Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 654 **Thursday, September 3, 2026**

Local candidates forum set for September 20

Submitted by the Little Lake Grange

A Candidates Forum will be held on Sunday, September 20, covering local races for Mendocino County 3rd District Board of Supervisor, the Willits Unified School District Board, and the Willits City Council. The Forum is from 2 to 4 pm at the Little Lake Grange, on School and Pine streets in Willits.

All of these races will be on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot – along with races for Governor, 1st District Congressmember, other county-wide offices, and 14 state Propositions. Ballots will be mailed to voters on October 5.

The local races featured at the Forum are:

3rd District County Supervisor – a run-off between Buffey Wright Bourassa and Eric Hart to replace John Haschak – starting just after 2 pm.

WUSD Board – four candidates vying for three seats on the board: Nicole Karker, Jeanne King, Paula Nunez, and Mason Neil Rescina – starting about 2:45 pm.

Willits City Council – two candidates, Robin Leler and Sherrie Ebyam, running

Read the rest of **Forum**

Over on Page 11

Above, from left: Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster, left, shakes hands with state Senator Mike McGuire after pledging his donation to the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County at the annual Pure Mendocino fundraiser last Saturday. Legacy family CRC supporter Heath Dolan of Dark Horse Vineyards and Farming Co., left, with Tyler Nelson of Nelson Family Vineyards who hosted the event, and Mendocino County Office of Education Superintendent Nicole Glentzer, right, (and Zach Schat, not pictured), were conscripted .... to be members of the "Woo Crew!" who cheered and kicked after each donation was called out during the fundraiser. Harvest Market's Jennifer and Tim Bosma smile for the camera after pledging their donation to the CRC. Retired CRC Patient Navigator Jill Longcrier, left, stands with current Patient Navigator Mayte Sanchez at Pure Mendocino. Below: Ukiah High School teacher Cassandra Mortier raises a glass and gives a smile in support of the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

Above, from left: Jay S. Joseph, MD, a specialist in Radiation Oncology in Ukiah, attended Pure Mendocino and was greeted and thanked by many who appreciated his services. State Senator McGuire calls out donations from raised paddles during the Saturday dinner. A summer salad including peaches and tomatoes was prepared by chef Olan Cox and crew. The 2026 testimonial speaker, Nancy Puder, shares her story with the audience. Below: McGuire enthusiastically thanks oncologist Dr. Hengbing Wang and family for their generous donation. At bottom, from left: The lawn at The Oaks at Nelson Family Vineyard was filled with attendees for the Saturday night dinner. Maureen Jennison, center, is happy to be back on main photographer duty this year, and smiles with Long Valley Health Center's Dr. Jodi Parungao, left, and Dr. Amber Gilmore, Medical Director of the Consolidated Tribal Health Project. Table arrangements glisten in the afternoon sun, and feature dahlia arrangements made by Nancy Puder, the testimonial speaker.

Pure Mendocino

Annual fundraising event earns over $150K for Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County

I know we've talked a lot about cancer these last few years at Willits Weekly, and this week's edition will remain on that trend, and for a good reason: Over $150,000 was just raised by the community for supporting the incredible work of the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The CRC, which has been operating for 31 years, holds an annual fundraiser, Pure Mendocino, to help spread the word about their free assistance offered to anyone in Mendocino County who is struggling with the terrifying diagnosis, and to help earn money as the group relies on the support of donations to make those incredible services possible.

The 21st annual event was held last Saturday at

Read more of **Fundraiser**

Over on page 8

WCC hears details about Flock cameras

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

City of Willits Police Chief Brian Fay told the Willits City Council at their August 26 meeting that data collected by three Flock cameras in Willits is owned by the Willits Police Department, is not shared with any national database, and is routinely deleted every 30 days.

Flock cameras, which were approved for Willits in March 2025 by the Willits City Council, were not on the agenda for the August 26 meeting. And there were no public comments on the Flock cameras during the "public comments on matters not on the agenda" section of the meeting.

However, councilmember Bruce Burton asked the chief some questions about the cameras, after Chief Fay reminded the public that school had started, and urged everyone to please drive slowly and to pull over if they needed to check their phones. WPD will be looking for distracted driving. "The youth are out and about," Fay said, "and we are looking out for their safety."

Burton said he had a question for the chief. "There's been a kind of a new round of interest in

Read the rest of **Cameras**

Over on Page 11

CHP targets impaired drivers over Labor Day weekend

Submitted by CHP HQ

Sacramento – As Labor Day weekend approaches, the California Highway Patrol is urging motorists to plan ahead, make responsible choices, and never drive impaired.

To help keep California's roads safe, the CHP will conduct a Labor Day Holiday Enforcement Period, or HEP, from 6:01 pm Friday, September 4, through 11:59 pm Monday, September 7. During the HEP, CHP officers statewide will focus on removing impaired drivers from the road and educating motorists about the dangers of driving under the influence.

The CHP's HEP coincides with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign, which started August 19, and runs through September 7.

"There is no excuse for driving impaired," says CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "If you choose to drink or use a substance that affects your ability to drive, make a plan and stay out of the driver's seat. Your

Read the rest of **Impaired**

Over on Page 11

Bill to update management principles for California's demonstration forests passes Legislature

Submitted by the Office of Assemblymember Chris Rogers

SACRAMENTO, CA – Assembly Bill 2494 has passed out of the Legislature and is on its way to the Governor's desk for signature. The measure will modernize the operations of the demonstration state forest system to include public benefits such as biodiversity conservation, climate resiliency and adaptation, as well as wildfire resilience. In California, there are 14 demonstration forests managed by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, including Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County,

The management principles for the demonstration state forest system have not been modified in decades, and current regulations do not reflect the state's climate resiliency goals.

"It's important to see the forest through the trees when it comes to the

Read the rest of **Forests**

Over on Page 11

CTC approves $2.7 billion for 150 new transportation projects

Submitted by CTC

San Diego, August 28 – The California Transportation Commission has approved $2.7 billion in funding for more than 150 new projects designed to improve travel times, increase multimodal options, and strengthen the state's transportation assets against severe weather and other climate-related threats. These investments align with Governor Gavin Newsom's "build more, faster" agenda, delivering critical infrastructure upgrades and creating thousands of jobs across the state.

Of the combined total, nearly $1.6 billion is funded by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) and another $542 million is from California's Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

"These investments fuel the state's mission to deliver a transportation system that is evolving and continuing to serve all Californians, regardless of their travel mode," said California Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin. "The action taken today supports Governor Newsom's vision to improve the state's infrastructure and further prepare and equip us against the current and future effects of climate change."

"This slate of projects builds on our goals to create and maintain a safer transportation network that addresses current needs and also prioritizes long-term objectives," said Caltrans Director Dina El-Tawansy.

"Today's investments support a transportation system that meets the diverse needs of communities throughout California," said California Transportation Commission Chair Clarissa Falcon. "By improving safety, strengthening resilience, and expanding transportation options, these projects will deliver lasting benefits for Californians."

This month's list of approved projects, including several smaller projects in the Willits area:

Caldecott Tunnel in Orinda – $267 million to rehabilitate and upgrade the ventilation systems of three of the four bores that make up the tunnel.

LA28 Infrastructure Improvements – $2.45 million to add infrastructure improvements, landscaping and safety upgrades to four transit stations in Los Angeles County in time for the 2028 Summer Olympics.

State Route 37 Project – $63 million to add two new lanes to State Route 37 in Sonoma County between Sears Point and Mare Island.

Safe Route to School – $1.8 million to install warning beacons, signs and other features for a new Safe Route to School project in the community of Oildale in east Bakersfield.

Projects approved in Caltrans District 1 include:

Approximately $218 million toward the design phase of the Last Chance Grade Tunnel Project on U.S. 101 south of Crescent City in Del Norte County.

Approximately $30 million including $27 million in IIJA funding and $3.4 million in SB1 funding toward roadway upgrades and ADA improvements on U.S. 101 in Mendocino County from the Route 1 junction to the Humboldt County line.

Approximately $20.4 million including $18.4 million in IIJA funding and $2 million in SB1 funding toward road upgrades and construction of left-turn and merge lanes on U.S. 101 from Hopland Overhead to Mountain House Road in Hopland, Mendocino County.

Approximately $16.2 million in IIJA funding and $1.8 million in SB1 funding toward roadway improvements

Read the rest of Travel | Over on page 11

Free Self-Defense Classes at Body Works Gym

Willits Area SAL / Mendocino Okinawan Shorin-ryu Karate Association offers "Free Okinawan Karate and Kenpo Self Defense Classes," on Thursday evenings at the Willits Body Works Gym & Martial Arts Center in association with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Youth Activities League (SAL/PAL). Three training times are listed below:

1.) Little Dragons Small Child "PreSkillz" Karate Class, 6 to 6:30 pm, ages 4, 5, 6, 7.

2.) Beginner/intermediate Class, 7/8 years and above, 6:35 pm to 7:45 pm.

3.) Intermediate/Advanced Class, all ages, 7:50 pm to 9 pm, and/or by Sensei recommendation.

"Classes are free to the public." There is a $20 Annual Insurance/Registration Fee (Yearly) for this SAL Program – which can be waived in the best interest of the student.

We teach Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu Karate, Kenpo Youth/Adult Self Defense, Bully and Abduction Awareness/Defense, and Small Child PreSkillz. If you need more info. call (707) 354-0565. Certifications available on request.

– Mchael Tobin, Sensei (Instructor).

The Good Fire Act goes to governor for signature

Submitted by the Office of Assemblymember Chris Rogers

Sacramento, September 1 – Assemblymember Chris Rogers' (D-Santa Rosa) Assembly Bill 1699, the Good Fire Act, has cleared the state Legislature and now awaits the Governor's signature. This comprehensive legislation is designed to significantly expand California's capacity to conduct prescribed burns and cultural burning practices. The bill addresses critical operational, liability, and certification barriers that have limited the state's ability to use beneficial fire as a tool to reduce catastrophic wildfire risk and restore ecological health.

"For generations, California Tribes have stewarded the landscape with fire. This community-wide effort created a safer and healthier ecosystem for all," said Assemblymember Chris Rogers. "Regrettably, one of the first laws ever passed by the Legislature outlawed this practice. We restricted cultural burning practices and ignored that wisdom. AB 1699 is about continuing to right that historic wrong."

California faces an escalating wildfire crisis with millions of acres suffering from fuel build-up due to excessive fire suppression and past management. Prescribed fire and cultural burning are proven, cost-effective tools for reducing hazardous fuels, restoring ecosystems, and protecting communities. However, regulatory complexities, liability concerns, and workforce bottlenecks have prevented these practices from reaching the scale needed to address the crisis.

The Good Fire Act builds on recent executive actions by Governor Newsom that addressed some of these barriers on an emergency basis, codifying those changes into permanent law and expanding protections further.

The Good Fire Act tackles barriers across three key areas:

• Removing Operational Restrictions: The bill codifies emergency actions in Governor Newsom's October 29 Executive Order that clarify CAL FIRE assistance on community-led burns does not trigger additional CEQA requirements, makes pre-burn inspections optional for certified burn bosses while preserving CAL FIRE's discretion to inspect when needed, and enables state grant recipients to pay overtime for prescribed fire operations.

• Addressing Liability Concerns: The legislation expands eligibility for the Prescribed Fire Liability Claims Fund to include resource conservation districts, volunteer fire departments, and tribal governments. It also eliminates the fund's 2028 sunset date and extends liability protections to retired CAL FIRE burn bosses who maintain their certifications.

Read the rest of Signature | Over on page 11

WCT calls for visual artists and graphic designers

Submitted by WCT

Willits Community Theatre — 2027 Season & Gateway to the Stage – is putting out a call for visual artists and graphic designers. Submission Deadline: November 1, 2026.

We are looking for creative individuals who want to help shape the branding of Gateway to the Stage, our youth performing arts program, as well as the Willits Community Theatre's 50th Anniversary Season of Main Stage productions.

We welcome submissions from graphic designers, visual artists, painters, illustrators, photographers, and other visual artists interested in working with the community theatre.

Gateway to the Stage – Logo & Graphic Design

Willits Community Theatre is launching Gateway to the Stage Academy, a year-round youth performing arts program designed to provide young people with meaningful opportunities to participate in theatre and the performing arts.

We are seeking a graphic designer/artist to create a new logo and visual identity for Gateway to the Stage.

We are looking for a design that is creative, welcoming, energetic, inclusive, and appealing to our young.

Main Stage Season – Poster Design

We are also seeking Graphic Design and/or Visual Artists to create promotional posters for Willits Community Theatre's Main Stage season.

One possible collaborative model would be: Visual Artist → creates original artwork → Graphic Designer → incorporates artwork and adds theatrical/show information.

How to submit

1. A brief statement of interest

Tell us what type of work you are interested in doing with Willits Community Theatre.

2. Samples of your work

Please provide a portfolio, website, social media page, or several examples of relevant work.

Send submissions to Willits Community Theatre @ wctperformingartscenter@gmail.com with the subject line: WCT CALL FOR ARTISTS — 2027

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, September 3: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce

Friday, September 4: Patty Melt

Monday, September 7: Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8: Chicken Tenders & Scalloped Potatoes

Wednesday, September 9 Mini Pepperoni Pizza

Thursday, September 10: Beef Stroganoff

Friday, September 11: Chicken & Dumplings

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.

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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Above, from left: A room in the new Willits Fire Station fun and fire safety inflatable tells kids about how to stay safe in the kitchen. A guitarist with Warehouse 21, who performed through the afternoon with some hard-driving cover music. Many of the kids got their faces painted by Lions member Tasha Jarshaw. Below, from left: Dr. Andrea McCullough tries to traverse all the sections of the Scout Monkey Bridge. Willits Food Bank Executive Director Wendy Copperfield found something beautiful to take home. A lamp made from an antique fire extinguisher was up for silent auction at the Lions Club Picnic.

Lions Club Picnic

Willits Lions celebrated their 100th anniversary Saturday in the Rec Grove Park

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Last Saturday afternoon, the Willits Lions Club had a picnic to celebrate their 100th year of existence in the town, and invited anyone to join them at Recreation Grove Park for some music, food, and a chance to walk the lengthy Monkey Bridge constructed by the Scouts Troop 42. And there was dancing for anyone so inclined. Several of the Lions members worked at the park's round house cooking hamburgers and hotdogs, offering simple food for the celebration of all the great work the local service club has done over the years.

According to the Lions website, www.willitslions.org/: "Our mission is to serve the Willits community with dedication and compassion. Through our volunteer efforts, we aim to support and empower many groups: Youth, seniors, the arts, educational programs, scholarships, training programs, safety programs, and community service groups. Together, we strive to create a positive impact on the lives of our fellow community members." The mission statement is an apt summary of the services and beneficial acts which the Lions have created in their 100 years in Willits.

"It's 100 years, not me personally, but the club," said club President Skip Lucier. "I've been with the club about 10 years and president for the last five. We have a new president coming on this next July, Sheryl Mitcham. She will be the first female club president in 100 years. We're slow, but we're steady.

"This picnic is for our 100th birthday. We're proud of the fact that we've been serving Willits as the Lions Club. Our motto is 'We Serve.' I guess we're out here blowing our horn a little bit today, saying we're proud of the fact that we have been here serving Willits and that's a good feeling," Lucier said.

"We're doing hamburgers and hotdogs at the round house. The Grange brought down about a million cupcakes that they made. We also have free popcorn over there, compliments of the Noyo Theatre. The Grange brought over their popcorn maker."

Scout Troop 42 shares a building with the Lions Club, which is their sponsor and charter organization. Their recently renovated clubhouse sits at the Recreation Grove Park, close to the rodeo grounds. The Scouts created a three-section monkey rope bridge. Each section seemed to be about 10 yards long and was constructed through the use of knots made by the young Scouts. The kids who tried the bridge seemed to have an easier time traversing the structure than did the adults, although Troop Leader Ken Pedersen had some helpful hints on steadying the rope, which he shouted out to the adults.

"We just planned our whole year," Pedersen said about the Willits Scouts. "We're getting ready to go on a kayak camping trip at Lake Sonoma. Then, we're going to head up into the Sierras to go spelunking and check out some caves. We have the Cookie Wars coming up. We have a ski trip planned this year. We have Go-Karts. It all culminates with our week-long summer camp. We go to a camp called Royaneh. It's a camp just outside of Santa Rosa. The camp has been around for over 100 years. They have a good program up there. We're going back-packing at Point Reyes this year. We have an outing every month, and we meet every week.

"We're very fortunate. We've had a good relationship with the Willits Lions for 89 years. Our Scout troop was formed in 1937. We are one of the longest continuously running troops in the Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake area. We've had no one but the Lions Club as our charter since 1937. We're very fortunate for their support, and time, and effort that they have put in for all of the Scouts of Willits and Troop 42." The troop is always looking for new members. Call Pedersen at (707) 972-3286 or for more info about Troop 42 Cub Scouts, email willitscubscouts@outlook.com

Read the rest of Lions | Over on page 9

At left: Scoutmaster Ken "Cowboy Ken" Pedersen directs a person on the rope bridge how to keep it steady. Below, left: Some people came to enjoy the cool shade and dance to the live music of Warehouse 21. Below, right: Santa, who was in charge of popping the corn, found herself a new friend. At bottom, left: Lions Club members Gane, Dean, and Sheridan worked cooking hotdogs and hamburgers for attendees, and eating some, too. At bottom, right: Willits Lion Kevin Copperfield handled the emcee duties with enthusiasm.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Eric HART
FOR MENDOCINO SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3
This Labor Day,
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NC Financial Group awarded Gold in categories Accounting Firm 2025, 2024, Financial Advisor (2024, 2025, 2026), and Tax Prep (2025, 2026). The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Bizoastal Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are finalized and make up the official Best of Lake and Mendocino voting ballot. The audience can then vote on one choice in each category. Voters are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per category 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 advisor 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 rating or award.
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Willits Weekly's

Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

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

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!

HEART HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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F S N C I L O T S Y S I H F E L P K T R
Y R A N S O R O U C A C E E P P Y T L D L R B
U Y K S E G U R A C U U F C C I M C A M
M V A M T R P O G S E V L A V L I U D A
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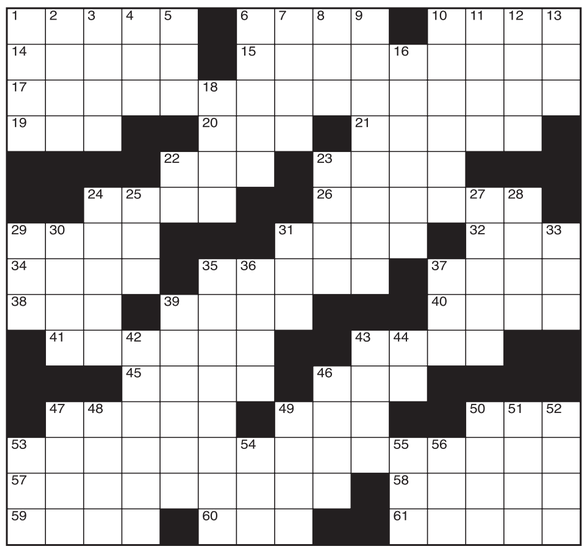
AORTIC
BLOOD PRESSURE
CARDIAC
CARDIOLOGIST
CHOLESTEROL
CORONARY
FAILURE
HEART
MITRAL
PACEMAKER
PRESSURE
PULMONIC
PULSE
STRESS
STROKE
SYSTOLIC
TACHYCARDIA
THROMBOSIS
TRIGLYCERIDES
VALVES
VENTRICLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Manila hemp plant
6. Turkish river
10. Something to read
14. In a way, initiated
15. Popular Apple TV series
17. King Charles is part of it
19. Earlier
20. Foot (Latin)
21. Zodiac sign
22. A browning of the skin
23. Remain as is
24. Turfs
26. It's used to slaughter animals
29. Volcanic crater
31. The mother of Jesus
32. One's life story
34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot
35. Counterparts
37. Jacob __, American journalist
38. Digital audiotape
39. River in South Africa
40. Kimono sashes
41. Rooting somewhere
43. American spy Aldrich
45. A way to call for
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal from a union
58. Performs spoken improv
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Helps to evade capture

CLUES DOWN

1. Swedish rock group
2. 'Friday Night Lights' director Peter
3. Currency exchange fee
4. Feline
5. Folk singer DiFranco
6. Ghastly pale from distress
7. Rapid eye movements
8. Monetary unit of Macao
9. Lawmakers
10. Colorless mineral
11. At some prior time
12. American protest singer
13. Opener
16. Seldom
18. Relaxing places
22. Touchdown
23. From end to end
24. Kids love him
25. Metal-bearing solid
27. Skin care product manufacturer
28. Thirteen
29. Angry
30. Member of a Semitic people
31. One-thousandth of an inch
33. Former CIA
35. Most lemony
36. Engage in
37. Mass of fish eggs
39. Food supplies
42. Backbones
43. American real estate investment firm
44. Megabyte
46. 'Three Coins in the Fountain' songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Full-grown pike fish
49. Emergency prep expert Edwards
50. Flute
51. Dismissive sound
52. Slang term for marijuana
53. Young women's association
54. Cosmopolitan city
55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand
56. Pointed end of a pen

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

August 17 to August 23

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **96 incidents** in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

August 17

1:52 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of School Street.

11:54 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Monica Lane and issued a warning.

12:00 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.

3:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

3:33 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Monroe Street.

5:11 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

August 18

1:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

8:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of South Main Street.

8:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:10 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

August 19

8:21 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:13 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of Coast Street.

12:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

August 20

11:44 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 500 block of Raymond Lane.

6:27 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

9:54 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

August 21

2:49 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

August 22

9:12 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Monroe Street.

12:33 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

1:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Madrone Street and issued a warning.

5:23 pm: RUMBLE, Dylan James (26) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and Boscabelle Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance with two or more prior convictions, offenses committed while released on bail, and violation of probation, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia.

6:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of South Lenore Avenue.

August 23

1:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and Sherwood Road and issued a warning.

1:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

7:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

11:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

Editor's Note: Willits Police Department arrests from August 10 to 16 are unavailable.

The rest of Travel *From page 2*

on U.S. 101 south of Black Bart Drive near Willits in Mendocino County.

Approximately $13.2 million including $11.7 million in IIJA funding and $1.5 million in SB1 funding for drainage and fish passage improvements along Route 254 from the U.S. 101 junction to north of Holmes Flat Road in Humboldt County.

Approximately $12.3 million including $10.9 million in IIJA funding and $1.4 million in SB1 funding toward construction of two bridges and fish passage improvements on Route 254 south of Williford Road near Weott and south of Holmes Flat Road near Redcrest in Humboldt County.

Approximately $8.5 million including $7.3 million in SB1 funding toward road and safety improvements for the Gualala Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Project in Gualala, Mendocino County.

Approximately $8.1 million in SB1 funding toward bridge construction to improve fish passage near Cooks Valley on U.S. 101 in Mendocino County.

Approximately $3.7 million for construction of a retaining wall on U.S. 101 at the Wilson Creek Bridge near Klamath in Del Norte County.

Approximately $3.3 million for safety improvements on Route 29 from south of Bottle Rock Road to north of Cole Creek Road near Kelseyville in Lake County.

Approximately $2.5 million including $2.2 million in IIJA funding and $280,000 in SB1 funding toward upgrades at Hely Creek Bridge No. 04-0092, Little Larabee Creek Bridge No. 04-0102 and Butte Creek Bridge 04-0116 on Route 36 in Humboldt County.

Approximately $1.8 million for lighting upgrades from Lakeshore Boulevard Extension to west of Burpee Drive on Route 20 near Nice in Lake County.

Approximately $1.4 million including $1.2 million in IIJA funding and $140,000 in SB1 funding toward construction of a left-turn lane on Route 1 at Ocean Drive near Gualala in Mendocino County.

Approximately $900,000 in SB1 funding for revegetation along U.S. 101 in Humboldt County from Fortuna to the Del Norte County line.

Approximately $365,000 in SB1 funding toward establishing riparian habitat on U.S. 101 south of Reynolds Highway near Willits in Mendocino County.

Approximately $274,000 in SB1 funding toward establishing wetland and riparian habitat on U.S. 101 near Reynolds Highway north of Willits in Mendocino County.

Approximately $23 million in SB1 funding in emergency allocations toward repairs of the Eureka Slough Bridge No. 04-0022L on southbound U.S. 101 in Humboldt County.

California has invested approximately $21.5 billion in infrastructure projects since IIJA's passage, creating nearly 280,000 jobs. Those dollars are leveraged along with SB 1, which invests an estimated $5 billion annually, split between state and local investments. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of funds, including projects that are partially funded by SB 1.

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

From far left: Justin Simoneaux, vice president of the 101 Community Fund, doubled as a server at one of the food stations. Charlie, in back, helped. The oysters on the half shell came with lemon and dipping sauce and were quite popular with the attendees. Rock poster artist Shane Grogg created the art for the Crawfish Boil poster, T-shirts, and hoodies.

Crawfish Boil

Laytonville fundraiser with a New Orleans menu returns after 7 years

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"How to peel crawfish. 1. Squeeze tail and head lightly, twist and pull apart. 2. Suck the head (optional but recommended). 3. Peel off the first few rings of the tail shell. 4. Press base of tail, pull meat out with fingers or teeth," or so the sign at the Laytonville Crawfish Boil's crawfish table instructed. As the crustaceans were brought out and dumped on the table, the crawfish afficionados lined up on both sides and went to work disassembling the New Orleans treat.

With the appearance of the food for which the event was named, the Laytonville Crawfish Boil, absent for the last seven years, was back, as great as ever and welcomed by all, for its blend of Louisiana Cajun culture, local bands, Daft Punk beer, and the reunion of all the people who spent their energy in recreating this beloved happening. The Crawfish Boil, which had been an annual event for 12 or so years, was put on hold when COVID struck and gatherings were prohibited.

Several of the creators of the event came from Louisiana and other places far away to cook their time-tested and ethnic recipes. Scott, from Louisiana was working diligently on the jambalaya. "I been to every single Crawfish Boil. It's been seven years, and it's a big family reunion. [The jambalaya] has sausage, pork, chicken, onion, celery, garlic, and bell pepper, Cajun seasoning, rice, and chicken stock," said Scott.

Blake Cutner was in charge of the crawfish. "I've lived in Louisianna, but I live in San Francisco now," explained Cutner. "I've come and cooked at this Crawfish Boil almost every year of its existence. What is this, the 13th Boil? I've been here since the first one out on Woodman. We did it with about 15 or 20 people, dogs picking crawfish out of the kiddie pool.

"This year, we're using a combination of Zatarain's Shrimp and Crab Boil and Zatarain's Pro Boil. But I think the secret is oranges. That's what we add that others don't. We have to soak the crawfish in the brine for about 30 minutes, then bring it to a boil, and the crawfish are cooked in just a few minutes.

In addition to the jambalaya and crawfish, there were beans and rice available for purchase as well as other Cajun-themed foods. Oysters on the half shell, perfectly seasoned, were very much in demand while attendees waited patiently for the crawfish to emerge.

The silent auction and the proceeds of the event were to go to the Long Valley Little League through the 101 Community Fund, set up by Troy Terrill and Justin Simoneaux, who were instrumental in recreating the boil. Little League president Emerald Scott explained what the league was about.

"What we are trying to do is every year expand our league and give more for the kids," Scott said. "To do that, we potentially

Read the rest of Boil *Over on page 9*

Above, left: The crawfish did not last long after being poured onto the table for the ravenous eaters. Above, right: Emcee the Happy Cajun kept the stage proceedings light and exciting with his high-energy introductions. At left: Local group While We're Young played several rockin' originals and was the first group up for the event. At left, below: Attendees lined up at various stations for each of the tasty Louisiana foods.

Below, from left: This young man came dressed appropriately for the occasion. Matt Paradis, past owner of Big Chief, came back all the way from Maine to enjoy the festivities. Kimber Holmes, who works with Visit Laytonville, was one of the stage decorators.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Spiritual Pathways

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

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

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

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
- A University for Soul
- Spiritual Living Courses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Thursday, September 3

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

Plant Bingo at The Munchery: An evening of Plant Bingo benefiting the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino in memory of Annelise Beck, a lover of plants and animals. Thursday, September 3, beginning at 6 pm, on the Munchery Patio. $25 includes one bingo card; additional cards are $5 each. Pay at the door. 6 regular bingo rounds with a plant prize each round, plus 1 Grand Prize Round to finish the evening! Enjoy great food, drinks, and a fun night with friends while supporting a wonderful local cause.

Friday, September 4

Labor Day Bash at Albert's: Join us for 2026 Labor Day Bash, Friday, September 4, at Albert's, 44851 Highway 101, Laytonville. Live music by Blue Luke Blues Band and Indiana Slim. 2 pm to dusk. Food by Nat's Retro Wagon. Drinks by Dusty. Wine by Sipila. Produced by Mendocino Producers Guild. Celebrate with our community; enjoy a spread of vendors; get a massage.

Big Sticky Mess at the Pub: Big Sticky Mess is an inter-planetary groove train featuring original funk music that you feel in yo' booty. Friday, September 4 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Senior Center Mini Bingo Bash: at the Willits Senior Center, Friday, September 4 from 5 to 8 pm. $15 buy-in includes light meal, cards 50 cents each. Doors open 4:30 pm, Bingo begins 5:30 pm. 1501 Baechtel Road.

Saturday, September 5

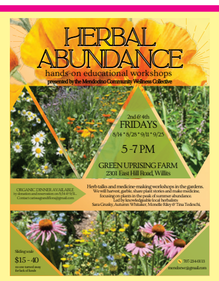
Claws for a Cause at Ridgewood Ranch: Willits Rotary Club invites the community to the annual fundraiser for the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center, Saturday, September 5 at the Howard House, at Ridgewood Ranch, south of Willits. Featuring live Maine lobster and prime rib (vegetarian option available), beer & wine, live music, live & silent auctions. Tickets $100; table sponsorships may still be available. The Riding Center is a therapeutic horsemanship program dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities through teaching the skill of horsemanship to help with daily life. More info / tickets: call 707-354-0714 or 707-272-1918.

Latchkey at the Pub: Mixing elements from countrified soul, '70s AM radio, and four-part vocal harmony, and putting the results through a punk rock filter, Latchkey presents an invigorating twist on the Northern California festival vibe Saturday, September 5 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Wednesday, September 9

Farmers Market Trio at Brickhouse: Live lunchtime music on Wednesdays, from noon to 2 pm, at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. Wednesday, September 9: the Farmers Market Band. Coming up: Wednesday, September 16: Twining Time.

Thursday, September 10



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Friday, September 11

Talk with the Supervisor at Brickhouse: Come chat with 3rd District Supervisor John Haschak at his monthly "Talk with the Supervisor." Friday, September 11, from 10 to 11 am at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. You can always contact Supervisor Haschak at haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-972-4214.

Skunk Train Circus Runs: This September, the world-famous Skunk Train and Flynn Creek Circus are bringing together two storied forms of entertainment for a one-of-a-kind experience in Mendocino County. Starting Friday, September 11 and continuing on select dates at 12:30 pm and at 5:30 pm, through September 27, guests will board the Skunk Train in Willits and travel deep into the Noyo River Canyon for a circus performance by Flynn Creek Circus beneath the redwoods and a vintage big top tent. Concessions, beverages and exclusive merchandise will be available for purchase at the circus site. Local discounts available. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit skunktrain.com/flynn-creek-circus

Herbal Abundance Workshops at Green Uprising Farm: Green Uprising Farm in collaboration with the Mendo Community Wellness Collective is holding a series of educational herbal workshops on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, including Friday, September 11 and Friday, September 25, from 5 to 7 pm. "We will harvest, garble, share plant stories, and make tinctures and teas from the herb garden in the peak of summer abundance" at Green Uprising Farm, 2301 East Hill Road. Sliding scale: $15 to $40, no one turned away for lack of funds. Info: 707-234-0113, mendocwc@gmail.com

Art Talks: 'Prehistory' at WCA: "Before cities. Before writing. Before history itself. Journey into a world of magnificent cave paintings, ancient sculptures, and monumental stone circles that unveil the origins of human imagination." This month's Art Talk, Friday, September 11 at 6:30 pm is presented by Ruby Ming. M.A. Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street.

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: Local Mendocino County jam band, sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. "We're the Cosmic Family Band and so are you." Friday, September 11 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

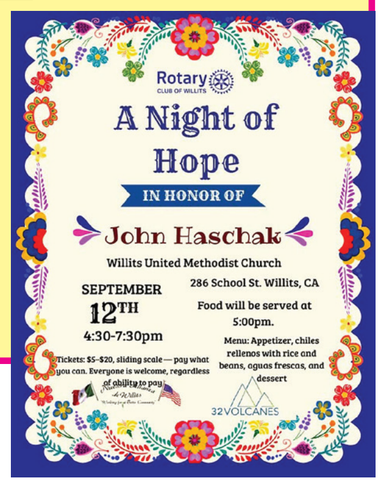
Saturday, September 12

'A Night of Hope' at Methodist Church: The Willits Rotary Club has teamed up with Nuestra Alianza in a tribute dinner for Supervisor John Haschak, who has done so much to help both organizations. Saturday, September 12, 4:30 to 7:30 pm, at the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. With music, a children's dance performance, raffle prizes, 50/50 raffle, and a door prize. Menu (food at 5 pm): appetizer, chiles rellenos, rice and beans, aguas frescas, and dessert. Tickets: $5 to $20, sliding scale, pay what you can. Everyone is welcome, regardless of ability to pay. Presale tickets are available at Nuestra Alianza's office at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, or will be available at the door.

Ital Is Vital at Tastebuds: Dance and eat vegan food at Tastebuds, Saturday, September 12, from 5 to 10 pm, featuring DJs Larry Heavyweight Hacken from KZYX Radio and Selekta Remedy and Big Jim from KLLG Radio. Admission includes food with a Jamaican flair. 349 South Main Street.

Extreme Metal at John's Place: Subgenre Productions Presents Extreme Metal Extravaganza, with Gorefetish, Goreskin Coffin, Infex, and Alchemic Transmutation. John's Place, 383 South Main. Doors open 7 pm. 21+ plus.

Low Skies at Shanachie: Low Skies, formerly Los Guys, is a local indie-rock and roots music band out of Ukiah. Saturday, September 12 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Summer Tour'

The Story: Jerry and Annie, Deadheads in their early 20s, live in a van and have a cat, and they set out on a journey, a Spiritual Journey on that most romantic of places called "The Road." The earnest young couple are on a quest to live out the final chapter of the legendary Dead & Company on their final musical tour.

We meet who Jerry and Annie meet. We see them dance. We see them fix their van. We see them bathe in forest streams and swim in the ocean and in lakes. We see them travel from concert location to concert location all across the United States.

Dan Essman
Columnist

We meet Annie's loving family. Jerry talks about how he was raised in the Christian religion, but found spiritual completeness and communion within the companionship of his Annie, and the music they hear and the guitar he plays, and all surrounded by the varied lives of their creative fellow Deadheads.

My Thoughts: Hippies Live! Still and Forever. Apparently LSD is still an important event. And the taking of magic mushrooms is spoken of nonchalantly and more or less approvingly. I didn't notice any marijuana being inhaled. (But considering where we live, maybe I wouldn't notice.)

There's an enormous amount of twirling ecstatic dancing. And there's quite a bit of full adult nudity. It's naked hippies being naked hippies. Really, now that I'm thinking on it, what we see being recreated are old-fashioned late-Sixties Love-Ins.

Parents: Not for children. I think children would be bored.

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

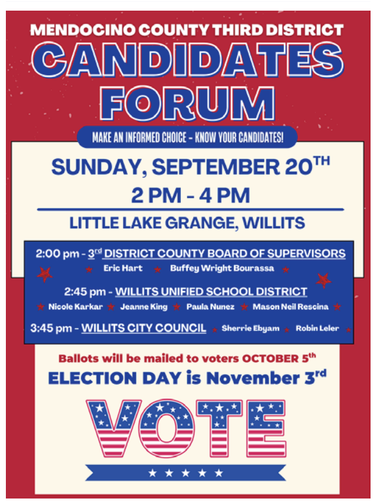
The Local Paper!

'Talk Like a Pirate Day,' September 19 at the Library

Ahoy! Weigh anchor and set sail for the Willits Branch Library to join us for an afternoon of piratical fun on Saturday, September 19 from 1 to 4 pm, as we celebrate International Talk Like a Pirate Day. Don your pirate garb and enjoy the festivities, which include games, crafts, temporary tattoos, a scavenger hunt – by following a treasure map of course – to find the loot that is rightfully yours. See you there. This event will be held throughout the Willits Branch Library. For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

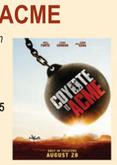
Local Candidates Forum, September 20

A Candidates Forum will be held on Sunday, September 20, covering local races for Mendocino County's 3rd District Supervisor, the Willits Unified School District Board, and the Willits City Council. From 2 to 4 pm at the Little Lake Grange, School and Pine Streets, in Willits. These races are on the November 3 General Election along with other important county and state races and 14 state propositions. Ballots will be mailed to voters on October 5. Other information will be available at the Forum.

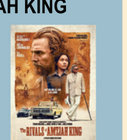


NOYO Theater Willits, CA.
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheater.com
Mid week promotions: Wednesday - Matinee prices to all shows all day.

COYOTE VS ACME
(PG) 1h 43 min
Fri: 4:30, 7:15
Sat/Sun: 1:45, 4:30, 7:15
Wed/Thurs: 4:30, 7:15



DELUXE THEATRE
THE RIVALS OF AMZIAH KING
(R) 2h 10min
Fri: 4:15, 7:00
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 4:15, 7:00
Weds/Thur: 4:15, 7:00



COOKIE QUEENS
(G) 1h 31min
Fri: 4:45, 7:30
Sat/Sun: 2:00, 4:45, 7:30
Weds/Thur: 4:45, 7:30

NOYO Theater Willits, CA
MEET-UP AT THE MOVIES 2026
GRATEFUL DEAD 1989-10-31 8/7/91
GRATEFUL DEAD CONCERT FILM EXPERIENCE
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3 7:00
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 4:00

Showtimes: September 4 to 9 Closed Monday/Tuesday *Thrifty Thursday: $8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.*

ONGOING GENERAL

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

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

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

Food Not Bombs at the Rec Grove: Receive a free meal, supplies and zines every first and third Friday of the month at 5 pm in Rec Grove Park at the picnic tables. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

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

Drop-In Life Drawing Group at WCA: Every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm at Willits Center for the Arts. Cost is based on sliding scale. More info: Margaret 707-459-9251.

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

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

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

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

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Friday at 7 pm, at St. Francis of the Redwoods on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

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

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

SHANACHIE PUB ONGOING EVENTS

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

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

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

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

WILLITS LIBRARY ONGOING EVENTS

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday.

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

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

Tech Help: Saturdays from 11 am to noon, come get computer help and your technical questions answered!

Spinning and Knitting: Saturdays at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome!

Above, from left: Cancer Resource Centers supporters Ronald Wong, left, and Steve Antler, right. Ray Holley smiles as he speaks with Anya Jindrich, CRC Executive Director. The silent auction tables were filled with beautiful items. Longtime CRC supporter Jendi Coursey enjoys visiting with a friend at Pure Mendocino.

At left, from top: Martha Barra of Barra Vineyards poured wine for event attendees. Mike McGuire speaks with Glen Green of Glenmark Storage after they pledge their donation. CRC's Jindrich reads the final tally earned during the live pledge portion of the Pure Mendocino event. Chef Olan Cox's "fire-roasted Mendo summer veggies drizzled with charred scallion and herb oil," one of the four dishes in the entree portion of the meal. Below, from left: Jean and Steve Lincoln smile at Pure Mendocino. Tomato Gazpacho Shooters, one of the appetizers available at the event. Pure Mendocino attendees Jonah Saxby, left, and Mendocino County Judge Keith Faulder.

Further below: CRC's Anya Jindrich hugs testimonial speaker Nancy Puder as she comes up to the microphone to tell her story. At bottom: Chef Olan Cox plates the lettuce for the summer salad.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

More of Fundraiser | From page 1

Nelson Family Vineyards and offered the gathered attendees a delicious meal prepared by Olan Cox and crew; a wide selection of local wines to sip and sample; a table filled with wonderful silent auction items to bid on; and the chance to hear a moving speech, all while enjoying the ambiance and friendship felt as everyone gathered under the tall oak trees.

California Senator Mike McGuire enthusiastically led the live pledge portion of the evening and rallied the crowd to donate heavily to the 2026 fund. CRC Executive Director Anya Jindrich and event site host Tyler Nelson of Nelson Family Vineyards welcomed the attendees and speaker Nancy Puder, who gave a passionate speech about her battle with cancer, and her appreciation and connection with the CRC.

Olan Cox's meal included appetizers of eggplant caponata bruschetta and Mediterranean baby potatoes with olive aioli and tomato gazpacho shooters; a first course of summer lettuces with fire-roasted peaches, chevre, caramelized and crispy shallots, and heirloom tomatoes, drizzled with Dark Horse Farm olive oil and a fresh herb vinaigrette; a Hopland rosemary focaccia bread with za'atar and olive oil to go with a dip of beet humus and labneh with herbs. Entrees included a Mendo-harvest stuffed Covelo beef roulade in rustic spiced tomato plum sauce; poached Noyo Harbor petrale sole with herbs and ras el hanout beurre blanc; fire-roasted Mendo summer veggies drizzled with charred scallion and herb oil; and a NorCal quinoa salad served with French lentils, carrots, radishes, cucumber, parsley, mint, lemon, umeboshi, and estate olive oil. Dessert was prepared by Cox's apprentice and local Willits Farmers Market vendor, baker Grant Fisher of Grant's Goodies who prepared honey citrus and chocolate coffee crunch cookies to end the meal.

Attendees enjoyed sampling wines from Nelson Family Vineyards; Bonterra Organic Estates; Pennyroyal Farm; Handley Cellars; Navarro Vineyards and Winery; Graziano Family of Wines; Campovida; Frey Vineyards; Barra of Mendocino; Minus Tide Wines; and Cox Family Vineyards.

Silent auction items included restaurant, service and experience gift certificates, including a stay at a Tahoe condo or the Hummingbird Haven; railbike ride on the Skunk Train tracks or seats at the Shakespeare Festival; a meal at the Offspring Restaurant; handmade art and jewelry; antique dishes, wooden cutting boards; and much more. Some other additional items included compost from Cold Creek Compost; 10-year rye malt whiskey from Mendocino Spirits; a campfire set; and a "farm girl" basket which

Read the rest of Fundraiser | Over on page 9

The rest of Fundraiser | From page 8

included an apron, potholders, yard, herbs, pottery, and many other special treasures.

"On behalf of Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County, we are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of love and support from our community. The work we do truly takes a community, and it was so meaningful to see so many people come together for Pure Mendocino this year," said Anya Jindrich, Executive Director for the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County. "We are especially grateful to Nelson Family Vineyards for graciously hosting us in such a beautiful setting, and to everyone who contributed their time, energy, and generosity to make the evening possible. A very special thank you to Senator Mike McGuire for making time in his incredibly busy schedule to join us and help make the evening so special. We are simply grateful to have been surrounded by so many wonderful people who care about our community and the individuals we support. It was a beautiful evening, and one we will remember for a long time."

Just some of the services CRC provides – for free – include: medical appointment preparation and accompaniment, offering support as well as being there to take notes, and audio recordings to refer back to after the appointment; translation and interpretation; benefits counseling; support groups; transportation assistance including gas cards; help seeking a second opinion; resource lending library; wig closet, and also handmade quilts, scarves and hats; emergency financial help for modest needs; referrals to other organizations that can help; and so much more.

"Our Mission: To improve the quality of life for anyone facing cancer in Mendocino County and provide assistance to anyone with cancer in Mendocino County, free of charge. We serve individuals, of any age, with any type of cancer, at any stage."

If you are interested in donating, need their services, or know of someone who would benefit from their services, please reach out. There are two offices, one coastal, and one inland, to help:

Coastal Office / Oficina de la Costa: 510 Cypress St., B-200, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. Phone / Teléfono: (707) 937-3833. Monday–Friday / Lunes - Viernes 11 am to 4 pm, or by appointment / o por cita

Inland office / Oficina del Interior: 275 W. Gobbi Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Phone / Teléfono: (707) 467-3828. Monday–Friday / Lunes - Viernes, 9 am to 4:30 pm, or by appointment / o por cita.

E-mail / Correo electrónico: info@crcmendocino.org

And, for those of you who have been wondering, I'm happy to report that things are going very well for me, finally, and thankfully! I had a clear PET scan in February, and my hair continues to grow to the point of basically being able to get into one central ponytail with only minimal use of clips to help keep flyaways set. I get to have another PET in December, and hopefully that will continue to show nothing to remark on. I am still awaiting my reconstruction, long story, but we're still working towards it as an end goal.

On July 12, two years ago, this whole journey began, and I am so thankful to Dr. Wang and the Adventist Health Ukiah Valley oncology crew, and also to the amazing bunch at Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County. They provide such an incredible service to not only the patient dealing with cancer, but to the family essentially as well.

Please, do not hesitate to reach out to their group to get help for yourself or someone you know. You will be so happy you did. Thank you to everyone for their support over the years which allowed for my care, and for those in the future who will help keep this vital resource going for years to come, allowing future generations to receive this amazing support.

The rest of Lions | From page 3

The band, Warehouse 21, played several sets of high-energy rock, getting some the attendees off their chairs and onto the cement dance floor. The silent auction proceeds were to go to a young girl named Marley. "We're doing a silent auction for a little girl who's fighting cancer. Her name is Marley. She was here a little while ago. She's a very brave little girl. We thought we'd do something to try and help her. A lot of the things that are on this table were hand-made by the Lions," explained Lucier.

A new feature, never seen before at a Willits event, was the Willits Fire Department blowup station, which was made up of several rooms, each with messages about how to be safe in the home, fun places to sit and climb, and more to do. According to Lucier, the large red structure has only before been blown up in the firehouse. It weighs about 700 pounds, but it seems worth the effort, with the fun and information it gives the kids.

The Willits Lions Club, after existing for 100 years, knows how to create a good family event in the park.

The rest of Boil | From page 5

need to build another baseball field. It takes a ton of money to build another field. We've trying to raise money through the Crawfish Boil, and we've also done fundraisers throughout the year to try to get some extra money. It costs a lot to run the league. It costs a lot for us to keep our registration fees low. We're probably have the lowest registration fees in all of California to try and make it affordable for people in Laytonville.

"For the registration fee," Scott said, "they get to play, get their hat and uniform. Our kids pay from $55 to $65. We also offer scholarships for people who can't afford that. Last year, we had 120 kids sign up, which is pretty huge for this small town. Every year we've expanded. Two years ago, we started playing other towns, instead of just keeping it local, so we've started playing different leagues. It's gotten a lot more competitive. This last season, we added a softball team. They were playing Willits, Fort Bragg, Covelo."

Michelle "Bubbles" Fordyce is a well-known entrepreneur in Laytonville and Bell Springs. She is busy planning more events for the people of Laytonville. "I'm one of the producers of Octoberfest and that is coming up on September 25. It's actually going to be a very epic weekend in Laytonville because Shred Fest is the next day. We do have live music. We have Sam Vega coming through, as well as after-hours cabaret. It's going to be at Tan Oak Park on September 25. The doors open at 6 pm, live music at 7 pm, with a cabaret to follow. All of the proceeds will be donated to Tan Oak Park. They have all sorts of community initiatives." Fordyce actually met her husband at one of the Crawfish Boils.

Beginning at noon, the Crawfish Boil grew slowly and steadily until the Laytonville Rodeo grounds were filled with happy people reuniting with old friends, dancing, and enjoying some tastes of New Orleans.

"In Louisianna, you make as much as fits in the pot, whatever you're making, and you invite everybody," said David Myers, the Happy Cajun, emcee for the day. "It's cool to bring it to the west coast."

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Alvin and Simon

Originally found hanging out together high up in a tree, these adorable buff orange tabby brothers, just over 4 months old, are now perfectly happy keeping their paws on solid ground! While they share the same handsome looks, Alvin is the bold little adventurer of the pair. He is always the first to eagerly greet visitors, ready to show off his confident personality and play with his toys. Together, Alvin and Simon offer the absolute perfect balance of outgoing energy and sweet, gentle affection!

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

Handsome Chief

Chief is a 1-year-old, 56-pound handsome guy who may be a little shy when he first meets new people or experiences new things, but he warms up quickly with a few treats and kind words, and then his playful personality shines. Chief absolutely loves toys and can't seem to get enough of them! He's also a quick learner who already knows "sit" and walks nicely on leash. A playful canine friend could be a great match for this sweet, toy-loving boy!

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

Board Members Wanted

The Willits Otters Swim Team is looking for new board members to help guide our organization. Whether you're a past, current or future swim team family - or someone who loves to swim - we want to meet you. Come see what being a board member entails. When: September 14. Time: 6 pm to 7 pm. Where: The Loose Caboose Patio. We look forward to seeing you there!

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!

Do you need food?

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

Homemades & Alterations by Teresa

Alterations & seamstress work available locally. Reasonable prices and prompt service. Contact: (707) 472-8787.

Include a Classified ad here next week! They're just $15 for 30 words for two weeks.

Room for Rent

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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

Veteran Handyman

Hire a Veteran for your handyman needs. • Electrical • Changing light bulbs • Leaky toilets & sinks • Clogged drains • Odd jobs. Reasonable rates. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Senior Discount. Call Tom (707) 841-8106

Yard Sale

24891 Goose Place, Willits, September 5, from 10 am to 4 pm. Metal smithing tools, glass display cases, art supplies, bedding, chairs, small trampoline, WWII Peacoat, fine women's clothing, new Hokas size 10, and much more.

Yard Sale

North Street. and Redwood Avenue, Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sunday, Sept. 6, 9 am to 1 pm. Collectibles, masks, country furniture, ethnic toys, golf clubs, plus more.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW624

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0274

The following person or persons are doing business as Ash Designs, 234 South Main St., #4, Willits, CA 95490. Mailing address: 195 E. Mendocino Ave., #8, Willits CA 95490; 904-295-9481.

Registered owner: Alexis Halleck, 195 E. Mendocino Ave., #8, Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

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 24, 2026.

/s/ Alexis Halleck

Publication Dates: August 20, 27, September 3 and 10, 2026

Willits Weekly can run legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more. Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com

Rotary Club of Willits — *People of Action*

Serving our Community Since 1948

www.willitsrotary.org

WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com

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High Glade Lookout rebuilt and ready for fire duty

By Laura Leidner for Mendocino National Forest

August 27, 2026 – "Temperature is 69 degrees. Relative humidity is 48%. Winds from the south, 2-3 miles per hour. High Glade," said Annelle Durham as she lowered the radio – this was a callout eight years in the making.

In 2018, the 85-year-old High Glade fire lookout tower burned to the ground in the Ranch Fire. Today, it's back in business, thanks to disaster funding provided to the Forest Service.

Durham, a longtime lookout who previously served at High Glade, and Aslan Mitchell, a newcomer to the work, began their seasonal shift just below 5,000 feet in the southern end of the Mendocino National Forest.

The new tools and technology at the lookout work alongside staff and radios as part of a layered detection system built for reliable fire preparedness.

The High Glade lookout provides direct fire detection and real-time weather observation from on-site staff. They communicate with emergency responders in a remote Northern California forest, where cellphone coverage is spotty at best. The staffed tower adds another set of eyes in a remote part of the forest – in coordination with cameras, dispatch centers, aerial patrols and community reporting.

Fire lookouts are a long-standing tradition on the Mendocino National Forest. Thanks to local public support, disaster funding, and perseverance, the High Glade Lookout was rebuilt in 2025.

And this summer, staff are prepared to detect wildfires and help protect the mountains and communities around Clear Lake in Northern California.

Rebuilding after fire

In July 2018, the Ranch Fire swept through the southern half of Mendocino National Forest. Together with the River Fire, the Mendocino Complex burned for over three months and was the largest wildfire in the state's history at that time. And in its path? A 1930s historic lookout, three hours east of San Francisco, in the North Coast Range of California.

The newly rebuilt High Glade Lookout honors both the past and the present. While built to modern safety and structural standards, it's essentially the same size and shape as the previous structure – a 10-by-10-foot square cabin, atop a 35-foot steel tower.

The new building offers modern conveniences, like power and running water. And a heavy-duty cable runs from the top of the tower to the ground, protecting the building from lightning strikes during storms.

Cameras are also installed at High Glade for remote monitoring and are visible online – go to https://cameras.alertcalifornia.org and search for "High Glade Lookout" to see cameras 1 and 2.

On-site staff contribute real time context and communication with emergency responders. Together, modern technology and traditional lookout methods give dispatchers and emergency responders a more complete picture of emerging incidents, helping protect forests and communities.

On the lookout

Since June, Annelle Durham, who has served as the long-time lookout, has been training Aslan Mitchell. "I'm excited to be here," said Mitchell. "I have always wanted to be a lookout."

On their inaugural shift in the new lookout, Durham and Mitchell unboxed supplies. They turned on power and water, recorded weather, and transmitted information over the radio. They were ready and alert.

"Through communication with the forest's dispatch center, you are tied into a network of firefighters across the region," said Malcom Lane, a longtime fire lookout on Mendocino's Anthony Peak, about 45 miles north of High Glade. "It can be stressful."

Read the rest of Lookout | Over on page 11

Above, left: From inside the rebuilt High Glade Lookout, Aslan Mitchell learns from longtime fire lookout Annelle Durham. The Osborne Fire Finder helps map the location of a potential fire start. Above, right: The rebuilt High Glade Lookout on the Mendocino National Forest in Northern California, June 1, 2026. The new building provides modern standards, like power, running water and lightning-strike protection. At left: Fire lookout staff Aslan Mitchell looks north using a fire finder. Fellow lookout Anelle Durham appreciates Mitchell's quick learning and keen eyes.

Above, left: The High Glade Lookout on the Mendocino National Forest the day after it burned up in the 2018 Ranch Fire. Forest Service photo by Terry Nickerson. Above, right: Fire lookouts observe and record weather data during each shift on the High Glade Lookout. At left: The view from inside the cabin at High Glade Lookout on the Mendocino National Forest, June 2026. An Osborne Fire Finder sits ready to help detect fire starts.

Photos by Laura Leidner, courtesy Forest Service

Willits Senior Center's 7th annual FUN-ding Raffle

Posted by Willits Senior Center

Willits, we need you. This is much more than just buying a raffle ticket.

This is a hot meal delivered with a smile. It's a safe ride to the doctor, a steady arm that carries your groceries. It's a friendly voice on the phone when the house has been quiet for too long. It's someone knocking on the door to say, "Meals on Wheels … how's your day going?"

Since 1974, the William Harrah Senior Center has been that place. Our purpose has never changed: To provide nutrition, financial assistance, social inspiration, transportation, and a meeting place where our seniors can gather with dignity and belong.

Today, that mission needs you more than ever.

We are raising money to fight two silent crises in our valley: Food Insecurity and Loneliness. Every ticket helps keeps our essential programs alive. Raffle ticket sales support: Daily Dine-In Lunch, To-Go Lunches, and meals delivered to homebound seniors and disabled neighbors.

To end isolation: Our Outreach worker does wellness calls to lonely, vulnerable and isolated seniors. Aging isn't an easy process, sometimes our seniors need help meeting their needs. Our goal is to empower and support seniors so they can live independent lives and remain living independently in their homes. For many seniors we are the only call or social connection they get all week.

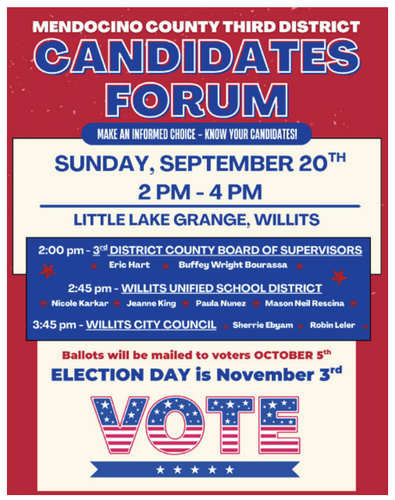
To keep them home and independent: We provide over 5,000 door-thru-door rides a year, housing assistance, free medical equipment loans, free firewood, chair exercise classes, and our Life Changes and Physical Challenges support groups.

Our Thrift Store covers 33% of our operating costs. The rest is you provided by you – our neighbors. We are not just raising money for an address.

Please buy your tickets today. You might win a prize. A senior in Willits will win something so much bigger.

Raffle tickets are $5 each or 6 for $20. Call 707-354-0614 or text your name and mailing address, and we will gladly mail you some raffle tickets. Tickets are also available in the lobby of the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm. You can also purchase tickets at the Thrift Store, Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturday, 11 am to 3 pm.

From all of us at Willits Seniors Inc. – Thank you for being a very caring and supportive community.



The rest of Forests

From page 1

management of our public lands, which is why AB 2494 gets demonstration state forests back on track to meet climate goals and mitigate fire risks," said Assemblymember Chris Rogers, author/sponsor of AB 2494. "This bill aligns with Governor Newsom's 30x30 conservation framework and prioritizes the environment, recreation, and scientific research as the main focuses for these incredible and precious demonstration state forests."

AB 2494 moves the state away from relying solely on timber harvesting to manage the demonstration state forest system. Under AB 2494, the sale of timber and other forest products will still be allowed, but under the new management principles proposed in this legislation. This bill will also allow funds from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund to be used to maintain demonstration state forests.

"The Governor has an opportunity to show the rest of the nation that while the federal administration refuses to defend our precious landscapes, California will keep moving forward in protecting our forests and advancing tribal co-management of sacred places." said Melodie Meyer of EPIC, the organization sponsoring AB 2494.

The updated management principles in this bill align with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20 and help meet California's 30x30 initiative by building resilience to climate change and wildfires within demonstration state forests. The updates under this bill are critical to support rural economies in transitioning away from dwindling extractive economies and instead enhancing ecotourism opportunities in these communities.

Chris Rogers was elected to the State Assembly in 2024. As the Assemblymember for the Second Assembly District, he represents Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties. Learn more about Assemblymember Rogers at https://rogers.asmdc.org/

The rest of Cameras

From page 1

Flock cameras in the public discussion here in the last few months, and I was wondering if you could give us an update on ours and how they're being used," Burton asked.

"I would say that ALPRS or automatic license plate readers, are a great investigative tool and that's how ours are being used – as an investigative tool," Chief Fay said. "I know in the national media there have been published abuses of the tool. I can tell you that I looked back just at August, and I don't see any irregularities in the searches that our staff have conducted. I can tell you that if there are, they will be addressed – like the misuse of any tool, they will be addressed with staff should that occur."

Mayor Tom Allman followed up: "Chief, do you have the ability to know of every bit of information that your officers have requested from Flock?"

"Yes," Fay replied. "And we ask that their searches are tied to a case number or an incident number, which helps with auditing."

"In defense of the question," Burton commented, "I'm not so sure that the primary concern is the officers' use, but where that information resides…. Is that database held locally and only locally or is it held by the cloud, or Flock, and there are accesses to it that are above and beyond your control?"

"We own the data," replied Chief Fay. "We, the City of Willings, own the data, and we have our system set up for a 30-day retention. Unless, say, for example, there was a crime today, and we had a license plate that was a piece of evidence, there's a way that we can save that so that it could be presented in court should it be needed later. But the data, after 30 days, it automatically drops off."

Burton followed up: "And it doesn't exist anymore. Nobody has it?" "Correct," Faye replied. "I think that's been part of the public's concern," Burton said.

Willits City Attorney Jim Lance asked the chief about the "Transparency Portal" on the city's website.

"So, on the city's website under the police department tab," Fay answered, "if you look on the right-hand side, you can scroll down and you can see a link to a transparency portal that talks about how many searches have been conducted, how many plates have been read. It has some information about some myths and some facts. And so there's a lot of information on that." https://transparency.flocksafety.com/willits-ca-pd

The Transparency Portal does show a long list of California law enforcement agencies that have been granted access to the WPD data, and also a list of California law enforcement agencies that "are sharing their data with Willits."

As of September 1, the portal reports 25 search sessions in the last 30 days. There were 38,267 unique plate reads detected over the last 30 days. The portal also lists "Top 5 Offense Types" used with license plate reader searches in the last 30 days in Willits:

1. Financial Crime (Embezzlement/Fraud); 2. Larceny/Theft Offenses; 3. Assault/Battery Offenses (Domestic); 4. Motor Vehicle Theft/Stolen; 5. Wanted Person (Arrest Warrant/Fugitive)

The portal reports that there are four cameras in Willits, but Chief Fay told the council that was an error on the website, and "only three are operational."

When asked by a member of the audience where the cameras were, Fay replied: "I'm reluctant to disclose the specific locations because throughout the United States they've become vandalized, and so I would prefer not to answer that question."

The rest of Impaired

From page 1

decision could be the difference between everyone getting home safely and a tragedy that can change lives forever."

During last year's Labor Day HEP, CHP officers made more than 1,200 impaired-driving arrests. During the same 78-hour reporting period, nearly 500 DUI-related crashes occurred statewide, resulting in more than 270 injuries and eight deaths, according to preliminary data from the CHP's Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System. These figures underscore the devastating consequences of impaired driving.

DUI Is more than just alcohol

Impaired driving is not limited to alcohol. Cannabis, prescription medications, illegal drugs and some over-the-counter medications can impair a driver's ability to safely operate a vehicle and make the split-second decisions required behind the wheel.

Driving impaired can cost someone their license, freedom or life – or take the life of someone else. The CHP urges motorists to think twice before driving impaired or getting into a vehicle with an impaired driver.

Arrive safely, make responsible choices

If you plan to drink, plan for a safe ride home before the celebration begins.

• Designate a sober driver, use public transportation or a rideshare service, call a taxi, or stay where you are for the night.

• If you are hosting a gathering where alcohol will be served, make sure your guests have a safe and sober way home.

• Always wear your seat belt. It remains one of your best defenses in a crash.

If you see a suspected impaired driver on the road, call 9-1-1. Your call could save a life.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

The rest of Signature

From page 2

• Reducing Credential Bottlenecks: The bill creates pathways for federally-trained and CAL FIRE burn bosses to obtain California Certified Burn Boss (CARX) qualifications without duplicating training, and reduces CARX recertification requirements from annual to every three years.

"The Good Fire Act reflects months of conversations with burners, academics, regulators and lawyers to identify unnecessary barriers that were slowing California's ability to do important beneficial fire projects," said Paul Mason, Vice President for Policy & Incentives at Pacific Forest Trust, the bill sponsor. "We crafted solutions that remove friction from the process and help meet the state's fire goals. Everyone loves a thoughtful bill that saves money and reduces paperwork, and we're grateful that the Legislature passed AB 1699 without a single No vote."

"We are proud to strongly support AB 1699 [the Good Fire Act], and we thank Assemblymember Rogers for authoring this critical piece of legislation and Pacific Forest Trust for their sponsorship and partnership," said Kenneth Brink, Karuk Vice Chair. "Karuk People have used fire to manage our homelands for millennia, and continue to do so. AB 1699 will solidify foundational supports for beneficial fire, while reducing key operational, liability, and credentialing bottlenecks. Some provisions that we are particularly excited about include permanentizing the Prescribed Fire and Cultural Burning Liability Claims Fund, which Karuk helped create, and statutorily enabling CAL FIRE to support tribal and community-led burns without triggering CEQA. We now urge Governor Newsom to sign AB 1699 into law."

"The Good Fire Act is the culmination of many years of progress and fine-tuning around beneficial fire policy in California," said Lenya Quinn-Davidson, Fire Network Director, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. "Every part of this bill came from the lived experience and needs of practitioners on the ground, and I'm proud we were able to translate their practical challenges into collaborative policy solutions that will truly expand this work."

Chris Rogers was elected to the state Assembly in 2024. As the Assemblymember for the Second Assembly District, he represents Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties. Learn more about Assemblymember Rogers at https://rogers.asmdc.org/

The rest of Forum

From page 1

uncontested for two seats on the Council – will introduce themselves starting about 3:35 pm. (Incumbents Larry Stranske and Bruce Burton are not running for reelection.)

For each of these local races, candidates will have equal time to introduce themselves and answer questions, including some prepared by the sponsors and some submitted by audience members, time permitting.

The Forum will also have information available regarding other important items on the November 3 ballot, including the 14 state-wide propositions.

Co-sponsors of the non-partisan Forum include: Little Lake Grange, League of Women Voters of Mendocino County, Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, and Willits Economic Localization. Forum moderator will be Denise Jessie.

Willits Senior Center FUN-ding Raffle

Tickets $5 each or 6 for $20

Reza's Breadery	(4) $50.00 Gift Certificates
Flowers by Annette	$75 Gift Certificate
Kemmy's Pies	2 Pies
Subway	(6) Six Inch Subs
John Ford Ranch	Case of Beef Jerky $184 Value
Napa Auto Parts	creeper Sear
Safeway	(2) $50 Gift Certificates
Unique Boutique	$50 Gift Certificate
Commercial Tire	Free Oil Change
Browns Corner	(5) $50 Gas Cards
The Stylist Hair Salon	(2) $40 Hair Cuts
Willits Power & Hardware	$100 Gift Card
Brooktrails Golf Course	18 Holes of Golf & Lunch for 2 $200 Value
Book Juggler	(2) $25 Gift Cards
Emandal On The River	1 Case Of Homemade Jam
Loose Caboose	(2) $30 Gift Certificates
Botanical Gardens	(4) Tickets
Platypus Tours	Wine Tour for 2
Slam Dunk Pizza	2) $50 Gift Cards
Skunk Train	(2) Round Trip Tickets x (2)
The Whistle Stop	(2) $30 gift Certificates
Taqueria Jalo's	$30 Gift Certificate
Taqueria Maria's	$30 Gift Certificate
101 Drive In	(2) $30 Gift Certificates
Taqueria Bravo	(2) $30 Gift Certificates
Rio's Fish & Chips	(3) $30 Gift Certificates
Kelly's Diner	$25 Gift Certificate
El Mexicana Restaurant	$30 Gift Certificate
Mendo Mill	IGLOO Cooler $140 Value
J.D. RedHouse	$100 Gift Card
Mariposa Market	$100 Gift Card
Flying Dog Pizza	(2) $25 Gift Certificates
Lumberjacks	$50 Gift Card
Benbow Inn	One Night Stay Queen Bed $175 Value
Buzzards Roost	2 Appetizers
Peters Sushi	$50 Gift Certificate
El Chicano	(2) $50 Gift Certificates
MacCullum House	Breakfast for 2 $40 Value
Noyo Harbor Inn	Brunch for 2 $30 Value
Starbucks	2 Bags of Coffee

Thank you for supporting the Willits Senior Center Programs and Services !!

The rest of Lookout

From page 10

Lookouts make observations from the tower in all directions every 15 minutes, noting any changes in weather or potential smoke. They report any new fire starts by radio. These regular scans supplement modern wildfire cameras and detection systems, ensuring multiple ways to spot and verify smoke.

As frontline communicators, fire lookouts also greet the public, answer questions, provide directions and, during hunting season, validate deer tags.

"You either have what it takes to be a lookout, or you don't," Lane said.

Historic photo of the original High Glade Lookout tower built in the 1930s. Forest Service photo by Terry Nickerson

Fire lookout history

Lookouts on the Mendocino National Forest began in the 1930s when towers were built to detect smoke. In an era before radio communication, as many as 30 lookouts dotted across the forest. These lookouts, strategically placed on mountains with 360-degree views, were designed as a system to triangulate and pinpoint locations of new fire starts.

During World War II, the forest's lookouts were used year-round to watch for enemy aircraft and balloon bombs, according to Bob Weaver, the Upper Lake District archeologist.

While lookouts once formed the backbone of detection across the forest, today the Forest Service relies on a mix of technology, partnerships, and strategically placed and staffed towers.

Today, only three lookouts remain on the Mendocino National Forest: Anthony Peak, Pine Mountain, and the newly rebuilt High Glade. Anthony Peak is staffed each year from May to October. Pine Mountain is a summer recreational rental www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/234600

This season, Forest Service staff are excited to return to the High Glade Lookout: To serve as one piece of a broader system of fire detection tools, to keep communities safe.

"Visitors are welcome to the lookout," Durham said. "But please make sure to get the staff's attention before heading up the tower's stairs. No one likes surprises – especially when you're scanning for fires."

Above: Volunteer Sharon Gaynor, with bouquet, is this year's Jann Lamprich Awardee at Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

CONGRATS

Hospital volunteer Sharon Gaynor honored with 2026 Jann Lamprich Award

Posted by Adventist Health Howard Memorial

During our Annual Service Awards at Adventist Health Howard Memorial, we also recognize an outstanding volunteer as our Jann Lamprich Awardee.

Established in 2013 in honor of Jann Lamprich for her decades of selfless dedication and service to our hospital, the award celebrates the spirit of volunteerism that Jann embodied. Jann served as Director of Volunteer Services and was a vital member of our Auxiliary. Her commitment to helping others inspired the creation of this annual award, which is presented to a volunteer who demonstrates reliability, kindness, enthusiasm, and a true team spirit.

This year's recipient, Sharon Gaynor, lives up to Jann's legacy and is so deserving of this honor. Sharon has been volunteering at Howard for 12 years; she has accumulated 2,434 hours of service and is always willing to do more.

Sharon is a highly reliable and dedicated longterm volunteer who consistently steps up wherever she's needed. Serving in the essential role of floater, she provides coverage across multiple positions with ease, drawing on her experience in various service areas.

Her broad understanding of the hospital's operations makes her an invaluable asset and enables her to seamlessly support different stations as needs arise. Sharon, you are a gem, and we are lucky to have you.

Thank you for giving your time and skills to serving our hospital and community. Congratulations Sharon!

Above: Congratulations to the Willits High School Lady Wolverines golf team, which won the August 26 meet at Brooktrails Golf Course.

Photo courtesy Willits Unified School District

WHS Lady Wolverines win first golf meet of the season

Posted by Willits Unified School District

Last week the Willits High School Lady Wolverines golf team hosted Upper Lake and Lower Lake in the first of seven tri-meets at the Brooktrails Golf Course. Willits earned an impressive home victory at the August 26 meet, with the top four golfers combining for a score of 192, compared to second place's 213. Lower Lake finished third.

A special shoutout to Brodey Lamprich, who recorded the lowest score of the day and helped lead the Lady Wolverines to their first official league win! The girls also made some new friends along the way.

Congratulations to Coach Dawn McClelland and the entire team – great work, Lady Wolverines