received two first-place awards for her Pen & Ink art entry and her "Turtle" Pencil art entry. Second-place award was given for an additional Pencil art entry.

**Maycee DeFranco:** In the Junior building, DeFranco received three second-place awards for their "Apple Jelly" entry and their "Asparagus" and "Carrots, Asparagus, Radish, Beets" preserved entries. A third-place award was given for their "Red, White, and Blue Jelly" entry.

**Tanner Dudley:** In the Junior building, Dudley received a first-place award for their "Rock Crawler" welding entry.

**Aliyah Duley:** In the Junior building, Duley won two first-place awards for their Educational Poster "Poultry Info" entry and for their "Stool" woodworking furniture entry. Duley also received an additional first-place award for their "Starry Night" art entry, which also won a special Best of Division award. A second-place award was given for their "Hand Carved Stamp Print" entry.

**Lillian Duncan:** In the Junior building, Duncan received four first-place awards for their "Sun Catcher" and "Beads on a Branch" beading entries; "Rag Quilt" machine quilting entry; and for their "Fairy Garden/Terrarium" entry. Second-place awards were given for their "Red, White and Blue" acrylic painting entry; their "Rabbit in Red, White and Blue Flowers" watercolor painting entry; and their "Bracelet" beaded entry.

**Whitney Eads:** In the Agriculture/Floriculture building, Eads won one first-place award for their "White Kadota" figs entry. In the Fine Arts building, Eads won one first-place award for their "Pleased to Meet You" photography entry.

**Richy Ferri:** In the Junior building, Ferri won one first-place award for their "Nut Flowers On A Single Stem With A Nut Base" welding entry.

**Courtney Figg-Hoblyn:** In the Home Arts building, Figg-Hoblyn won one first-place award for their "Household Pillow Case" sewing entry.

**Grady Fonsen:** In the Junior building, Fonsen won one first-place award for their Animal Skill Art entry.

**Sarah Fonsen:** In the Junior building, Fonsen won one first-place award for their Lavender Wreath, Wall, Swag Or Wall Hanging dried arrangement entry. A second-place award was given for their Animal Skull Art entry.

**Joe Ford:** In the Fine Arts building, Ford won two first-place awards for their "Moon Valley" acrylic art entry and their "Me, Myself & I" metal sculpture entry. Second-place awards were given for their "Just for Fun" metal sculpture entry; and for their three photography entries including "Twister," Broken Bench," and "Lazy Day."

**Amy A. Ford:** In the Fine Arts building, Ford won 10 first-place awards for their color and black-and-white photography entries including "The Gate," "Big Sky Country," "Hwy 101," "Emergency Parking Only," "Sweet Peas," "High Desert," "Mud Volcano," "Silver Lake," "Spring in the Valley," and Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage "Americana" which also won a Special Best of Division award. Second-place awards were given for additional photography entries including "A Place to Ponder," "Searching for Something," "Snow in Yellowstone," "Field & Stream is Calling," "Valley Life," "The Golden Gate Bridge," "Pansies," and "Solid as a Rock" featuring a heart-shaped subject. A third-place award was given for their "Fall in Yellowstone" photography entry.

**Zinnia Harris:** In the Junior building, Harris won three first-place awards for their "Fruit Bars" baked goods entry; and for their Fair Theme: Celebrating 250 Years Of American Heritage fresh arrangement and "Flower Burst" floral entries. Second-place awards were also given for their mini fresh arrangement entry and their "Foccacia" yeast bread baked goods entry.

**Peggy Margaret Hebrard:** In the Fine Arts building, Hebrard won four first-place awards for their "Ruby & Jackpot" acrylic art entry and for their "Stained Glass Water Lilies," "Jamestown Train," and "One Summer Evening" oil art entries. Hebrard also won an additional first-place award and Best of Division award for their "Point Lobos" oil art entry.

**Linda Hill:** In the Agriculture/Floriculture building, Hill won seven first-place awards for their "Black Walnut," "Geranium," "Hanging Cactus," and "Succulent Collection" entries as well as for their Netherland Dwarf - Use A Small Mason Jar For Your Arrangement floral entry. First-place awards were also won for their miniature mixed and any other mixed bouquet entries. Second-place awards were given for their "Mint" and "Rosemary" herb entries; "Avocado" produce in a jar entry; and "Snake Cactus" potted plant entry. A third-place award was given for their Dwarf - Use A Perfume Bottle For Your Arrangement floral entry.

In the Home Arts building, Hill received a second-place award for their "Coconut Puffs" confection baked goods entry.

**Mickey Hill:** In the Fine Arts building, Hill won a first-place award for their "Starry City Nightscape" acrylic entry; and a second-place award for their Animal Skull Art entry.

**Kasey Hollifield:** In the Home Arts building, Hollifield won a first-place award for their "Hat and Scarf" knitted entry.

**Maureen Jennison:** In the Agriculture/Floriculture building, Jennison won six first-place awards including for her "Chamomile," "Lavender," and "Rosemary" herb entries; "Kale" leafy green entry; "Locust Native" apple entry; and "Snapdragon" cut flower entry. Second-place awards were given for her "Chives" herb entry; Gardener's Delight fruit entry; and "Blackberries" fruit entry.

Third-place awards were given for her "Marigold" cut flower entry; "Sage" and "Thyme" herb entries; and pole bean entry. In the Fine Arts building, Jennison won two first-place awards for her "Tear Drop" and "Sherman and Kretos" stained glass entries, the last of which also won a Best of Division special award. Second-place awards were given for her additional stained glass entries including "Banana" and "Bee" and a third-place award was given for one more stained glass entry, "Dumpster Fire Years."

**Devin King:** In the Home Arts building, King received a second-place award and a third-place award for their "Scarf" crocheted entries.

**Swayze King:** In the Junior building, King won four first-place awards for their "Moon Over Water" acrylic art entry; "Necklace" beaded entry; "Pillow Case" sewing entry; and "Quilted Heart" quilting entry. Second-place awards were given for their "Rainbow Sky" acrylic art entry and a third-place award was given for their hanging bead work entry.

**Pat Knolle:** In the Home Arts building, Knolle won two first-place awards, and two Best of Division awards for their "Witch Hat" sewing entry, and Framed Sewing counted cross stitch entry.

**Alice Kroh Ford:** In the Fine Arts building, Ford received two second-place awards for their "Top of the Rock" and "American Boy" photography entries, as well as a third-place award for their "Three White Knights" photography entry.

**Alicia Logan:** In the Home Arts building, Logan won a first-place award for their "Jalapenos (From Last Year's Plants)" vegetable entry. In the Agriculture/Floriculture building, Logan received a third-place award for their "Big Zucchini" in the Nature's Uniques Unusual/Odd Shape class.

**Tinley Logan:** In the Junior building, Logan won two first-place awards for their "Sunset" photograph entry and "Rosemary" freeze dried preserved foods entry. A second-place award was given for their "Largemouth Bass" photography entry. Third-place awards were also given for addition photography entries including "Hello Cows" and "Eel River."

**Sheri Lovell:** In the Home Arts building, Lovell won two first-place awards including for their "Long Green and Black Skirt" sewing entry and a "Patriotic Rope Basket" basketry entry. A second-place award was also given for their "Quilted Patriotic Decorative Bow" craft entry.

**Kathy Lundgren:** In the Agriculture/Floriculture building, Lundgren won 10 first-place awards for their herb, eggplant, peppers, Gardener's Delight Vegetables entries in the Vegetable classes; and Pansy, Other, Petunia and three Marigold entries in the Flower class. Second-place awards were given for their "Basil," "Oregano," and "Herb Bouquet" entries in the herb class; a pole bean entry, and a "Roma" tomato entry in the vegetable class; and an "Ivy" potted entry in the plant class. Third-place awards were given for their "Parsley" and "Rosemary" herb entries.

In the Home Arts building, Lundgren won

Read more of Results Over on page 9







**Pg. 11**



IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Priscilla Lynn Rodriguez-Tarver

Priscilla Lynn Rodriguez-Tarver was born on May 18, 1954 to Beatrice Sanchez and Jose Rodriguez at Parks Air Force Base in Pleasanton, California. She resided in, and was an integral part of the Willits community for more than thirty years. Priscilla lived her life for her family and community.

Priscilla passed away on August 17, 2026 and is survived by her husband Clarence Tarver; siblings Cindy and Adrian; children Rob, Jason, and Melanie; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Services & Celebration

VIEWING



Friday, August 28, 2026  
3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

ANKER-LUCIER MORTUARY  
Willits, CA

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Saturday, August 29, 2026  
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

AGAPE BIBLE CHURCH  
Willits, CA

OBITUARY |

Maryl Morris

Maryl Louise ("Maryl") Morris, age 81, died August 5, 2026, at the Holy Spirit Residential Care Home in Ukiah, CA. Maryl is survived by two sisters and their husbands, and the partner of her late sister: Nancy E. Julian (J. Patrick Julian) of Philadelphia, PA; Ann Erbacher Grey (Anthony A. Grey) of Roeland Park, KS; and Rhio H. Mortimer of Montrose, CO. Maryl was preceded in death by her husband, Donald C. Morris of Ukiah, CA, her sister Kathryn Anne Erbacher of Montrose, CO, her parents Philip J. Erbacher and Thelma Erbacher Sammon of Kansas City, MO, and her stepfather, Neil E. Sammon of Kansas City, MO.

Maryl was born on June 9, 1945 in Indianapolis, IN, where her father was stationed with the Army during World War II. She was raised in her father's hometown of Kansas City, MO.

In 1966 she graduated from the University of Kansas with a double B.S. in zoology and medical technology. She received her medical technology training at the University of Kansas



Medical Center.

Maryl and her husband moved to Oxnard, CA while he was in the Navy during the Vietnam war. After his discharge and several moves, they settled in Willits, CA. While there they designed and built the house in which they lived for decades until ill health forced them to move to the Holy Spirit facility.

Maryl worked as a medical technologist at Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits and other medical facilities, then received training as a microbiologist at UC-Berkeley. She worked as a microbiologist at the California Department of Public Health laboratory in Ukiah until her retirement.

Maryl and her husband were passionate environmentalists who enjoyed hiking and camping. Her other interests included cooking, gardening, weaving, reading, and researching her family's German and Irish genealogy.

Donations may be made in Maryl's memory to the Parkinson's Foundation ([www.parkinson.org](http://www.parkinson.org)) or the Willits Environmental Center ([www.willitsenvironmentalcenter.org](http://www.willitsenvironmentalcenter.org)). Maryl will be sorely missed by her sisters and by those who knew and loved her.





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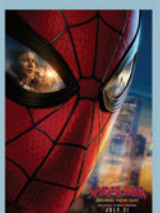


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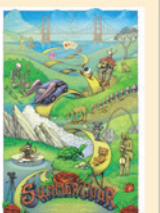


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