

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
 Donations Accepted Edition No. 567 **Thursday, September 12, 2024**

It's Real Estate Section Thursday!

Post story quotes locals on Facebook removing fire alerts

Jennifer Poole
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The Washington Post Tuesday published a story titled "Facebook is blocking emergency warnings as wildfires roar through West," with the subhead: "The Post has collected more than 40 examples of Facebook removing emergency-related posts during at least 20 wildfires since June. The explanation: "you tried to get likes, follows, shares or video views in a misleading way."

The story by Post reporter Brienne Sacks quotes locals from Lake and Mendocino counties about their experiences with Facebook blocking and removing "dozens of posts containing links and screenshots from Watch Duty, a widely relied-upon wildfire alert app." According to the story, FB also blocked and removed posts with links to official sites like CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service, sheriff's departments, and AlertCalifornia, which monitors fires and disasters

Read the rest of **Post**
 Over on page 11

10 county projects awarded Farm to School grants

Posted by CDFA

Sacramento – On September 6, as part of California's groundbreaking Farm to School Incubator Grant Program, California Department of Food and Agriculture announced \$52.8 million in funding for 195 projects across the state that will serve 1,650,985 students.

In total, these projects will serve 199 school districts and educational entities, 52 farms, eight food hubs, and five California Native American tribes.

"Supporting healthy food access is foundational to giving our kids the best start in life and preventing chronic disease," said Governor Gavin Newsom. "Farm to School and the state's other groundbreaking efforts in this space are making a real difference for thousands of California families every day, with countless benefits for our communities, local producers and the future of our state."

This round of Farm to School grants funded 10 projects in Mendocino County, including a project in Willits and one in Laytonville.

Read the rest of **Grants**
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Above, from left: A series of wooden cutting boards were entered by youth exhibitors into this year's Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show in Boonville. Fair food and building exhibits welcome attendees. Ellen Fontaine scribes for judge Charlie Barboni as he assesses one of several lovely wooden bowls made by Douglas Labat. Below: As the fair celebrates its 100th year, this trio has been working at the fair for 20 years as of 2024, including, from left: Entries Supervisor Jo Dining, Fair CEO Jim Brown, and Building Supervisor for Fine Arts, Home Arts and Wool Buildings Brenda Hodges.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Centennial

Boonville celebrates 100th annual Mendocino County Fair this weekend

It's time for the annual Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show, held this weekend in Boonville. This is a special year for the fair as it celebrates the 100th year of the annual event. The three-day fair offers fair goers all the classic fun you'd want: Building exhibits, livestock showings, fair food, live music, carnival rides, entertainers galore, and much more. There's also some fun favorites that are special to Boonville, too: Taste apples and enjoy pie, watch wool spinning and weaving demos, and of course the sheep dog trials, which are held Sunday morning. Special incentives are available for the 100th year, see the fair ad on page 8 and visit <https://mendocountyfair.com/> for more information and a complete list of events.

– Maureen Jennison



Photo courtesy of the Boonville Fair

Above: 20 years ago, this photo was taken of the above trio, plus friend Lori. Below, from left: Knitted wares are stacked and ready for judging. This artwork of a goat named Nibbles was painted by Gretchen Moore. Jars of preserved fruits, veggies, salsas, and more are ready for display. At bottom, left: The 100th annual fair takes place each year at the Mendocino County Fairgrounds in Boonville. Mother-and-daughter team Julie and Coulter Winchester work to install a feature garden in the Floriculture building for the first time in about a decade.



At left: Two of the many amazing photos on display in the Fine Arts building include "Lion on a Termite Mound" by Steve Snyder, far left, and "Moulton Barn" by Amy A. Ford, at left. Below, from left: The California Wool and Fiber Festival also takes place during the fair, and weaving demos take place during the weekend.



"Sea Turtle" necklace, bezel and embroidered by Leveda J. Lockhart. Andy Jones' sterling silver skateboarder entry. Lois Bowen's wire-wrapped stone pendant entry.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

Clearlake fire destroys 33 homes

Jennifer Poole
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Forward progress on the 81-acre Boyles Fire in Clearlake was stopped Wednesday afternoon, the Lake County Fire Protection District reported in a September 11 briefing. The Boyles Fire started Sunday afternoon, September 10 as a 1 acre vegetation fire near the Cache Creek Apartments off Dam Road, but it blew up fast.

Evacuation warnings were almost immediately issued for the surrounding residential area, and evacuation orders soon

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

2 dogs die after Eel River dip near Fernbridge

Posted by Humboldt County Health & Human Services

Environmental health officials are reminding community residents to be on the lookout for harmful algal blooms after two dogs died a short time after swimming in a small pool off the Eel River near Fernbridge in Humboldt County on Thursday, September 5. Fernbridge is only about six miles inland from where the Eel River flows into the ocean.

Warm water and abundant nutrients can cause cyanobacteria, sometimes called blue-green algae, to grow more rapidly than usual causing

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

Fort Bragg man arrested in Willits for mail theft

By Sgt. T. Del Fiorentino, for MCSO

On September 7, 2024 at approximately 4:14 am, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were conducting a foot patrol in the 100 block of Kawi Place in Willits. While patrolling the area, one of the deputies observed a subject he recognized as Andrew Riffle, 29, from Fort Bragg, who the deputy knew to be on formal probation in Mendocino County.

The deputy contacted Riffle and conducted a search of Riffle per his formal probation terms. The deputy located several checks in Riffle's possession, which belonged to a local business in Fort Bragg. The checks

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

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Grange needs you!

To the Editor:

Dear Willits and beyond, WE NEED YOU! Your beloved 100-year-old Community Center, the historical Grange building, needs YOUR help!

Yes, we must re-roof this historical building soon to keep it safe and useable for the many events and community services that our town needs and loves. The cost will be close to half a million - \$400,000 to put on a fire-hardening metal roof that will last for the next few generations and give our children a safe and beautiful community center to play and work within.

A small group of dedicated volunteers - Grange members - have been maintaining this grand old and HUGE building for years. If nothing goes wrong, the bills get paid and the building gets fixed from small issues. We break even. However - the building has had some large recent expenses.

We are in dire need to re-roof this landmark community resource. A fire-safe metal roof is the ideal replacement, with extremely low to no maintenance for the next 50-plus years is a dream (goal).

Here is some history of the old Willits School building over the years:

In 1964 the Little Lake Grange purchased the former Willits School located at 291 School Street. The school had been closed as it did not conform to the new seismic/ earthquake building standards required for all new California schools.

For several years Grange volunteers began tackling deferred maintenance - holes in the roof, broken windows, electrical issues, floor joist and flooring replacements, and more. Over time the rooms were rented for a variety of uses - ballet and children's dance and movement classes, Nuestra Alianza, our Spanish-speaking community rooms, health practitioners, a church, AA meeting room, pottery and art studios, crafters and sewing groups, Firefly framing shop, music and voice classes, photography studio, KLLG Radio station, and more over the last five decades.

There is a commercial kitchen that is a business incubator for numerous small food producers and caterers. The monthly pancake breakfast serves up to 2,000 plates of great food each year!

Our Great Hall continues to host a multiplicity of events - town hall meetings, Rotary fundraisers, live music, dances, musical and choir recitals, Holiday Toy Run, Winter Farmers Market, political debates, health education, films, wedding receptions, school fundraisers and auctions, harvest dinners, life celebrations and retirement dinners, Winter Solstice dances, a multitude of workshops on farming, soil, forest, and water, the monthly

pancake breakfast and so many more functions.

Beginning in 2009 the Grange began a concerted facility upgrade: Kitchen and bathroom upgrades, all window replacements to double pane, ceiling light upgrades, roof replacement, creating a commercial kitchen, painting all rooms and hallway, as well as exterior painting.

Adding solar electricity has helped us, including our tenants, to save money and resources. Most recently the removal of asbestos from under all the rooms has made the building safer. But that has all been costly, and paid for mostly by fundraising efforts from a small group of volunteers.

Totaling all up, close to \$400,000 has been spent in the last few years on building maintenance and upgrades. More upgrades are needed. The roofing job now alone looks like another \$400K.

So, this is where we ask for your helping hands. If you love this building, and want to see it continue to serve the community as it does, your ideas and help with fundraising are needed again! Together we can find the money needed to put a new roof on the historical building.

If you can write a grant, and know of even a small one that could bring some relief to this expense, please let us know! You can help in many ways - volunteer ideas by calling our office or inviting us to talk to your service club or group, how to find a money source, and tap it.

What can we do together to help as the thousands of locals who use this building every year? Certainly, the small group of dedicated volunteers needs YOU.

Call us at 707-459-9716, and leave a message! Or come to the next event and offer your helping hands to the effort.

Little Lake Grange / Building Maintenance Committee

Support Saprina Rodriguez for WCC

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Saprina Rodriguez, who is running as a write-in candidate for the Willits City Council. Having known Saprina and her family for over 23 years, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand her unwavering commitment to our community.

Saprina is a dedicated volunteer who consistently finds innovative ways to enhance our town. Her deep involvement in various local initiatives demonstrates her genuine passion for improving Willits. Beyond her local efforts, Saprina currently serves on the Mendocino Transit Authority Board of Directors, where she has been instrumental in guiding the agency

Nome Cult walkers arrive in Round Valley Saturday

Submitted by Mendocino National Forest

Willows, California, September 6 - The annual Nome Cult Walk from Chico to Round Valley began last weekend and continues through September 14, when walkers plan to arrive at the Round Valley Indian Reservation.

Forest officials advise motorists along the trail route - M4 Road, County Road 55, and FH7 into Eel River Station and Covelo - to be aware of the event this week and to drive slowly to ensure the safety of pedestrians. Caution signs will be posted at the entrance to the national forest, and the walkers' support team will also have caution signs on their vehicles.

The planned schedule:

- Sunday, September 8, begin walk toward Orland
- Monday, September 9, walk toward Newville Cemetery
- Tuesday, September 10, walk to Black Bear Campground
- Wednesday, September 11, continue to Log Springs
- Thursday, September 12, walk to Wells Cabin
- Friday, September 13, walk to Eel River Campground
- Saturday, September 14, finish walk to Round Valley Indian Reservation

Participants in the 100-mile walk commemorate the forced removal of Native Americans in 1863, also called the Konkow Trail of Tears, by retracing their ancestors' steps as part of an ongoing healing process. Of the 461 Native Americans who were forcibly marched from their homelands, only 277 people completed the journey.

The removal of Indians from Chico to the Nome Cult Reservation in 1863 is one of the many forced relocations following the establishment of reservations in northern California in the 1850s. Several different tribes were moved to the Nome Cult Reservation after it was established in Round Valley in 1856.

Today the commemorative Nome Cult Walk brings together many generations and members of several tribes in the area, including descendants of the Concow Maidu, the Round Valley Indian Tribes, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California, Redding Rancheria, Grindstone Nomlaki, the Mechoopda Tribe, Pit River, Wintu, Nisenan and Greenville Maidu.

More about the Nome Cult Walk at the U.S. Forest service site at: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/home/?cid=fseprd1156187



Participants on the Nome Cult Walk stand under a caution sign in September 2023. Walkers retrace their ancestors' footsteps, walking on average 15-25 miles per day through towns, farmland, foothills and across the North Coast Mountains in California. USDA Forest Service

Photo by Andrew Avitt

Entries open for 2024 Holiday Crafts Fair

Submitted by WCA

Willits Center for the Arts is accepting entries from artists and crafters and local specialty food entrepreneurs for the 37th annual Holiday Craft Fair, taking place on December 13 and 14, 2024 at the Willits Community Center and Willits Center for the Arts.

This is back to the traditional two-day show, on Friday, from 12 noon to 7 pm, and Saturday, from 10 am to 5 pm. All interested artists, hand crafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs, who hand-make their own products, should request application forms by e-mail to: Bonnie.Belt@willitscenterforthearts.org Or visit: <https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org> or by mail to: Willits Holiday Craft Fair, c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Drive, Willits, CA 95490 and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Please note acceptance is subject to quality of work and earliest postmark date. Applications will be accepted until all booths are filled. For further information you can call Bonnie Belt at 707-459-4792 (landline) and leave a message; email to: belt.bonnie@gmail.com or visit: <https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org>

Read the rest of Letters

Over on page 11

All aboard the Pumpkin Express: Skunk Train, River Fox Train, and Sunburst Railbikes

Submitted by California Railway

Prepare for a fall adventure that's more enchanting than a wizard's spell! The Skunk Train, River Fox Train, and Sunburst Railbikes are each opening the gates to a pumpkin patch wonderland, where the magic of fall meets locomotive and railbike charm. Get ready for a journey filled with family fun, seasonal treats, and unforgettable memories that take families on a delightful journey to choose the perfect Jack-O'-Lantern.

Skunk Train Pumpkin Express

Climb aboard the Pumpkin Express and embark on a 2-hour adventure departing from the Willits Depot. This magical journey will transport you to a redwood glade, where children (and even dogs!) can explore and select their very own pumpkin to bring home.

Upon arrival at the pumpkin patch wonderland, you'll have the chance to immerse yourself in the serene beauty of the redwoods, capturing Instagram-worthy photos to treasure among the fall hues.

The highlight of the adventure is choosing a pumpkin to bring back on the train with you, making this a journey to remember. Trains run on select days throughout October, offering a 45-minute ride each way with a 30-minute stop at the pumpkin patch. Adult beverages are available!

Picking the perfect pumpkin has never been more fun! Secure your spot now for the best family fall adventure. Tickets are available for purchase at <https://www.skunktrain.com/pumpkin-express/>.

River Fox Train Pumpkin Patch Express

Calling all little goblins! Join the River Fox Pumpkin Patch Express for a harvest ride through the picturesque Sacramento countryside complete with trick-or-treating and a pumpkin patch extravaganza. We're talking games, bouncy houses, sack races, costume contests, and a chance to pick your pumpkin partner-in-crime.

This is an experience like no other on this side of Sac town, offering a fantastic opportunity to create cherished family memories. Trains depart on select days in October, with three departures at 10 am, 1 pm and 4 pm.

Snacks and drinks are available for purchase during the train ride and at the pumpkin patch. The entire experience is approximately two hours long. This includes a 1-hour train ride, and a 1-hour fall festival. Find us just west of Sacramento International Airport off I-5.

Book your tickets now at <https://www.riverfoxtrain.com/experiences/pumpkin-patch-express/>.

Sunburst Railbikes to the Pumpkin Patch

Celebrate the Fall Harvest in Ventura County with a Sunburst Railbike adventure to the Pumpkin Patch! With departures at 10 am and 2 pm starting this October, expect a serene 2.5-hour Railbike ride through 10 miles of citrus and avocado groves with a stop at Prancer's Farm's Pumpkin Patch to pick out your perfect Jack-O'-Lantern!

Read the rest of Trains

Over on page 11

Below: The young players crowd around the ball during one of the games on opening day of Willits Youth Soccer. At right: This team shows its spirit with a team cheer. At far right: Amelia gets into the spirit of the game by making some powerful kicks. At right, below: One of the younger teams holds up their sponsor banner from Imagination Station and the Toy Depot. At right, bottom, left: This all-girl soccer team is sponsored by Brad Beck of All Things Trees. At right, bottom, right: This team is sponsored by Sparetime Supply, which has always been a good community partner and has sponsored several sports.



Above: The Roots of Motive Power Steam Up is set up concurrently, with the engines circling the soccer fields. Below: After the parade of teams, this young lad holds the flag while "The Star Spangled Banner" plays in the background. At right: This goalie for the day gets to wear the big gloves.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Kick Off

Willits Youth Soccer starts fall season with opening day ceremony and inaugural games

It was a bit of a chaotic parade. Children and soccer balls in the same space created impromptu games and distractions. About 150 of Willits' youth attempted to line up in an orderly fashion behind the banners that announced the sponsor of each team. However, being some of the youngest of the town's inhabitants, their concentration wavered and their penchant for pure, uninhibited fun threatened to take over. But with some effort, the coaches kept the kids moving in the right direction.

By the end of the ceremony declaring the opening day of the Willits Youth Soccer fall season, all the kids had found their teams and it was fun for the families to watch their children parade by with their team holding up their sponsor flag.

"I think what's special every year, is that the program continues to function after all the years, as a 100-percent volunteer non-profit organization," explained Saprina Rodriguez, program director of Willits Youth Soccer. "Nobody gets paid and nobody's turned away. Every player continues to play. You don't have to fill out an application. Honestly, it's a small town. People come and say 'hey, I don't have the means.' A sponsor comes and makes it happen or volunteers do a fundraiser in order to make sure that it happens."

Rodriguez and Jennifer Lutge are the most active of the board members, making sure all the equipment is available and in order, coordinating teams and coaches, and arranging the matchups throughout the season. Rodriguez could also be found, prior to the ceremony, in the snack bar, dispensing uniforms and quick-energy eats.

"I get out of it what the kids get out of it," said Rodriguez, explaining why she lends so much of her time to the program. "I love seeing the smiles on their faces. I love seeing those 'aha' moments when you're teaching something and then they get it. Even when I'm refereeing on the field, I'll be out there, and you see that look on their faces that they're trying something new."

"You're teaching children that it's OK to try something new," said Rodriguez, "and it's OK to do what some would perceive as failing, because failure is nothing more than a learning opportunity. In soccer, as in any sport, you get a lot of opportunities to keep

practicing until you get to a point where you feel confident and comfortable, and then it helps build self-esteem. Kids don't need to be enabled. They need opportunities to learn and grow and make mistakes and feel comfortable.

"The thing about youth sports is that it creates a community family. Players get an opportunity to know that they have these role models as the years go on. For example, Alvaro Mendoza, who is coaching U-12s, I coached him all through youth sports. Here he is, giving back. The other day, we were here, late at night, in the dark, working, painting fields and we were talking about all the memories through his childhood. I got a little teared up because he was talking about all of the moments we had, the trips we took, what he learned," Rodriguez said.

Once the teams finished their parade and were lined up with their banners, it was time for a couple of the kids to present the flag for the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," followed by young Uriah McGill making the ceremonial opening-day kick to the delight of the crowd and the teams. With this, the season had begun. The teams went to their assigned fields and began their competitions. On the first day, most of the young athletes would mass around the ball, wherever it was on the field. Skills like passing and placement will come later. This first day was just about fun and exercise.

"For kids who want to use up some of their energy, let them run," said Rodriguez. "Let them have fun. If you don't know the sport, sometimes it looks like they're just randomly running. As you develop, there is nothing random about it. There's a purpose. They're positioning themselves, thinking all the time about how they can receive or pass the ball. What are you going to do even before you receive the ball?"

"They're enjoying time with their friends," said Rodriguez. "Friendship is a big part of it. I've seen families that have moved to the community, and they don't know anybody yet. They join soccer and now these kids have friends and have built a support system."

Willits Youth Soccer, which has been going since 1982, needs volunteers and coaches to keep it going. For information on helping out, visit their Facebook page or www.willitsyouthsoccer.net/.

You're invited to our **FREE Health Fair**

Sunday, Sept. 15 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Come take advantage of one or more of the following **FREE** services:

- ✓ Dental care (Simple fillings, extractions, & cleanings)
- ✓ Foot care
- ✓ Health screening
- ✓ Hair cuts
- ✓ Massage
- ✓ Free Bibles & prayer

Where: 12 W. Valley St. Parking Lot - Willits (Across Main St. from the Post Office)

Limited appointments. First come, first served. See service details online, or call 707-972-9005.

Sponsored by Willits Seventh-day Adventist Church

with services provided by Willits Family Dentistry & Implants, Main Street Barbershop, and 1st Nails Spa

willitssda.com

Make sure your child will grow up strong, resilient, and ready to explore the world.

Stay up-to-date on their immunizations. Call for an appointment today!

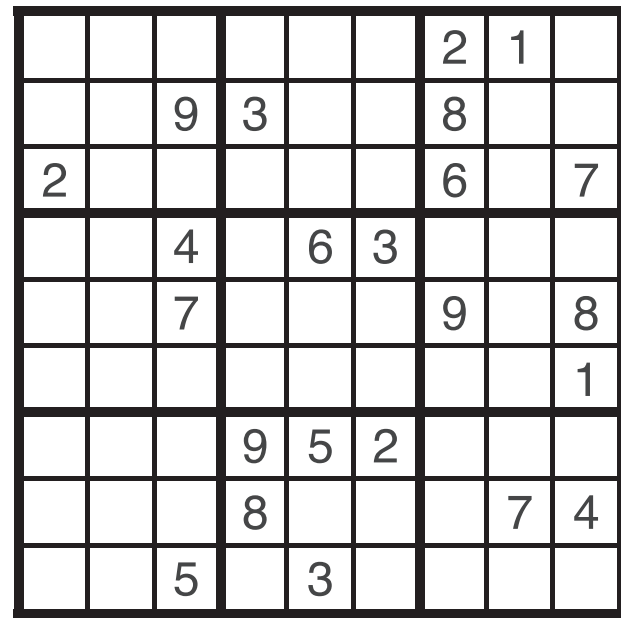
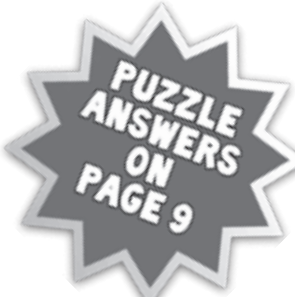
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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



Level: Intermediate

HOW TO SUDOKU

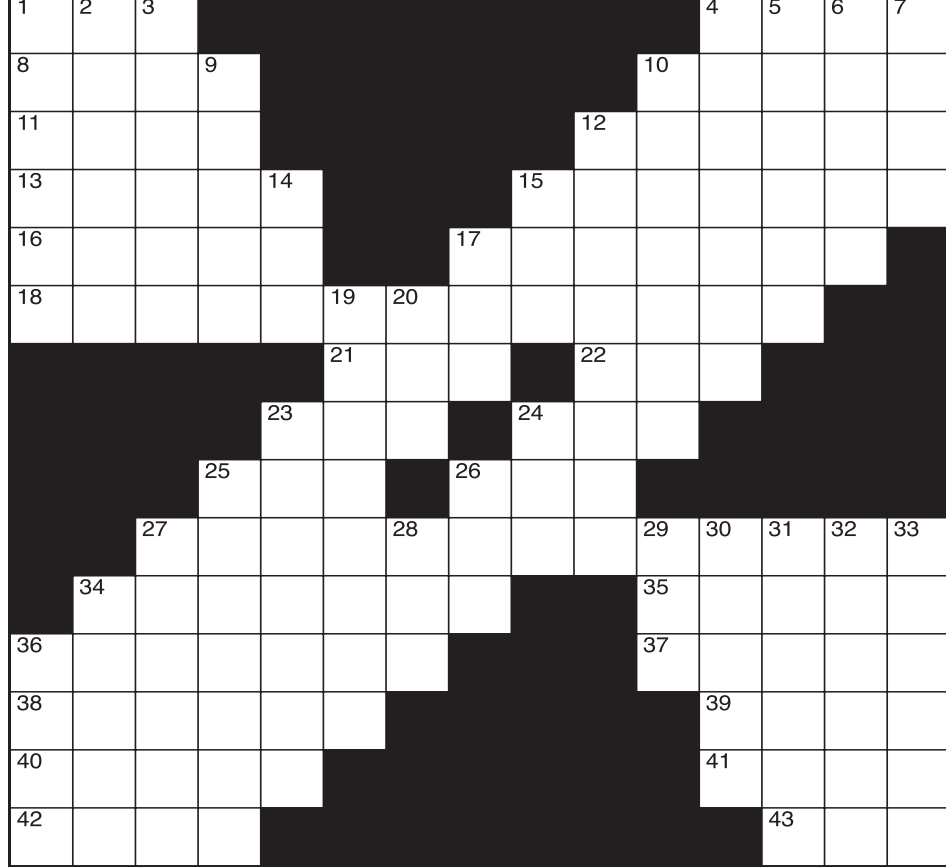
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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

POPCORN WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| BOWL | ENJOY | MAIZE | SEASONING |
| BUTTER | EXPLODE | MICROWAVE | SNACK |
| CARAMEL | FAIR | MOVIE | SODA |
| CARNIVAL | FIBER | POPCORN | TASTY |
| COMBINATION | INFLATE | POPPER | THEATER |
| CONCESSION | KERNELS | SALTY | UNPOPPED |



CLUES ACROSS

- Engine additive
- A type of test
- Curtail
- Irish surname
- The opposite of good
- Got rid of
- Central parts of a church building
- Stylistically
- Intestinal
- Negative potential outcomes
- Lived up to a standard
- Snag
- Time units (abbr.)
- Ad __
- 'Partridge' actress Susan
- For each
- __ Paulo, city
- League titles
- More intensely black
- Slang for lovely

- Petrarch is known for them
- Old Eurasian wheat
- Body part
- Swedish rock group
- They're worth avoiding
- Rising and falling of the voice
- Wings
- Enzyme import for respiration

CLUES DOWN

- Idyllic
- South Pacific island nations
- Shrub of the olive family
- Boundaries
- Encircle
- Weights
- Samberg is one
- Sheep sound
- European country
- Respected group of people
- Trigraph
- Prosecutors
- Assign a nickname
- Huge size
- Partner to cheese
- Fastballs
- Principle underlying the universe
- Distinct units of sound
- Title of respect
- Against
- Foot (Latin)
- One point east of due south
- Concerning the blood
- Type of pentameter
- North American peoples
- Layers of rock
- Georges __, French philosopher
- Lengthy tale

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

September 3 to September 8

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **67 incidents** in this 6-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

September 3

3:01 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West Oak Avenue.

6:36 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Northbrook Way.

12:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Nancy Lane.

September 4

10:46 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

10:53 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

September 5

11:23 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

1:18 pm: GRIBI, Brigitte Amanda (34) of Ukiah was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear.

3:58 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

4:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

September 6

8:07 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

2:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Pine Street and Spruce Street.

3:08 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 800

block of South Main Street.

3:52 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:32 pm: MARTINEZ Jr., Carlos (25) of Harlingen, Texas was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

September 7

12:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

2:42 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

3:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.

8:55 pm: BENNETT Jr., Timothy James (36) of Laytonville was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

10:33 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

10:55 pm: GRIFFIN, Amanda Darlene (31) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Baechtel Road. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher, and violation of probation.

September 8

6:51 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Monroe Street.

9:07 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

1:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:17 pm: HOAGLEN, John Carl (39) of Covelo was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole.

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. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, September 12: Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad
Friday, September 13: Italian Sub, Pickle, Chips

Monday, September 16: Shrimp Scampi, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Tuesday, September 17: Chicken Cordon Blu Casserole, Veggies, Roll

Wednesday, September 18: Tuna Salad Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Thursday, September 19: Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap, Carrot Salad

Friday, September 20: Chili Relleno Casserole, Rice & Beans

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5

to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, October 12 next month.

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

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

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

Registration coming up for Willits Cub Scout Pack 42

Willits Cub Scouts, sponsored by the Willits Lions Club, are registering new Cub Scouts. Cub Scouts are both boys and girls in kindergarten through fifth grade.

This registration of both Scouts and Scout leaders will take place at the Willits Scout Hall which is the big brown building at the back of Recreation Grove. This registration will take place at 5:30 pm, Tuesday, October 1.

Cub Scouting is a year-round family oriented program. The purposes of Cub Scouting are: character development, spiritual growth, good citizenship, sportsmanship and fitness, family understanding, respectful relationships, personal achievement, service, preparation for Scouts, and FUN AND ADVENTURE!

This exciting program will be explained by the new Cub Master (retired school teacher, coach and Scoutmaster, Lou Meier) at this October 1 meeting.

The pack needs adult leaders including Den leaders and assistant Den leaders and three committee members. An assistant Cub master would be greatly appreciated. Adult leaders must complete a Youth Protection Training and have a background check.

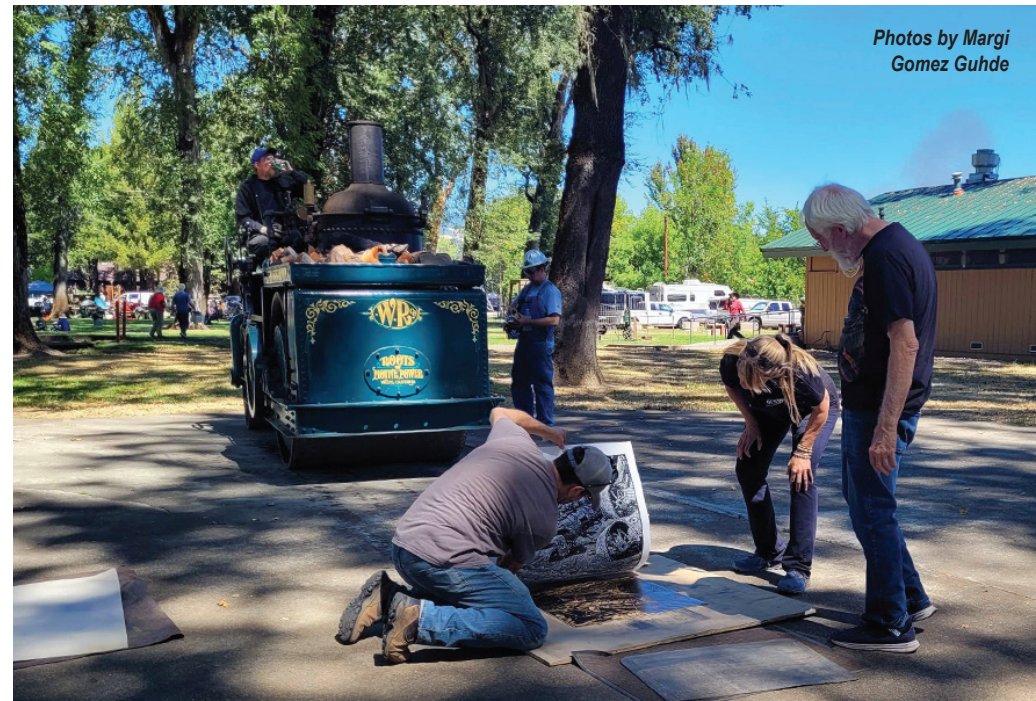
We are hoping to start Den Meetings in the second week of October. Trainings and materials will be provided.

For any questions, contact Lou Meier at 707 354 0696.



Above, from left: Mendocino County Museum volunteers Karen Bishop and Briana Brooks assisted all comers with their antique book press. Conductor Hilding Larson took rider tickets, just like the olden days. Alan Spivak demonstrated the steam-powered Estep Yarder. Roots ticket seller extraordinaire Jeanne Sherber.

At left: Visiting master print maker Rik Olson completed one of his linoleum block prints with the help of volunteers from the San Francisco Center for the book. Below, left: Raffie Chair Dorothy Roediger with Mindy Graux admire the offerings at the Roots silent auction. Below, right: Martha Cover and her grandson, whose apple cider press is steam-powered, exit the train. Further below: Fun for the youngest visitors at the Roots of Motive Power fundraiser was provided by the Mendocino County Museum. At bottom, left: The 1920s era Buffalo Springfield steamroller is ready for action at the IMPRESSED printing in the park event. At bottom, right: Dave Sherber waves from the Roots Bluestone engine.



Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde

Steam Fun

Roots of Motive Power's festival this year might've been one of the biggest ever

Where can you go to on a beautiful late summer day, learn about local history, take a free steam train ride, visit friends and neighbors, make some art, hear some music, win a prize, and enjoy a great meal? Sounds like the annual Roots of

Motive Power Steam Festival fundraiser, which took place this past weekend at the Roots yard and the Recreation Grove on East Commercial Street.

Roots of Motive Power has been one of Willits' most dynamic non-profits since its inception in 1982. Their mission is collecting and preserving steam locomotives and other artifacts from the early days of steam power; their collection includes loans and donations from the Mendocino County Museum, the state of California, and many private donors. Roots of Motive Power, Inc. is undergoing numerous acquisition and restoration efforts, including activities which bring steam power history to the public.

Volunteers make the world go around, and it turns out volunteers make the trains go around at the Roots steam up as well. Willits residents, including many area old-timers, all collaborated to make this unique festival possible, including working on and driving the main Bluestone Mining & Smelting Heisler locomotive, which takes eager riders around the Roots main train track.

People came to the steam up in Willits from near and far, including members of the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association, who set up unusual historic steam engines of every size and shape in the Rec Grove, some of which can move water, saw wood, and even

run an apple press to make fresh squeezed apple juice.

Visitors young and old enjoyed the many different demonstrations and activities at the Roots yard and train tracks. Steam-powered train rides are probably the top attraction. Ticket seller Jeanne Sherber reported this year's two-day total as 735 adults, 281 kids, and nine dogs!

Another popular event is the IMPRESSED printmaking extravaganza, which attracts area artists as well as families from near and far in a collaboration between Roots of Motive Power and the Mendocino County Museum. Eager artists were provided tools and linoleum blocks, and both Roots and Museum volunteers operated the beautiful 1920s Buffalo Springfield steamroller to print an amazing variety of inked prints, including some by visiting Sonoma art world celebrity Rik Olson, who printed a few of his large detailed artworks, like the one that is currently part of the "IMPRESSED: Turning the Page" exhibit currently at the Willits Museum next to the Roots yard.

The Roots barbeque also attracted hungry locals and helps to fill the Roots of Motive Power's coffers for the months to come. Volunteers from the Willits Chamber of Commerce pitched in to put on this much-anticipated dinner. Chamber President Lisa Kvasnicka was happy to show up to the Rec Grove Scout Hut with Chamber cohorts who helped make it all happen. She says that the chamber looks for ways to better serve our community, so what better way to do that, than to give a full day for Roots, to prep and

Read the rest of **Roots** Over on page 9

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The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Bicoastal 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 complete, 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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Thursday, September 12

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, September 12, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. "Storytime at the Farmers Market," from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin Steiskal reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, September 13

Senior Dance Hall: Willits Library resumes the Senior Dance Hall, Friday, September 13, continuing Fridays from 2 to 3 pm. Seniors ages 55 and older are invited to bring your dancing shoes to enjoy jazz, pop, swing, and ballroom selections. Don't feel like dancing? Please come and enjoy the music, catch up with friends new and old, and share some light refreshments.

WHS Varsity Boys Soccer: Willits High Varsity Boys Soccer plays a home game against Geyserville High on Friday, September 13. 5 pm. Maize Field, 299 North Main Street.

Jen Howard at Shanachie: American singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, born in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, whose music is a mix of Folk, Roots, Reggae and Sophisti-Pop on themes including human nature, love, courageous motivation and intentional compassion for ourselves and others. Friday, September 13 at 5 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.



WCA September Art Talk: Art historian Gary Martin gives the monthly Free Art Talk on American art of the 18th century, Friday, September 13 at 6:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts. "Early American art reflects the rich diversity and evolving identity of a young nation.... Early American artists used their work to document daily life, express cultural values, and explore the American landscape, laying the foundation for a distinct artistic tradition." 71 East Commercial Street, next to the Noyo Theatre. More info: willitscenterforthearts.org or 707-972-3326



WHS Varsity Girls Soccer: Willits High Varsity Girls Soccer plays a home game against Mendocino High on Friday, September 13. 6:45 pm. Maize Field, 299 North Main Street.

What's Happening Around Town

'Steel Magnolias' at WCT: Last weekend for the beloved beauty shop comedy-drama 'Steel Magnolias,' Friday, September 13 at 7:30 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. Co-directed by Kelly Kesey and Lisa Wilcox, the Robert Harling classic features the intimate and remarkable experiences of six women in their loving and devoted friendships while they gather together at the local beauty shop. They come to Truvy's for her true wit and uplifting spirit, and for the way she can turn a sad moment into laughter. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org, or at the door.

Back Porch Trio at Shanachie: fun-loving sound influenced by folk, blues, classic rock, jam band, americana, and bluegrass, with unique songwriting and a blend of vocal harmonies. Rosie Wetzel (ukulele and vocals), Steve Hahm (acoustic guitar and vocals), and Jeff Taylor (bass). Friday, September 13 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, September 14
Sit-N-Sew: Second Saturdays at the Willits Library, September 14 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and have fun. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

'Steel Magnolias' at WCT: The beloved beauty shop comedy-drama 'Steel Magnolias' continues Saturday, September 14 at 7:30 pm at Willits Community Theatre. Check Friday, September 13 listing for more details.

Clay Hawkins Duo at Shanachie: "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart" by slide guitarist and songwriter Clay Hawkins and longtime co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass. Saturday, September 14 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, September 15
'Steel Magnolias' closes at WCT: The beloved beauty shop comedy-drama 'Steel Magnolias' closes with a 2 pm matinee, Sunday, September 15 at Willits Community Theatre. Check Friday, September 6 listing for more details.



Singers On Streetcorners: Calling to the songbirds of Willits and nearby to join in peace caroling on the streets of Willits with the SOS Choir. "We'll meet in City Park, under the 3 giant sequoia trees, at 5 pm on Wednesday, September 18. After practicing a few songs, we'll head to the streets to sing for people passing by." For more info, contact Theresa at CultivatedJardin@gmail.com

Willits Stamp Club: The monthly meeting of the Willits Stamp Club is on third Wednesdays, Wednesday, September 18 this month, 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Bring your collection and enjoy time perusing stamps. All are welcome. Refreshments served. Info: talsofam@pacifi.net

Avenues to Wellness Speaker Series: ATW resumes its monthly speaker series with "Unapologetically Me: A Story of Transitioning" by Tiffany Tucker on Wednesday, September 18, from 6 to 7 pm. "Many queer people may spend years building acceptance for themselves and loving themselves for who they are. This process is often called 'Coming In.' This can be difficult while navigating the societal shame, stigma and adversity placed upon the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Hear Tiffany's 'Coming In' story, including when she knew she was transgender and why she waited so long to transition. Join us to better understand, support and accept our queer community." Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. FREE to the public. Donations appreciated.

Benefit Concert for Willits Daily Bread: The 3rd musical benefit presented by St. Francis Episcopal Church to help Willits Daily Bread continue to feed the hungry in the community features The Harmony Keepers: Kate Black and Anita Blu. "Lovely renditions of beautiful vocal harmonies of music from Joni Mitchell, Carole King, James Taylor, Phoebe Snow, Laura Nyro, Leonard Cohen, and some new songs as well." Sunday, September 15, from 3 to 5 pm at St. Francis Church, Commercial and Main streets. Admission: Donations accepted. After-show Soup and Bread Dinner, \$5; bread donated by Emandal Farm and Reza's Bakery. "We are accepting donations of Silent Auction items, so let's dig out those white elephants. Drop off at Willits Daily Bread, 66 East Commercial Street, 2:30 pm on day of event, Sunday, September 15 or call Cindy at 707-459-2579 or 707-367-5669."



History Makers at the Museum: The Mendocino County Museum presents family friendly themed crafts and activities inspired by the permanent gallery exhibits on Wednesdays from 11 am to 3 pm. In September, the exhibit is "IMPRESSED: Turning the Page," the 3rd annual printmaking exhibit at the Museum. The Wednesday, September 18 activity is "Stamp It: Make Your Own Stamp." 400 East Commercial Street. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission. Enjoy free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365



Wednesday, September 18
Senior Dance Hall: Willits Library hosts the Senior Dance Hall, Friday, September 13, continuing Fridays from 2 to 3 pm. Seniors ages 55 and older are invited to bring your dancing shoes to enjoy jazz, pop, swing, and ballroom selections. Don't feel like dancing? Please come and enjoy the music, catch up with friends new and old, and share some light refreshments.

Tastes like Chicken at Shanachie: A local Willits band, a "high energy, rocking good band, with an excellent selection of covers and originals guaranteed to get you moving!" Friday, September 20 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Thursday, September 19
Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, September 19, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. "Storytime at the Farmers Market," from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin Steiskal reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, September 20
Senior Dance Hall: Willits Library hosts the Senior Dance Hall, Friday, September 13, continuing Fridays from 2 to 3 pm. Seniors ages 55 and older are invited to bring your dancing shoes to enjoy jazz, pop, swing, and ballroom selections. Don't feel like dancing? Please come and enjoy the music, catch up with friends new and old, and share some light refreshments.

Friends of the Mendocino County Museum
Friend's Fall Fest
2nd Annual
Come join the Friends in celebrating the Mendocino County Museum and our wonderful community!!! Enjoy food, music and friends!
Saturday October 5th 4-6 pm at the Museum
400 E. Commercial St. Willits
Admission is Free for current Friends Members. Membership starts at \$20
Join online or at the door. Your membership supports the Museum efforts in preserving and sharing Mendocino County History with our Community.
www.mendocinocounty.museum/friends.org

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Willits Senior Center & The Willits Lions Present:
Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner
A Benefit for Harrah's Senior Center
Friday, September 27, 2024 | 5pm till 6:30 pm
Willits Senior Center | 1501 Baehnel Road | Willits, CA
Pre-Sale Tickets Only | Price \$4.00 (dinner for 2)
• 1/2 lbs Barbecued Chicken
• Cole Slaw • Calico Beans • Rolls • Brownies
Purchase Tickets at Willits Senior Center

Harvest Moon Celebration: the annual Willits celebration takes place on Saturday, September 21, from 2 to 7 pm, with live music by Soul Circus Band from 3 to 6 pm. Held on Main Street in downtown Willits, between Wood Street and East Commercial Street, Harvest Moon is a fun and free family event, put on by the Willits Chamber of Commerce. It features a Kid Zone with bounce houses, live music, food, shopping, lots of vendors, more family activities, and local eats and goodies.

Harvest Moon Celebration
SAT. SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2024
2-7PM DOWNTOWN WILLITS, CA
KICK OFF FALL FESTIVALS
with a parade from 2-4pm
Downtown Willits with a parade from 2-4pm
Live music, food, shopping, lots of vendors, more family activities, and local eats and goodies.
SPONSORS: METALKA, SAFEWAY, GROCERY, BEMWD

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

Story Time: Friday mornings each week, 10:30 to 11 am. Join us in the children's area of the library.
Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe". Topics will range and will be announced ahead of time.

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, now 4 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."
Tech Help: Now every Saturday from 11 am to 12 pm: Is your computer on the fritz? Want to install a new app? Bring your tech questions and get help from the library's tech savvy volunteer
Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome!

Tastes Like Chicken
A local Willits band, a "high energy, rocking good band, with an excellent selection of covers and originals guaranteed to get you moving!" Friday, September 20 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Dave Pierce at Brickhouse Coffee, September 25
Join Writer/Guitarist/Vocalist Dave Pierce at Brickhouse Coffee in Willits, on Wednesday, September 25, 11:30 am to 2 pm, for an afternoon of originals and cover songs in a variety of styles - Light Jazz, Americana, '60s & '70s Pop-Rock, Singer/Songwriter, Blues, Folk. 3 South Main Street.

FLLOURISH & FLOW
Join us September 15th 2:00-5:00pm for the HARVEST FULL MOON MINI RETREAT
Embodiment Practices, Sound Healing, Somatic Release for Regeneration, Breath-work, Journal Journey, and Sai Shakti Healing. With lots of take home practices to support your daily life.
FULL MOON WILD WOMEN'S CEREMONIAL GATHERING
OUR FULL, AUTHENTIC, VULNERABLE, AND DIVINE FEMINE SELVES ARE EMBRACED HERE AS WE JOURNEY TOGETHER TOWARD PERSONAL GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION.
*Bring a notebook & pen and your open hearted intentions. Suggested donation of \$8\$
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COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES
'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice'
The Story: This sequel Beetlejuice 2 is a fever dream mixture of gross-out comedy and quite peculiar horrors. Michael Keaton stars as a ghost (of sorts) named Beetlejuice who does his manic damndest to make us laugh at quite grotesque and quite physical offenses against human dignity.
To us in the audience, his supernatural antics are all, in their bizarre way, quite funny. (Note: he does not cause actual physical pain.) Beetlejuice is powerful and random and quite irritating. His goal is to hook-up with his former almost-bride Lydia Deetz (Winona Ryder), who wants absolutely nothing to do with him. Nothing!
Meanwhile, Lydia's lonely goth-inclined daughter Astrid (Jenna Ortega) thinks that Beetlejuice can help her find her missing father. In movies nowadays it's always a popular plot point; it's always "The Absent Father." That noted: Now Astrid is at serious odds with her mother. Real Hollywood family dynamics are messy as heck!
My Thoughts: Writer/director Tim Burton rocks my brain. This is a crackerjack flick with mucho-many prizes inside. Phantasmagorical chaos. Gag-inducing sight gags, tasteless corny jokes. There's a ghost who reads Dostoevsky. Also an office full of Beetlejuice's anxious shrunken-head minions in business suits. (Think movie company executives.) Also, the flick features a scene with viral internet star Jenna Ortega dancing! I recommend that readers see "Beetlejuice," the 1988 first movie. It will aid your enjoyment. I know this because I made a point of watching it on Amazon Prime. The original is streaming in several places.
Parents: Too gross, and too random, and too much to explain for little children. Rated: PG.
Willitsian Daniel Essman rates his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events
Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street
Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!"
Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm - welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"
Wednesday Open Mic Night: Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered for the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm.

Willits Senior Center needs a new truck for Meals on Wheels
Meals on Wheels provides home-delivered meals to lonely and vulnerable seniors in our community. Nutrition | Human Contact | Compassion
National Academies of Sciences points out nearly one-fourth of adults aged 65 and older are considered to be socially isolated.
Live Well by helping Willits Seniors Live Well! Help us fundraise for the rest of the Meals on Wheels truck!
BUY RAFFLE TICKETS for 45 AWESOME PRIZES available now at the senior center. Buy tickets and see items displayed Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at our front lobby.
Gift Certificates • Wine Memberships • Event Tickets Jewelry • Outdoor Fun • Rewards of Golf • Gas Cards • Treats & Food • MUCH MORE!
Willits Seniors Inc. 1501 Baehnel Road, Willits, CA 95490 • Work (707) 459-6826

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, September 21
Join us at the Willits Branch Library to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a special performance by the Ballet Folklorico dancers of Mendocino College. Saturday, September 21, from 1 to 1:30 pm. The performers will talk about their costumes and what the dance means to them. They will even teach audience members a few dance moves too! 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908

ONGOING EVENTS

September Exhibit at WCA: the September show at the Willits Center for the Arts features the works of multiple local Pomo artists, including Eric Wilder, a member of the Kasha Band of Pomo Indians, and Buffie Campbell Schmidt, a descendant of the Sherwood, Noyo, and Yokayo bands of Pomo Indians. "This event is a celebration of the cultural heritage of the Pomo people and an invitation to the community to immerse themselves in the stories and traditions that have shaped the region." WCA is open Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm, at 71 East Commercial Street, and admission is free.

Willits Community Services & Food Bank: WCS offers food grocery distributions to families in need twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. 344 Railroad Avenue. Please bring an I.D. We are looking for volunteers for our warehouse, window, food delivery drivers, and fundraising volunteers. For information call: (707) 459-3333

Free Food Pop-Ups: Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program's Food Pop-Up in Willits offers two events per month, first and third Thursdays, at 1250 Blosser Lane. Info: outreach@fboodbank.org; 707-964-9404

Willits Tennis Club: Meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School courts. New members welcome. Free. Show up or call 707-484-3385.

THE MUNCHIES
FRIDAY THE 13TH SPECIALS
FREE FOOD SAMPLES STARTING AT 5
LIVE MUSIC 7-9
BLUE ZONE RIBBON CUTTING 6-4:50 PM
FREE TO ATTEND
FAMILY FRIENDLY

HERITAGE MONTH
Ballet Folklorico de Mendocino College
Saturday, September 21, 2024
1200 pm - 1:30 pm

Friends of the Mendocino County Museum
Friend's Fall Fest
2nd Annual
Come join the Friends in celebrating the Mendocino County Museum and our wonderful community!!! Enjoy food, music and friends!
Saturday October 5th 4-6 pm at the Museum
400 E. Commercial St. Willits
Admission is Free for current Friends Members. Membership starts at \$20
Join online or at the door. Your membership supports the Museum efforts in preserving and sharing Mendocino County History with our Community.
www.mendocinocounty.museum/friends.org

ROUND VALLEY LIBRARY
'Best Small Library' award reception, September 14
The Friends of the Round Valley Public Library and Mendocino County Library invite the public to an open house and reception to celebrate Library Journal awarding the Round Valley Public Library the "Best Small Library in America" award. The reception is set for Saturday, September 14 from 3 to 3 pm, at the Round Valley Branch Library and Commons Community Room, 23925 Howard Street in Covelo. More info: visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Mendocino County Library at 707-234-2873.

Benefit Concert for Willits Daily Bread
The Harmony Keepers: Kate Black and Anita Blu
Sunday, September 15, 2024 • 3-5 p.m.
St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church
Commercial and Main Street, Willits
Admission Donations Accepted
Soup and Bread Dinner \$5.00
Bread donated by Reza's Bakery and Emandal Farm
To help Willits Daily Bread continue to feed the hungry in our community.

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheatre.com
Cine Noyo! Movies in Spanish every Thursday.
This Thursday:
Beetlejuice Beetlejuice - 4:30, 7:00

BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE
(PG-13)
1 hr 44 mins
Fri.-Sun.: 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:30 & 7:00
Movie Times for Sept. 13 thru Sept. 19

SPEAK NO EVIL
(R)
1 hr 50 mins
Fri.-Sun.: 2:45, 5:15 & 7:45
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 6:45
Tightwad Tuesday Title for Sept. 17 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6! (2+)

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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 9:00 a.m. Info? 707-459-1905
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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
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Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Modified Worship Service 10 a.m.
Other ministries suspended for now.
For appointments call: (707) 459-3106
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. Saturday-5:30 p.m. Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English 10:30 a.m. - Spanish Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Or by appointment at 707-459-2252
https://santhonywillits.org/sainthonywillits@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
Church Service: Sunday 10:00 to 11:00 (707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive 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



Above: Alihna Diaz passes to her teammate, Kate Winter. At right: Dannyka Smith serves the ball to the Mendocino team. Below: Corey Rocky and Zain Marshall congratulate each other after a play. Further below, left: Pancrazio Bertolino makes a defensive tackle early in the game. At bottom, bottom left: Leo Moratti runs down the field in an 80-yard touchdown. At bottom, right: Arion Martin passes the ball.



Photos by Ava Dockins-Kline



100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

MENDOCINO COUNTY FAIR & APPLE SHOW

SEPT. 13TH - 15TH, 2024

Apple Tasting | Livestock | Wool & Fiber Show | Exhibits

FRIDAY, 9/13:
 3 pm & 7 pm: MUSIC - JIMMY BECKER - LAWN STAGE
 5 pm: APPLE BOWL - VARSITY SOCCER - ARENA
 8 - 10 pm: DANCE - RODEO ARENA

FRIDAY SPECIAL 100 CELEBRATION:
 First 100 people: FREE ENTRY!
 Second 100 people: FREE Food voucher for one item
 Third 100 people: FREE Voucher for one carnival ride

SATURDAY, 9/14:
 12:30, 3:30 & 6 pm: MUSIC - JIMMY BECKER - LAWN STAGE
 8 pm: CCPRA RODEO - RODEO ARENA
 9:30 pm - 12 am: DANCE - RODEO ARENA
 DEAN TITUS AND THE COYOTE COWBOYS

SUNDAY, 9/15:
 10 am: SHEEP DOG TRIALS, FINALS - RODEO ARENA
 Noon: PARADE - HWY 128 TO RODEO ARENA
 2 pm: CCPRA RODEO - RODEO ARENA
 6 pm: DANCE - RODEO ARENA
 NORTENO SG & CLAVE-MC

GENERAL ADMISSION:
 ADULTS \$10 | JUNIORS 13-18: \$8 | KIDS 7-12: \$6 | 6 AND UNDER: FREE

Boonville Fairgrounds | 14400 Highway 128, Boonville, CA
 See full schedule online: <http://mendocountyfair.com/>

Community Sports News

Wolverines fall season begins with enthusiasm and determination

Willits High School has officially wiped the slate clean to embark on a fresh and exciting new year of sports for 2024-25. Parents and fans are readying to support their innately talented athletes, highlighted with Wolverine pride! It is such a blessing to live in a small, homegrown community that supports its youth. See you at the games!

Boys soccer

Wolverines boys soccer won their game against Upper Lake 3-0 this last Friday night. Ivan Estrada and Luis Mandujano shared keeping, getting the shutout together. Mandujano scored two goals with assists from Noe Alfare Erostico and Zahyr Lopez. Erostico scored the third goal with an assist from Andres Calderon.

On Saturday they played McKinleyville. Only 11 players were able to attend this game, so there were no substitutes. While the defense was sound, and the offense was able to put on the pressure, the Wolverines came up a little short with a loss 1-0. The whole team received honorable mention.

They have begun their season at a fast pace, playing nine games in the last 19 days. Their current record is 1-8. Their next home game is Friday, September 13, at 5 pm against Geyserville on Maize Field.

Girls soccer

Wolverines girls soccer started their season with a draw against Technology High School 2-2. Both times the girls went down to score, they were able to tie the game with goals from Isabela Sanchez Del Valle and Delia Siderakis.

"In the second half, the girls dominated the game, but we couldn't finish. That is something we need to work on - finishing," said Head Coach Juan Diaz.

At the game against South Fork, the final score was 0-0 with challenges to finish again. Nora Martin received player of the week. She played offense and defense on Tuesday, and she had a great game. At the Fort Bragg game, Willits won, with a final score of 2-1. Goals were made by

Mia Collins and Alihna Diaz. It was a great performance by Diaz with the assist. Their current record is 2-1-2. Come cheer them on in their game against Mendocino this Friday, September 13, at 6:45 pm on Maize Field.

Volleyball

The varsity volleyball team is made up of two sophomores, eight juniors, and three seniors. It has been a rough start to the season: JV volleyball has a current record of 0-3; varsity 1-5.

"Our goal this year is to continue to develop a strong foundation of competitive volleyball skills throughout the season," said Head Coach Jon Jessup. "With being a younger team, we are still trying to become more fearless competitors, leading with confidence. We are learning to move from playing as individuals, to combining our talents to play and think as a unit.

"We have had several losses so far," Jessup said, "but each day these ladies are taking those experiences, working hard in practice to take their game to another level, higher than the day before. They are doing beautifully, and we are super excited to see what the season holds for our team! Right now, we are just finding our continuity, but the sky is the limit for them, the more confident and fearless they become. They are a team to watch, with lots of great potential and athletic talent!"

Their next home game is Tuesday, September 17, against Calistoga, JV at 5 pm; varsity at 6 pm, in the Steve Short Gymnasium.

Football

During the first game of the season, against the Weed Cougars, the Wolverines varsity team started the game with difficulties, with the Cougars scoring early.

"Weed has two of the best running backs we will see all year," said Head Coach Brandon Norbury. "They are very athletic and difficult to tackle. Leo Moratti made his presence known with two touchdowns.

Read the rest of **Sports** Over on page 9

Mendocino County invites applications for:

Assessment Information Supervisor
\$55,993 - \$68,057

Corrections Deputy
\$58,136 - \$67,308

Deputy Director - Social Services (Family and Children's Services)
\$120,411 - \$146,390

Deputy Probation Officer I & II
\$55,577 - \$74,505

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner
\$84,323 - \$102,460

Juvenile Corrections Officer
\$55,348 - \$67,267

Mental Health Clinician I/II
\$62,337 - \$87,630

Program Specialist I/II
\$51,396 - \$68,931

Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D
\$51,729 - \$97,448

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
 EOE

The rest of **Sports** From page 8

Porter Garman led our hard-hitting defense with a number of key tackles, playing true Wolverine football! Final score 39-13 with a Willits win!"

The second game, against St. Bernard's Crusaders, got off to a rocky start as well, going down 14-0 early on and unfortunately the Wolverines were not able to recover in the end. The final score was Willits 32-St. Bernard's 49.

"Rock (Corey Rocky) made some great reads, distributing the ball to multiple Wolverine receivers, scoring and converting on multiple two-point conversions," said Norbury. "We recovered an inside kick, and marched right back down. Kolbe Bufardeci had a phenomenal run, juking and spinning into the end zone, putting the score up 16-4. St. Bernard's continued to answer as we gave up way too many points. "They are well coached," conceded Norbury. "They execute their offense very well. It was a tough loss for us, but we will come back a better team because of it. We have to eliminate silly mistakes, whether it be false starts, missed tackles, or a breakdown in our secondary defense. Not having our middle linebacker for most of the game really tested our team's resolve. I'm proud of this team. They battled the entire game with 13 players!"

The JV football team is also 1-1. Their first league game will be played at St. Helena (1-1) this Friday, September 13, 5 to 7 pm.

Cross country

This year's cross country team is young and inexperienced, but competitive, according to Head Coach Kenny Smith. "Over half the athletes are running cross country for the first time," said Smith. "Despite the lack of experience, this group of newcomers has some talented individuals who, when combined with our returning athletes, make for a promising season.

"An individual to watch for is Cole Lane. During his debut season last year, he finished 4th place in the league championships as a sophomore. Coming off of a summer of solid training, Lane is significantly faster than last year and on pace to place even higher at the league championships this season."

The team will be heading to Spring Lake in Santa Rosa this Saturday to attend the Viking Opener. "This race is larger than any race they've run this season and includes many of the big Sonoma County schools. It's a great opportunity for our small team to get exposed to a higher level of competition," Smith said.

WHS Players of the Week

WHS now recognizes players of the week! The first week recognized JV football sophomore Pancrazio Bertolino, varsity football senior Leo Moratti, cross country sophomore Brian Bowles, JV volleyball junior Emily Garness, varsity volleyball senior Mia Chavez, girls soccer freshman Alihna Diaz, and boys soccer sophomore Ivan Estrada.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW506
Fictitious Business Name Statement
 2024-F0391
 The following person or persons are doing business as Beyond Standard Services, 95 South Main Street, Willits CA 95490; 707-354-1603.
 Registered owner: Hallelgood Opportunities LLC, 95 South Main Street, Willits CA 95490.
 State of incorporation: California.
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
 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 August 14, 2024.
 /s/ Erin Rehder, CEO
 Publication dates: August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024

WW508
Fictitious Business Name Statement
 2024-F0425
 The following person or persons are doing business as Pet Projects, 23700 Reynolds Highway, Willits CA 95490; 415-302-5511.
 Registered owner: Jim Hinkle, 23700 Reynolds Highway, Willits CA 95490.
 This business is conducted by an individual.
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 3, 2024.
 FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 3, 2024.
 /s/ James R. Hinkle
 Publication dates: September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024

Marc Komer

Legal Document Assistant
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 245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
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Willits, CA 95490
(707) 467-7642
I'm not an attorney. I cannot represent you in court.

Below: The WHS football captains meet up for the pregame coin toss: from left, Kolbe Bufardeci, Porter Garman, Corey Rocky and Jayden Schlegel.



Photo by Ava Dockins-Kline

The rest of **Roots** From page 5

serve. "We sliced, and diced, stirred the beans, and tossed the greens!" Kvasnicka laughed, adding that this year's barbecue served over 500 people.

Music was served up by The Basics, with Paul Kemp on piano and Bear Kamoroff on bass. All day long, trains whistled, tickets were taken, hundreds of tables and chairs were set up and taken down, a raffle and a silent auction were presented, and dinner was served, by devoted and efficient volunteers.

Roots of Motive Power's Board President Joe Smith said that he thought this year's fundraiser was one of the biggest ever. "We had a huge variety of antique equipment, and activities ranged from sheep shearing to steamrolling." Smith thanked local businesses for their generosity, and Roots' many fans for showing up to see the show, going on to say: "Without our many volunteers we couldn't survive. We have a small core group and it's a lot of hard work to put on a show like this. It still amazes me how we pull it off when it's all said and done!"

Annual memberships are \$35, and help keep this local history gem going.

Learn more about Roots of Motive Power on their website at www.rootsofmotivepower.com, including the schedule for public events, including Work Days, the next on Saturday, September 21, where the public is welcome to come tour the collection from 10 am to 4 pm.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Building Projects Wanted
 General Contractor seeking projects. Design build, kitchen and bath, pergolas, patios, greenhouses. For any and all of your construction needs please call or text me at 279-900-9954. Nate Simiele/ Simiele Construction CSLB#1087026

Indoor Yard Sale
 Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, September 21** from 8 am to 4 pm

Firewood for Sale
 1 true cord of 16 inch firewood. Fir starting at \$250 plus delivery. Call Dave at 707-459-2868.

For Sale
 Propane Fireplace-Regency Classic C34-LP10. Best Offer! Almost new, barely used with 10-foot flue, remote control. For photos and details write to: GoodStuffGoingFast@yahoo.com

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

\$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks
 Email us your ad copy to include a classified ad here next week: willitsweekly@gmail.com

The rest of **Clearlake** From page 1

followed. Walmart was evacuated. An emergency shelter was set up at Twin Pines Casino, as more than 2,000 residents were evacuated.

The Lake County Fire Protection District reported Wednesday, September 11 that "Crews made significant progress yesterday on hot spots within the fire perimeter. The fire is now 75% contained. Some of the priorities for today's [Tuesday, September 10] operational period include areas around Woodland College, and Obsidian Middle School."

Preliminary damage reports given at the September 11 briefing show 33 residential structures destroyed; 6 residential structures damaged; 22 outbuildings destroyed; and 80 vehicles destroyed.

"As we gain containment on the Boyles Fire, we urge members of our community to remain vigilant in fire safety," the Fire Protection District urged, to pay attention to weather alerts, to have an evacuation plan, to sign up for emergency alerts from local authorities. "Watch Duty is also a valuable tool in information," the report said.

CAL FIRE is still investigating the cause of the Boyles Fire.

To sign up for emergency alerts from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, visit the Mendocino County Citizen Alert page at <https://member.everbridge.net/892807736722865/new>

Among the cars lost in the Boyles Fire was one owned by Watch Duty staff reporter Cole Euken, A GoFundMe set up to help him replace the car has as of press time raised \$21,384 of the \$30,000 goal <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-cole-euken>

The rest of **Theft** From page 1

had a total displayed value of over \$250,000. The deputy began an investigation and learned Riffle was also in possession of mail belonging to the business in Fort Bragg.

During the investigation, the deputy developed probable cause to believe the checks and mail were delivered to a mailbox belonging to the local business in Fort Bragg. The deputy also developed probable cause that Riffle was illegally in possession of the stolen mail and checks.

At the conclusion of the investigation, Riffle was placed under arrest for 496(a) PC (Felony Possession of Stolen Property), 530.5(e) PC (Mail Theft), and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Formal Probation Terms).

Riffle was subsequently transported to the Mendocino County Jail where he is to be held on a no-bail status due to violating the terms of his formal probation.

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OBITUARY |

Kahbran Shuda

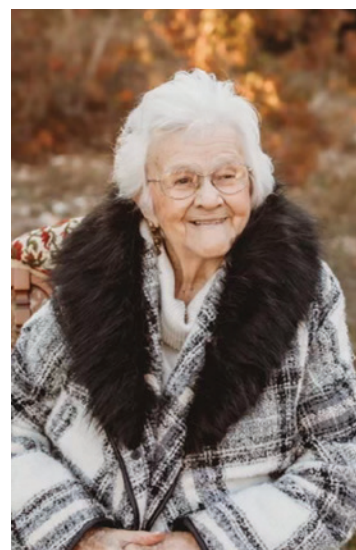
Kahbran Roy Shuda was born June 1, 1975 in Palm Springs, California to James A. and Colleen Seagraves Shuda, and passed away at his home in Willits on August 21, 2024, at age 49, following a prolonged illness.

Kahbran was a 1993 graduate of Willits High School and a 2007 graduate of Chico State College, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

He proudly served in the Navy and Naval Reserves as a petty officer.

Kahbran is survived by his mother, Colleen Foster, and extended family in Willits and in the Clovis area.

Kahbran will be remembered for his kind heart and unwavering love for his family, who will miss him dearly. At Kahbran's request there will be no services.



OBITUARY |

Fae Scott

Fae Scott lived a long, beautiful, life of 98 years, living over 73 years of her life here in Willits. Fae passed away on August 27, 2024 at her home, with her family surrounding her.

Fae Alene (Nelson) Scott was born in Terry, Montana on October 1, 1925. She was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Mae Nelson, and two sisters, Joyce Stedman and Dee Tolman, as well as her late husband of almost 70 years, Merl (Scotty) Scott and eldest daughter Anne Louise (Scott) Harms.

She is survived by her two daughters, Merlene Saunders and Brenda Scott-Clatty, along with grandchildren Denise Kindopp, Darla Land, Brad Harms, Katie Kosta, Hillary Clark, Colby Saunders, Brooke Clatty, Brittany Clatty, and Kylee Clatty. She also has 10 great-grandchildren and many others who call her Grandma.

Fae and Scotty moved to Willits in 1951 and loved this community. Originally they moved here and ran the Scott/Nelson Union 76 Gas Station. Fae pumped gas, and cleaned windshields. In the mid '50s Scotty bought a log truck. Fae was the bookkeeper, scheduler of drivers, and accounts payable/receivable for their logging truck business that grew over the years.

In the late 1970s they purchased the Far West Museum, and opened an antique and collectables shop near the city park. Fae ran the business and Scotty did the buying.

Retirement came in the late 1980s, and Fae enjoyed her family, friends, and her home on Redwood Avenue. It was a hub of get-togethers! Whether it was a family gathering or a friend's birthday party, Fae loved having people in her house.

Fae was active in the community, as the wife of a volunteer fireman, a member of the First Baptist Church, the Emily Ballard Circle, and the Iota Beta Sorority.

Fae will be missed terribly, and will be remembered for her sweet smile, kind personality, and the love she had for her family and friends.

A Celebration of Life for Fae will be held on Saturday, September 14, from noon to 3 pm. Please join us at the Willits Recreation Grove for a service with a reception to follow.

This photo shows anabaena, a toxin-producing cyanobacteria, in and around dying green algae.

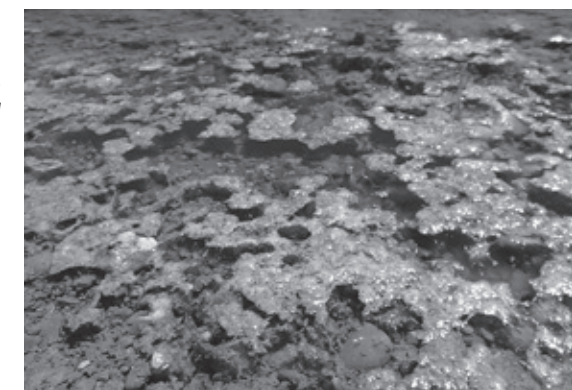


Photo courtesy of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The rest of Dogs | From page 1

"blooms." These blooms are termed "harmful algal blooms," or HABs, and can produce toxins and taste and odors that cause health risks to humans and animals.

Freshwater HABs can appear as dark green, blue-green, black, orange or brown water or can occur as mats and sometimes create scum or foam on the riverbed or on the water. However, toxins produced by HABs may be present without visual indicators.

Typically, cyanobacteria warnings come out between late July and early August, coinciding with low flows and sustained high temperatures in the inland areas which may contribute to cyanobacteria growth in local rivers and lagoons.

Since 2001, there have been 12 documented dog deaths locally where the dogs died shortly after swimming in Big Lagoon, the South Fork Eel River, or the Van Duzen River. In each instance, water samples confirmed the presence of cyanobacteria in the water. Additionally, in July 2021, the confirmed presence of cyanobacteria in the Trinity River east of Willow Creek is believed to have

contributed to a dog's death that had occurred weeks before.

Most algal blooms in California contain harmless green algae, however, it is difficult to test and monitor the many miles of local rivers with conditions that readily change. To stay safe, it is best to assume that all algal blooms have the potential to contain toxins.

Officials recommend the following guidelines for recreational users of freshwater areas:

- Keep children, pets and livestock from swimming in or drinking water containing algal scums or mats—especially those occurring in slow or stagnant water.
- Rinse your dog with clean water after swimming as toxins may still be present on their fur.
- Adults should also avoid wading and swimming in water containing algal blooms. Try not to swallow or inhale water spray in an algal bloom area.
- If no algal scums or mats are visible, you should still carefully watch young

children, warn them not to swallow any water and bathe with clean water after swimming.

- Fish should be consumed only after removing the guts and liver and rinsing fillets in tap water.
- Never drink, cook with or wash dishes with water from rivers, streams or lakes.
- Get medical attention immediately if you think that you, your pet or livestock might have been poisoned by cyanobacteria toxins. Be sure to tell the doctor or veterinarian about possible contact with cyanobacteria or algal blooms.
- Join or support one of the many watershed and river organizations.

To learn more about cyanobacteria and harmful algal blooms, visit the state of California's website at www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html

The rest of Grants | From page 1

The Charter School Association of Willits was awarded \$200,000 to integrate California food procurement with hands-on food education by providing cooking activities for students to learn about food origins from local farmers, compost, and food waste. This project will cultivate healthier eating habits, support local agriculture, and foster environmental stewardship, enhancing community resilience and sustainability.

North Coast Opportunities, Inc. will use its \$350,000 grant to develop a school-farm hub to act as the primary link for procuring from local farmers, and schools will be able to streamline procurement by placing single orders sourced from multiple producers. This project will partner with Laytonville Unified School District and three local producers to increase local produce in school meals, introduce students to local mushrooms, mushroom-based and other new foods, and climate-friendly food farming, encourage schools to expand purchasing of climate-sustainable foods, and build farmer capacity to produce and market climate-sustainable foods to schools.

Mendocino County Resource Conservation District will coordinate hands-on food education for high school students. NCO will provide farmers with infrastructure to increase climate-smart production capacity, adoption of climate-smart strategies, and assist with development of contracts with schools.

Since 2021, CDFA's Farm to School Incubator Grant Program has reached 49% of all California students through a total of \$86 million invested in 375 projects, benefitting 2,850,196 students at 269 school districts.

"Through California Farm to School, the state is setting a nation-leading standard for childhood nutrition," said First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom. "Together with universal school meals, we're ensuring students have access to two delicious and nutritious meals each day, and that those meals are locally sourced, climate-smart, and offered to students alongside hands-on educational opportunities in school gardens, farms and kitchens."

For this round of funding, the Incubator Grant Program received 499 applications and \$129 million in funding requests. This is almost double the number of project proposals from the previous grant cycle and six-times the number of project proposals from the inaugural year of 2021.

"These projects show the tremendous passion for farm to school in all corners of California," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "We're excited to support each awardee with resources and training to ensure these programs continue making progress toward fresh, local foods in school cafeterias and classrooms."

This grant round offers four distinctive funding tracks and provides opportunities for K-12 school districts, technical assistance providers, early care and education centers, agricultural producers, and food hubs. Visit the CA Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website to view the full list of grantees. https://www.cdca.ca.gov/caf2sgrant/docs/2023-24_CA_F2S_Incubator_Grant_Program_Project_Summaries_FINAL.pdf

Visit the CDFA Farm to School Program webpage to learn more about CDFA's farm to school programs. <https://cafarmtoschoolprogram.ca.gov/>

Farm to School projects help establish healthy eating habits that children can carry into adulthood. The state is guided in this effort by the recommendations of "Planting the Seed: Farm to School Roadmap to Success," a report created through a collaboration championed by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. Work to broaden the initiative's reach to more students is ongoing.

The rest of Post | From page 1

in real-time as well as posts from federal and state agencies.

And not just up here: According to screenshots, the Post reports: this blocking of vital fire information has happened "to volunteer responders, fire and sheriff departments, news stations, and disaster nonprofit workers across California and in other states."

The story leads with Lauri Hutchinson of Clearlake whose posts on her Lake County Fire Safe Council page were removed as the Boyles Fire blew up in Clearlake Sunday afternoon. Facebook deleted her posts sharing information about evacuations and updates, and sent a private note about how her post had been marked "spam."

Hutchison, according to the Post story, is a retired firefighter, working now as a fire safe coordinator, and who is married to a local fire chief.

Reporter Sacks also interviews Danilla Sands of local Facebook fame with her Mendocino Action News page, as well as her work

with United Disaster Relief of Northern California, and her work with watchduty.org.

Facebook removed Sands' initial post on her Mendocino Action News page about the September 3 Masonite Fire in Ukiah, during which evacuation orders and warnings were issued, and Highway 101 was closed in both directions.

Sands told the Post she made a second post, which was not blocked or removed, but that "35 minutes had passed. And a lot can happen in 35 minutes."

According to the Washington Post, Erin McPike, a Facebook spokesperson, said that the company is "investigating this issue and working quickly to address it." Facebook was not aware of the problem until the Post contacted the company, the story says.

To read the full story, visit www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2024/09/10/facebook-is-blocking-emergency-warnings-wildfires-roar-through-west

The rest of Letters | From page 2

through the challenging times of the pandemic and into a hopeful future. Her leadership during this period has been nothing short of exemplary, reflecting her ability to navigate complex issues while remaining a steadfast advocate for residents' needs.

Saprina's vision for Willits is rooted in a profound understanding of our community's strengths and challenges. Her ability to listen, engage, and act on behalf of the people she represents makes her

a standout candidate. Her passion and dedication are precisely what our city needs to thrive in the coming years.

I wholeheartedly believe that Saprina Rodriguez will continue to bring both energy and experience to the city council. I encourage all eligible voters to support her as a write-in candidate. With her leadership, Willits can look forward to a bright and prosperous future.

Jacob King, Willits

The rest of Trains | From page 2

While at the farm experience their winding corn maze, spooky hayride, seasonal food, a friendly petting zoo, and more! Picnic Lunches are available for purchase with vegetarian and gluten free options available. Your Railbike ticket includes entrance to the Patch!

Book your spot now at <https://www.sunbursttrain.com/> for an adventure full of fun!

With three locations, departures two to four days a week, and morning and afternoon trains available, there's no excuse to miss out on these incredible fall adventures. Book your tickets now for the best family fun!



Mendocino County Library's Round Valley Branch named 2024 Best Small Library In America

Subtitled by Mendocino County Library

Library Journal recently announced Mendocino County Library's Round Valley Branch is the winner of its 2024 Best Small Library in America award. Library Journal is the leading provider of news, reviews, and key professional development resources for librarians, library professionals, and staff since 1876.

The award is sponsored by Ingram Library Services Ingram Library Services, a division of Ingram Content Group, connects libraries to millions of titles, innovative systems, expertise, and assistance in developing and maintaining their print collection. This recognition honors the Round Valley library's exceptional commitment to serving the unique needs of its community as a vital hub for sustainability, resiliency, and inclusivity.

Located in a remote part of northern California, the Round Valley library is a beacon of hope and community strength in an area challenged by isolation, economic hardship, and environmental vulnerability. The town's population, which includes residents of the local Round Valley Indian Tribes reservation, has greatly benefited from the library's efforts to create an inclusive and supportive environment.

"We've been really working hard to reach as many families as possible in this small community," says Branch Librarian Josh Bennett. A former educator, he works closely with the local school system, in addition to a host of other day-to-day services.

"We are honored that the Mendocino County Library Round Valley Branch has been named Best Small Library. The library in Covelo would not exist without the past and present support of the Round Valley community. Thank you for using the library, thank you for partnering with us, and thank you for holding your meetings and events here."

The Round Valley library, located in the Library Commons, is part of a community center that features a certified commercial kitchen, a redwood-paneled meeting and community room, a cafe, and a radio station.

Despite its small size, the library is the anchor of this vibrant space, offering a diverse range of programming for both adults and children, a comprehensive print and digital collection, and extensive outreach efforts. Friends of the Round Valley Public Library, a longstanding local nonprofit that supports the library, is featured prominently in the Library Journal article that announces the award. "The Friends sponsors numerous programs that run independently of the County Library and contributes immensely to the success of the library branch. They are part of this award," says Librarian Bennett. The library's success is driven by its small yet dedicated staff of five employees and a passionate roster of volunteers. Together, they have built strong partnerships with local organizations and tailored services to meet the needs of the community. From literacy programs to cultural events, the library ensures that residents, regardless of their background, have access to the resources they need.

"We're proud to recognize the exceptional contributions that our nation's small and rural libraries make to their communities through our annual Best Small Library in America Award," says Library Journal Editor-in-Chief Hallie Rich. "Round Valley Library demonstrates how creativity, resilience, and a strong community focus can deliver powerful results."

"The Round Valley Branch's responsiveness to its community – its services, outreach, collections, and ongoing celebration of the land and those who live and work there – make it a consummate small library that steps up for people in a big way," Library Journal Executive Editor Lisa Peet says. "We understand the role of filling gaps in communities only continues to increase for libraries, especially for our friends at small and rural libraries," says Carolyn Morris, vice president of Ingram Library Services. "We are proud to help celebrate Round Valley Library as Library Journal's 2024 Best Small Library in America."

The Friends of the Round Valley Public Library and Mendocino County Library will host an open house and reception to celebrate the Best Small Library in America award on Saturday, September 14 from 1 to 3 pm, at the Round Valley Branch Library and Commons Community Room, 23925 Howard Street in Covelo.

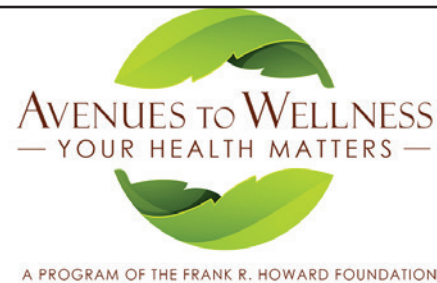
For more information, please visit www.mendolib.org or contact the Mendocino County Library at 707-234-2873.

About Library Journal:

Library Journal is the leading provider of news, reviews and key professional development resources for librarians, library professionals, and staff since 1876.

About Ingram Library Services:

Ingram Library Services, a division of Ingram Content Group, connects libraries to millions of titles, innovative systems, expertise, and assistance in developing and maintaining their print collection.



Bereavement Support Group

This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward.

Beginning Thursday October 3

Time: 2-4pm

To register call:

Suzanne Picetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676

FREE OF CHARGE

Space is Limited



Susana Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson Group Facilitators

Congrats

Cheers to Izzy!!

By River

Happy Birthday, Izzy,

You're very busy,

You make me smile,

You will hike a mile.

Love, River, Alaska, Shawna, Lilo, Nan, Stinky & Mittens

Photo by Alaska

Willits Weekly is happy to publish congrats items for residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo to help your friends and family celebrate their special occasions!

Email us a photo and caption to willitsweekly@gmail.com

Adventist Health was made to serve Mendocino County, because high-quality care should never be far from home. Our experts offer compassionate expertise to make you feel comfortable and cared for right here in your community.

Services provided by Adventist Health Howard Memorial:

- Addiction Medicine
- General Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Primary Care

Learn more at AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org



September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

Submitted by Mendocino County Library

What's the most important school supply? A library card! Discover the amazing resources and opportunities available with a library card by celebrating Library Card Sign-Up Month with Mendocino County Library and our Bookmobile.

Whether you're looking to enhance your skills, find valuable information, utilize educational resources, enjoy free programming for children and adults, or connect with fellow avid readers, a library card unlocks a world of possibilities.

Today's libraries are vibrant community centers offering much more than books. At Mendocino County Library, you'll find diverse programs, job search assistance, book clubs, author talks, storytimes, and more. Explore learning a new language, get free passes to visit museums and other attractions, borrow kits to help with baking, pasta making, literacy, and even kits for loved ones with dementia and other memory issues. Are you homebound? No problem! We have a library-by-mail service that may be exactly what you're looking for.

"I got my first library card when I was 7 years old," said County Librarian Mellisa Hannum. "I remember I was so excited that my fingers were tingling as I took my card from the librarian. Suddenly, an entire world of knowledge became available! That access is something that I've never taken for granted."



September is
LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

MENDOCINO COUNTY Library
www.mendolibrary.org

Hats off to reading

VISIT US & GET YOUR CARD TODAY!

www.mendolibrary.org MENDOCINO COUNTY Library

At Mendocino County Library there is something for everyone. Getting a library card is easy, an essential step toward academic success for students, and a path to lifelong learning for everyone! Don't miss out on this opportunity to discover all the library has to offer. Visit us at any of our six branches or the Bookmobile to sign up for a regular library card, Agency card, or Educator card today!

For more information, please view www.mendolibrary.org, contact your local branch or the Mendocino County Library Administration at 707-234-2873.

Septiembre es el mes de

REGISTRO DE LA TARJETA DE BIBLIOTECA



¡VISÍTANOS Y OBTENGA SU TARJETA HOY!

www.mendolibrary.org



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Distinguished Scooby

Scooby, a charming, older fellow loves to play ball. He's easy to walk on a leash, and would love a warm, soft bed where he can curl up and enjoy the winter! Scooby is mellow indoors and has lovely house manners. Adopting a senior dog is so rewarding – for you AND your new buddy. Got a soft spot in your heart for senior dogs? Come meet Scooby!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from noon to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 3 pm (closed for lunch from 1 to 1:30 pm) on Saturdays. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information.



Quiet Frida

Frida would do best in a home with low activity. She loves her adventures outside – going on walks and hikes – but while in her home, Frida would like it to be peaceful and low energy. She would do best with another dog in the home and with no small children or small animals. Frida is a sweetheart, but she scares easily. A mellower home with less traffic would help her feel safer.

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

Fun Fliss

This little miss is Fliss! She is always down to have some fun and will not miss an opportunity to hang out with you. Fliss does well with kids and has lived with dogs and other cats.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



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