

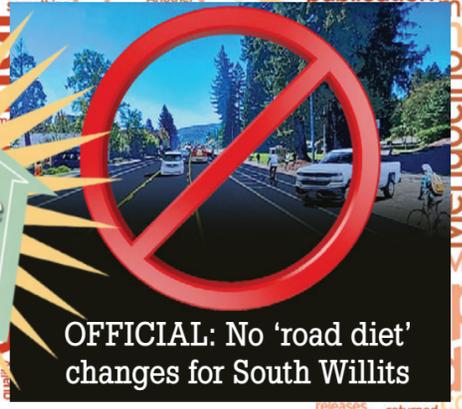
# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

# Willits Weekly

It's Real Estate Section Thursday!



OFFICIAL: No 'road diet' changes for South Willits

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 518 **Thursday, September 14, 2023**

## Caltrans 'road diet' plan off the table

City Manager Brian Bender has informed me [as of Wednesday] that Caltrans has reallocated the funds they had intended to use for the Willits Main Street project due to community and council opposition. "The plan is off the table," was the exact quote.

-- Greta Kanne, mayor, City of Willits

## CA Fire Foundation awards Brooktrails Fire \$12,000 grant

Submitted by Brooktrails Fire Department

With wildfire season becoming an almost year-round event in California, Brooktrails Fire Department has recently received a vital \$12,000 grant from the California Fire Foundation to assist with the ongoing need to address fire prevention and preparedness in our community.

The grant has enabled  
Read the rest of **Grant**  
Over on Page 9

## 3rd Covelo Road defendant pleads to 19 years

Posted by Mendocino County District Attorney

With his jury trial just around the corner, the third and final defendant who jointly planned with others and was personally involved in the 2020 Covelo Road armed robberies and kidnappings of two cannabis money runners, as well as the armed robbery of a separate motorist, tapped out Wednesday afternoon, September 6 in the Mendocino County Superior Court.

Defendant Jesus Estevan Vargas, Jr., age 44, of Moreno Valley, chose to forego a trial by jury and, instead, accepted the District Attorney's last and final plea/ sentence "bargain" mandating that the defendant serve 19 years in state prison.

To that end, defendant Jesus Vargas entered a no contest plea Wednesday afternoon to his participation, along with two co-conspirators, in the kidnapping of the cannabis money courier and his driver, said crime occurring on September 27, 2020.

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

New Volunteer Coordinator at the Senior Center, Joliana Rosado, and Executive Director Richard Baker invite the community to purchase tickets for the Senior Center's upcoming BBQ Chicken Drive Thru Dinner.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

## Chicken Lickin' Good

Senior Center selling tickets now for September 22 drive-through dinner

Tickets are on sale now for the upcoming drive-through chicken dinner for two being held on September 22 at the Willits Senior Center.

Tickets are \$35 each and available pre-sale only at the center located at 1501 Baechtel Road. Advance tickets can also be purchased with a card by calling the center at 707-459-6826. 150 tickets are being offered, and the remaining tickets need to be purchased right away to allow cooks and event planners time to get the meals ready for next weekend and to successfully raise funds to help keep the center's services available to those in need.

Each ticket will buy a dinner for two that includes one-half of a barbecued chicken, sides of coleslaw, baked beans, cornbread with honey butter, and some peach cobbler for dessert.

Whether you are interested yourself, or know someone who might enjoy the meal, event planners encourage paying it forward, all with a tax-deductible donation to the non-profit center.

"Pay it forward by buying a ticket for someone who is always helping others," said the post on the Willits Senior Center's Facebook page, where the group is trying to get the word out online. "Buy a ticket, and invite someone over to dinner. You can also make a [general] donation on our website: www.willitsseiorcenter.com to help cover the cost of food."

Date for the dinner is Friday, September 22 and meals will be ready for pick-up between 5 and 6:30 pm at the center's main office, 1501 Baechtel Road in Willits. The center is also willing to offer local delivery of meals with an added donation.

For more information, or specific questions, contact the senior center at 707-459-6826 or stop by their office Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

-- Maureen Jennison

Below: The dinner for two includes half a chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, corn bread with honey butter and a peach cobbler for dessert.



## DRIVE THROUGH

\$35.00 Feeds 2  
Includes  
1/2 Chicken  
Coleslaw  
Baked Beans  
Corn Bread with Honey Butter  
and for dessert  
Peach Cobbler



5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

PRE SALE TICKETS ONLY  
ON SALE AT THE  
SENIOR CENTER



1501 Baechtel Road - Willits  
707-459-6826

## Representative Huffman visits Willits

Annie Evarts  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Jared Huffman, California's 2nd District representative, stopped in Willits for a one-hour "Coffee with your Congressman" on Tuesday, August 29 at the Little Lake Firehouse. Huffman is one of 52 representatives California sends to Congress. His district includes Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties.

Huffman is in his 11th year in Congress. He was first elected in November 2012 and currently serves on the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He also currently serves as the ranking member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries.

He opened the meeting by giving the public a little context for his working conditions as of late, saying the current Congress is "unlike anything he's seen before." Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy needed 217 votes to win his position, and in order to

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

## County Peace Officers Memorial dedicated

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Last week, Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall announced the dedication ceremony for the Mendocino County Peace Officers Memorial, now in place outside of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office on Low Gap Road in Ukiah.

The September 8 dedication ceremony included local dignitaries, law enforcement officials, families and friends of fallen peace officers, and members of local Tribal governments. A multi-agency Honor Guard opened the ceremony.

Retired Sheriff Bob Tuso and Retired Sheriff Tom Allman spoke, as did California Highway Patrol Commander Randy England.

"This event is an opportunity to honor the fallen peace officers in Mendocino County with a formal memorial stone

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



Mendocino County Undersheriff Darren Brewster, left, and Sheriff Matt Kendall stand in front of the newly installed Peace Officers Memorial.

Photo courtesy Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Bushes need trimming

To the Editor:  
The bushes on the corner of Baechtel Road & East Hill Road in the PG&E yard block the vision of oncoming traffic when approaching Baechtel Road from East Hill Road, causing drivers to creep out into Baechtel Road to see if it is clear.  
Please, PG&E, trim the bushes before there is an accident.

John Henson, Willits

## An unsolved problem

To the Editor:  
Open letter to: City of Willits Water Department, Willits City Council, Mr. Ernest Wipf, and Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

How long does one live with an unsolved problem that is not being solved, even though all parties are aware of it?

Around 2016, it was noticed that the water bill at 22751 Bray Road, known as Adventist Christian School of Willits, was increasing significantly. We took steps to see what the problem might be, locking down outside faucets, installing video cameras, looking for leaks, doing pressure checks inside and outside the building and property. The plumber and others concluded that the leak was not on the campus.

In contacting the owner of the company that installed the line just a few years before, Wipf Construction, we were told that it was a bored line 10-15 underground and that there could be no leak there. We contacted the City of Willits Department of Water and asked if they could check the meter, because when the water was turned off on the school side, the meter continued to turn. However, when the meter is turned off on the city side, the meter stopped running. We have had a number of visits with the meter guys over the last seven years and they see that it is turning, but they have said it cannot be the meter, that it must be the line. We asked that the meter be checked. Last month, we were told to dig up the line from the meter to where it met the bored line because the leak must be there. Again, the plumber did that and found no leak.

The school building is no longer being used as a school. The local Seventh-day Adventist Church, who owns the building, uses it for church events and rents the gym to the Willits Sheriffs Activity League and Willits Grappling Pack Youth Wrestling Program.

When no one is using the building, we still get water bills that range \$290-\$375, or more, a month, if we do not turn off, by hand, the water at the meter.

How many times do we ask for help to solve this problem? It has been seven, or more, years. We have been advised to not seek litigation, but to continue to visit with those who are involved to seek solutions. As it has been seven years, we feel it is time this gets resolved. Please advise and contact:

Georgine Hultz, treasurer,  
Willits Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Tourist Diet Plan

To the Editor:  
Once upon a bypass plan, it was decided Willits should not get a "Highway 101 Business" Exit Sign ... that sign designates "to exit north or south off Highway 101 and go through town and back onto 101."

## The Rules: LETTERS

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

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

**Willits Weekly**  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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## Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

**Thursday, September 14:** Chicken & Dumplings

**Friday, September 15:** Carnitas Tacos, Rice and Beans

**Monday, September 18:** Western Burger, Potato Salad, Beans

**Tuesday, September 19:** Spinach Lasagna, Veggies, Garlic Bread

**Wednesday, September 20:** Chicken a la King, Noodles, Veggies, Roll

**Thursday, September 21:** Pork Loin, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

**Friday, September 22:** Beef Stroganoff, Veggies, Roll

**Activities:** Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am. Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday.

**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.

## Call for vendors for WCA Holiday Craft Fair

The Willits Center for the Arts 36th annual Holiday Craft Fair will be on Friday, December 8, from 3 to 6 pm; on Saturday, December 9, from 10 am to 6 pm, and on Sunday, December 10, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Vendors: As usual it is important to return your application quickly to have the best chance of a booth. Please read the application and requirements at [www.willitscenterforthearts.org/willitscenterforthearts](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/willitscenterforthearts) carefully as they include most of the information you may need.

If you have further questions, please contact Bonnie Belt at [belt.bonnie@gmail.com](mailto:belt.bonnie@gmail.com) or call 707-459-4792.

## Notice of temporary road closure on Main Street in downtown Willits

Submitted by Willits Chamber of Commerce

We wish to inform you of an upcoming event that will necessitate a temporary road closure on Main Street. The City of Willits, in collaboration with the Little Lake Fire Department and local merchants, is pleased to present the Chamber of Commerce's Harvest Moon Celebration.

In preparation for this community celebration, a temporary road closure will be implemented on Main Street. The road closure is prescribed as follows: Saturday, September 30, from 12 noon to 9 pm between Wood Street and Commercial Street.

The road closure will specifically affect the section of Main Street between Wood Street and Commercial Street. During this period, a clearly marked traffic detour will be in place, guiding motorists onto East Valley Street, which will then lead to Madden Lane. This designated detour route will provide an alternative path for vehicular traffic and will accommodate large trucks, trailers, and other commercial fleet vehicles.

We understand that this temporary road closure may cause some inconvenience. However, it is essential to note that the portion of Main Street between East Valley Street and Wood Street will remain accessible to local traffic, vendors, and event participants who wish to park closer to the celebration. A separate traffic detour will be established at East Valley Street, redirecting vehicles onto the preferred detour route.

Furthermore, all side streets outside of the barricaded area will continue to be open to local traffic and event participants throughout the Harvest Moon Celebration. Our primary aim is to minimize disruption while prioritizing the safety and enjoyment of all community members.

Read the rest of Closure Over on page 4

Til Sampson, Willits

**Willits Weekly**  
EST. 2013  
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# Steam Fest

## Roots provides train rides, antique machines, a barbecue and auction during annual fundraiser

Last Saturday and Sunday, Roots of Motive Power did what they do better than any other group in the vicinity: fascinating and entertaining hundreds of people and families with the nostalgic sights, sounds, and ground-rumbling force of the antique steam-driven devices that were instrumental in building Mendocino County.

The event was the annual Steam Fest, a celebration of the noisy, powerful machines that enabled the logging industry to efficiently process and transport their products to buyers.

The free train rides around the near one-mile loop encircled the soccer and baseball fields, on which families had a choice of two open-air cars or the ever-popular caboose, allowing a small group to ride up high in the cupola.

The ride gave them a glimpse into the past while those steam-driven railroads afforded passengers the opportunity to travel long distances or to transport goods many miles to their intended destinations.

In addition to the train rides, Roots started up and operated several of the other pieces of historical steam devices, such as the Bucyrus-Erie steamroller, the massive steam shovel, a Keystone driller, and several steam donkeys (mostly stationary machines to aid in moving materials up and down mountains).

Across East Commercial Street, at Recreation Grove Park, the annual Members Appreciation Barbecue took place on Saturday afternoon, feeding over 400 people, mostly dues-paying members of Roots.

"[We're serving] barbecue tri tip," said Valerie Smith, the barbecue chairperson. "Andrew Hosford, Jack Drew, Jeff Yokum and Stan Cooley are the barbecue guys. We have Chris Baldo's famous tomato salad. We have pasta salad and Caesar salad made by Lisa Kvasnicka from Scoops and Jill Persico from Loose Caboose."

"We also have tri tip chili and bread by Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ. We have Kemmy's blackberry cobbler, and vanilla ice cream donated by Scoops. We're planning on feeding 500 people. Last year, we did 420 dinners."

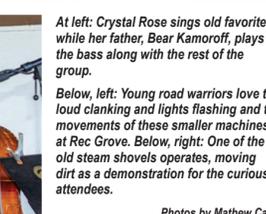
On the sidewalk paralleling Commercial Street, as has been done in the past, several small steam-machine enthusiasts had set up their fascinating rock crushing, water pumping, and pocketa-pocketa-sounding devices, much to the fascination of young and old attendees. Always willing to talk in depth about their hobbies, the owners of the machines educated the public as to the history, workings, and technical details.

On a concrete section of the park, the Buffalo Springfield steamroller deftly rolled over inked linocut tiles which transferred their carefully carved designs to paper. This technique coincides with the Mendocino County Museum's newest exhibit, "Impressed," which explores various types of fine-art printing, primarily those created in San Francisco utilizing this same technique. Several of the works created during the Steam Fest are to be hung in the museum gallery.

There were various ways to win prizes

Read the rest of Roots Over on page 12

Above, from left: The tri tip crew of Taylor Drew, Jack Drew, Andrew Hosford and Jeff Yokum keeps the meat coming for the over 400 diners at the barbecue. Fred and Ann Fluke grew up in Willits and have returned to ride in the caboose. Most of the Rodriguez family takes a ride on the train, going around the one-mile track twice. At left: The Port of Olympia steam engine powers the train around the track during the Steam Fest. Below: Many silent and live auction items and raffle items are on display for bidding and for perusing. At bottom, left: Bronach Bowles, sixth grader, provides assistance to the artists as well as printing some of her own. At bottom, right: The old Buffalo Springfield steamroller provides the pressure to apply ink to paper for the linocuts.



At left: Crystal Rose sings old favorites while her father, Bear Kamoroff, plays the bass along with the rest of the group.

Below, left: Young road warriors love the loud clanking and lights flashing and the movements of these smaller machines at Rec Grove. Below, right: One of the old steam shovels operates, moving dirt as a demonstration for the curious attendees.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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Beginning Thursday October 19  
Time: 2-4pm  
Willits Senior Center  
To register call:  
Suzanne Picetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676

FREE OF CHARGE

Suzanne Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson  
Group Facilitators

# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

Level: Advanced

## HOW TO SUDOKU

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

## POULTRY WORD SEARCH

R	N	I	G	X	R	C	T	V	T	K	S	X	C	A	W	C	O	L	O	R	B	N	O	R
D	W	O	T	E	D	O	M	E	S	T	A	O	K	A	R	E	D	B	G	H	P	I	N	O
P	H	I	E	T	N	R	E	S	T	A	O	K	A	R	E	D	B	G	H	P	I	N	O	
F	L	W	O	T	L	O	B	E	N	V	T	B	M	C	K	I	R	S	A	K	X	I	T	
V	S	F	F	O	M	I	P	L	O	G	I	B	C	D	F	L	B	H	V	I	N	C	U	
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C	I	G	N	B	F	N	T	G	V	P	F	C	A	K	I	R	V	E	S	G	M			
X	T	O	D	D	H	B	T	E	U	R	K	E	Y	A	U	K	B	R	M	K				

BREED	EXHIBITION	POULTRY
BROILER	FEATHERS	PRODUCTION
CAPON	FINISH	PULLET
CHICK	FOWL	ROASTER
CHICKEN	HATCHED	TEMPERAMENT
COLOR	HEN	TURKEY
COMB	LAYER	VARIETY
DOMESTICATED	PLUMAGE	WEIGHT

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									50			
									51			

## CLUES ACROSS

- Type of crayon
- Fashion accessory
- Most cerebral
- Incline from vertical
- Dependent on
- Broken in
- Strongly desires
- Mounted soldier
- Ad \_\_\_: when necessary
- Cattle
- Ottoman military commanders
- \_\_\_ student, learns healing
- Composed in poetic meter
- Promotional material
- Where people live
- Sodium
- Embarrassing
- Medical man
- Mother of Hermes
- One who saves the day
- Tooth caregiver
- Not clothed

## CLUES DOWN

- Living quarters
- Horizontal passage
- Attacks
- Vietnamese offensive
- Midway between east and southeast
- Confined (abbr.)
- Book of Esther antagonist
- Port in Yemen
- CNN's founder
- Type of bulb
- Prepare
- Promoted
- Dinner jackets

- Slope covered with loose stones
- Used to cook
- Praises enthusiastically
- Rooney is a famous one
- Beekeeper
- Pigpen
- Potato chip brand
- Partner to cheese
- Nebraska city
- Human gene
- Pays no attention to
- Lowland South American plain
- Blood group
- Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- Atomic #37
- Unit of electrical resistance
- Jeweled crowns
- Nastiest
- Traditional cars need it
- Bowler hat
- Robust
- Not straight
- Stony waste matter
- Have an interest in
- Jacob \_\_, journalist
- Maintains possession of
- Swiss river
- Average cost of market goods
- Spanish soldier: El \_\_

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

August 21 to August 27

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **51 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

## Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

### August 21

No incidents to report.

### August 22

8:17 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road.

9:35 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Margie Drive and issued a warning.

12:14 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

12:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1100 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:37 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

9:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

### August 23

11:44 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a citation.

12:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Coast Street and West Highway 20 and issued a warning.

### August 24

8:01 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

8:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

### August 25

9:04 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 700 block of Coast Street.

11:40 am: Officers initiated a theft

## The rest of Closure | From page 2

We extend our apologies for any inconvenience this temporary road closure may cause and invite you to join us in celebrating the Harvest Moon. This event promises a day filled with activities, entertainment, and an array of delicious offerings from local vendors.

Should you have any inquiries or require additional information regarding the road closure or the Harvest Moon Celebration, please feel free to contact the Willits

investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street.

2:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

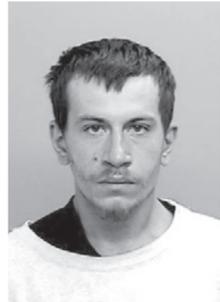
3:18 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

3:32 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of Spruce Street.

11:28 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

### August 26

9:24 am: CALES, Tyler Greyson (26) of Willits was contacted in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 242 PC (Assault and Battery), 273.5 PC (Corporal Injury to a Spouse), 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order), on felony charges of domestic battery and violation of parole.



Tyler Cales of Willits.

2:05 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of School Street and West Commercial Street.

3:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

4:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of North Main Street.

5:45 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Hollands Lane and issued a warning.

5:54 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Alder Lane and Elm Lane and issued a warning.

1:19 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

### August 27

5:07 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Hazel Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Coast Street and West Highway 20 and issued a warning.

7:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Central Street and East Oak Street and issued a citation.

Chamber of Commerce at Willits Chamber of Commerce, 299 East Commercial Street, Willits CA 95490; 707-459-7910, or info@willits.org

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to create an engaging and enjoyable experience for our community. We appreciate your support and look forward to your presence at the event.

## Looking for something to celebrate?

Learn more about these, or see a list of other days at <https://www.listofnationaldays.com/>

- September 14:** National Eat A Hoagie Day, Gobstopper Day, National Coloring Day, National Parents Day Off, Support Latino Business Day, National Cream Filled Donut Day, National Live Creative Day
- September 15:** Greenpeace Day, National Double Cheeseburger Day, Butterscotch Cinnamon Pie Day, International Day Of Democracy, International Dot Day, Make A Hat Day, National Tackle Kids Cancer Day, World Afro Day, National Cheese Toast Day, National Creme De Menthe Day, National Felt Hat Day, National Linguine Day, National Online Learning Day
- September 16:** National Play-Doh Day, International Day For The Preservation Of The Ozone Layer, Mexican Independence Day, National Choose Your Chocolate Day, National Collect Rocks Day, National Tattoo Story Day, Teenager Workout Day, Trail Of Tears Commemoration Day, Locate An Old Friend Day, Mayflower Day, National Cinnamon Raisin Bread Day, National Guacamole Day, National Step Family Day, National Working Parents Day
- September 17:** Constitution Day And
- Citizenship Day, International Country Music Day, National Pet Bird Day, National Professional House Cleaners Day, National Table Shuffleboard Day, World Patient Safety Day, National Apple Dumpling Day, National Monte Cristo Day
- September 18:** Air Force Birthday, National Cheeseburger Day, National Respect Day, Purple Bra Day, Read An Ebook Day, Rice Krispies Treats Day, Miso Day, Chiropractic Founders Day, Global Company Culture Day, International Equal Pay Day, National Cartonnage Day, National Day Of Civic Hacking
- September 19:** Talk Like A Pirate Day, National Woman Road Warrior Day, International Talk Like A Pirate Day, National Cat DNA Day, National Meow Like A Pirate Day, Respect For The Aged Day, National Butterscotch Pudding Day
- September 20:** National Punch Day, National Care For Kids Day, National Fried Rice Day, National Pepperoni Pizza Day, National Queso Day, National String Cheese Day



Above, from left: Common Collectibles & Gaming Lounge is located in the strip mall at Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue. Co-owner Zach Shabert tries out one of his games to make sure it is in top working order. The black-light background gives an air of otherworldliness while playing the games. Below, left: Shabert is a game enthusiast as well as an entrepreneur. Below, right: Shabert is always ready to help customers with questions about games or products.



## Entertainment Gallery

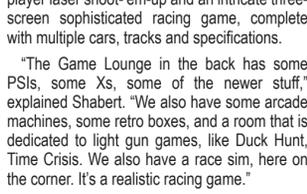
Common Collectibles & Gaming Lounge is an arcade, gamer store, and party locale all in one fun, new establishment

When does a hobby become a business? For the three partners of the new Common Collectibles & Gaming Lounge at 393 South Main Street Suite A, it is difficult to pin down when they went pro. These lifelong gaming enthusiasts have spent a good portion of their lives playing, testing, trading, selling and loving the worlds which these video-enhanced diversions provide to the fertile imaginations of both young and old players.

Video games have been around since 1958 when scientists at the Brookhaven National Laboratory developed a tennis game played on an oscilloscope, a game not available to the public. In 1972, Atari released Pong, the first commercially available video game and the industry has grown to a multi-billion-dollar industry rivaling the cinema for entertainment, dollars and players.

Zach Shabert, Dakota Blunt and Michael Overholt opened Common Collectibles a few weeks ago to little fanfare but with a growing group of gaming and collectibles enthusiasts who rent access to the arcade games by the half or full hour. Many of the games are archival retro, with familiar titles like Donkey Kong or Space Invaders. There is a room with a two-player laser shoot-em-up and an intricate three-screen sophisticated racing game, complete with multiple cars, tracks and specifications.

"The Game Lounge in the back has some PSIs, some Xs, some of the newer stuff," explained Shabert. "We also have some arcade machines, some retro boxes, and a room that is dedicated to light gun games, like Duck Hunt, Time Crisis. We also have a race sim, here on the corner. It's a realistic racing game."



"We even have some older stuff on the back shelf, Star Trek figurines from the mid-to-early '90s. We try to grab as much variety as we can. People come in that might have something from their childhood that they were into," said Shabert.

They are also available for parties. "We do birthdays and other kid events," Shabert explained. "We rent out the tables and the birthday-kid gets game-time for free. We rent them in two-hour blocks. We're open Wednesday through Friday and the two-hour blocks are from 2 to 4 pm and 4 to 6 pm on those days. And Saturdays and Sundays, we're open noon to 10 pm, 2 to 4 pm, and 4 to 6 pm."

The prices to play on the machines are reasonable when compared to coin-operated arcades. "One half hour for the Game Lounge is \$6, one hour for \$10. The racing simulator is \$9 for a half hour and \$16 for an hour," said Shabert.

"The reason the racing sim is more expensive is that it is much more technically advanced than all the games in the back," he explained. "There is an age limit on the racing sim. We try to keep it at 14 years old. The racing sim has a lot of force feedback on the steering wheel."

In the works, the store is planning to have gaming tournaments. "We plan on doing some video game tournaments," said Shabert. "We



At left: Dakota Blunt, one of the partners in Common Collectibles, stands in the room with some of the classic arcade games. Above, left: The lounge provides an array of snacks for those who get hungry playing the arcade games. Above, right: Funko Pop bobble-heads of many genres are some of the collectibles for sale.

Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits. Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify.

707-459-6826

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**SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS**

**Agape Bible Church**  
290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
*Where love is first and the Bible is central.*  
Sunday Services:  
10:00 a.m. - Worship  
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
[www.agapebiblechurch.com](http://www.agapebiblechurch.com)

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

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

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

**Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom**

- Sound of Soul events
- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?  
Call 530-224-8703  
[www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org)

**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 Bandanadanam*  
Mass times:  
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday-5:30 p.m.  
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English  
10:30 a.m. - Spanish  
Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.  
Or by appointment at 707-459-2252  
<https://santhonywillits.org/>  
[saintanthonywillits@gmail.com](mailto:saintanthonywillits@gmail.com)  
*We welcome All Walks of Faith*

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

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
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 CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
**Family & Youth Movement Workshop**  
 Playful Movement & Rhythmic Dance for All Ages  
 Facilitated by Mama Jay  
**Sunday September 17**  
 1-4pm  
**FREE TO ENTER**  
 register in advance/at door willitscenterforthearts.org

Official Calendar Sponsor  
**HEART OF THE REDWOODS**  
**Willits Chamber of Commerce**  
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 MAKING WILLITS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY  
 Serving the community since 1926  
<https://willits.org/>  
 299 East Commercial Street  
 Willits, California 95490  
 Please feel free to visit our office for brochures, maps and additional information about the area  
**(707) 459-7910**

**Harvest Moon Celebration**  
 September 30  
 The Willits Chamber of Commerce and local merchants invite the public to the perfect start to the fall season, the annual Harvest Moon Celebration, Saturday, September 30, 2 to 7 pm in downtown Willits. Free to attend: features Aerial Silks, Kids Zone & Bounce House, curated vendor booths, store specials, and more. Live music by Soul Circus Band from 3 to 6 pm. Food Court features shave ice and gelato, street food trucks, tacos & BBQ booths, and many more. Main Street will be closed from Wood Street to Commercial Street to allow for the festivities.

**September 20th**  
**5-6:00pm**  
**FREE stamps given away**  
**Willits Stamp Club**  
 Info: [talsofam@pacific.net](mailto:talsofam@pacific.net)  
**Willits Library**  
**390 East Commercial**  
**All are welcome!**  
**Refreshments served**

**Thursday, September 14**

**Willits Farmers Market:** The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

**Winterlark at Shanachie:** San Francisco Bay Area singer-songwriters Kristin Olson, upright bass, and Sweeney E. Schragg, guitar, bring "urban folk musicality that blends literate lyrics; bossa nova and soul rhythms; and the harmonic, melodic, and improvisatory traditions of jazz." Thursday, September 14 at 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

**Friday, September 15**

**Paint and Sip at WCA:** with Laura Corben: Paint, sip, laugh, eat - catered by Scoops. Friday, September 15 at 5 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. \$50 includes canvas, materials, wine, and appetizers. All levels welcome. Limited to 12 participants; Register at [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org).

**'The Odd Couple' (female version) at WCT:** written by Neil Simon and directed by Maria Monti, opens Friday, September 15 for nine shows at Willits Community Theatre through October 1. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2 pm. Starring Sarah France, Meg Gardner, Gretchen Anderson, Tiffany Leigh-Logan, Lisa Wilcox, Blare Elliott, Jeff Shipp, and Bhavny Ducharme. Tickets, \$20, at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org/](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org/) or at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

**Diane Patterson at Shanachie:** "Award-winning songwriter, folk goddess Diane Patterson subverts the dominant paradigm with rocking acoustic guitar and ukulele, a mighty pen, and a woman's voice." Friday, September 15 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

**Saturday, September 16**

**September Vendors Market:** Presented by MendoCrafts, Saturday, September 16 from 11 am to 5 pm. Sidewalk and parking lot vendors at 11 North Martin Street.

**Ongoing Events at the Willits Library**  
 Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.  
 Info: [www.mendolib.org](http://www.mendolib.org)

**Story Time:** Tuesday through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. 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."

**LEGO Club:** Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

**Willits Walk and Talk:** Join the Willits Branch Library staff for a 20- to 30-minute walk around the neighborhood. Come enjoy a little bit of exercise as well as some pleasant conversation. All ages are welcome. Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am; meet at the front entrance to the library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.mendolib.org](http://www.mendolib.org) or call the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

**Writer's Block Group:** Wednesdays, from 11 am to noon. "Open to young-adult and adult writers to share their ideas and writings in an environment of supportive and creative suggestions and feedback." Willits Library meeting room.

**Games at the Library:** First and third Fridays of the month, 4 to 5:30 pm. "Calling all board, card and tabletop role-playing game players! All ages and player levels welcome. Bring your own games to add to the fun!"

**Sit-N-Sew:** second Saturdays, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and have fun.

**Open Source Design, Artistic Expression, and Engineering Club:** Every Saturday except the third Saturday of the month, 11 am to noon. "Open to everyone with an interest in open source and everyone who wants to develop their creative and engineering skills."

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

**What's Happening Around Town**

**Printmaking Demo at the Museum:** Have you ever wanted to explore printmaking? Play with color, texture, and layering? As part of the "ImPRESSED" exhibit, this demo by Meg Pohlod, using traditional and contemporary printmaking methods, teaches how to work with materials, ink, and a small book press to envision your print. Saturday, September 16, 1:30 to 3 pm. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum), [museum@mendocinocounty.gov](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.gov) or 707-234-6365.



**Willits Stamp Club:** Monthly meeting, Wednesday, September 20, 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Bring your collection and enjoy time perusing stamps. FREE stamps given away. All are welcome. Refreshments served. Info: [talsofam@pacific.net](mailto:talsofam@pacific.net).

**'Insight Into Understanding Children's Behavior':** Avenues to Wellness hosts this presentation by Tiffany Tucker, Redwood Community Services trainer, on Wednesday, September 20, from 6 to 8 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Free to the public; donations appreciated. Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit [www.avenuestowellness.org](http://www.avenuestowellness.org) to view Video Archives of previous talks. Info: 707-456-9676.

**Thursday, September 21**

**Monthly Food Distribution Pop-Up:** Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program offers free food for all in Mendocino County. Our pop-ups feature fresh produce, meat protein, dairy, eggs, pantry staples, and kid's bags. This month's free food pop-up in Willits is set for Thursday, September 21, noon to 1 pm, at 1250 Blosser Lane. Every third Thursday through 2023.

**Willits Farmers Market:** The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

**'LoKoYoKoL' at Shanachie:** Songwriter / performer from the Northwest coast of California, aka Kent Stephenson, with thumb pickin' rhythmic acoustic guitar and vocals. Thursday, September 21 at 7 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

**'The Odd Couple' (female version) at WCT:** by Neil Simon and directed by Maria Monti; at Willits Community Theatre through October 1. Sunday, September 17 matinee at 2 pm. Tickets, \$20, at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org/](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org/) or at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

**Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie:** This local Mendocino County jam band shares "original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community." Saturday, September 16 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

**Sunday, September 17**

**'The Odd Couple' (female version) at WCT:** by Neil Simon and directed by Maria Monti; at Willits Community Theatre through October 1. Sunday, September 17 matinee at 2 pm. Tickets, \$20, at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org/](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org/) or at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

**Wednesday, September 20**

**Harmony Keepers at Brickhouse:** Duo Kate Black and Anita Blu perform at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street, Wednesday, September 20, from 11:30 am to 2 pm, and on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Beautiful vocal harmonies, with guitar and keyboard, and some songs with dulcimer or ukulele. Music from Joni Mitchell, Carole King, James Taylor, Phoebe Snow, Laura Nyro, Leonard Cohen.



**Artists Wanted for Draw Til U Drop!**

**Draw Til U Drop Art Marathon** at the Willits Center for the Arts is a benefit event for the WCA, the Mendocino County Museum, and Willits High Art Department. All participants commit to making ART for at least 12 hours - at least from 10 am 'til 10 pm on Saturday, October 15.

We encourage those who can go for longer! 18 hours? 24 hours? 30? Good food provided, and fine entertainment.

Prizes for artists who go for 24 hours, the three artists who last the longest, and for the three who raise the most donations.

Artists must find sponsors and bring art supplies. Now's your chance! To sign up, sponsor, or for more info: [eray@eRayBeeMosaics.com](mailto:eray@eRayBeeMosaics.com) or 707-853-1898. Or call WCA 707-459-1726 or any participating artist.

**'A Touch of Mendocino County':**

**Rocks or Meteors?**  
 September 28

Join us for "A Touch of Mendocino County: Rocks or Meteors?" on Thursday, September 28, from 11 am to noon. Local expert Gary Mason of Beautiful Earth and Amazing Minerals (Fort Bragg) comes to the Willits Branch Library to teach us all about the wonderful world of meteorites. Part of the monthly "A Touch of Mendocino County" series which takes place on the last Thursday of the month in the Willits Branch Library meeting room. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Seating is limited. Info: visit [www.mendolib.org](http://www.mendolib.org) or call the Willits Library at 707-459-5908.

**Willits Rotary Oktober Festival In The Redwoods and John Cross Memorial Golf Tournament**  
**OCTOBER 7, 2023**  
 GOLF 9 AM - 1 PM BROADBENT GOLF COURSE  
 FESTIVAL 1 PM - 5 PM BROADBENT GOLF COURSE  
**ADULT ADMISSION \$25.00**  
**INCLUDES 2 FOOD-DRINK TICKETS**  
**LIVE MUSIC • GAMES • ARTISAN BOOTHS**  
**QUARTER AUCTION • SILENT AUCTION**  
**BEER • WINE • BRATS • PRETZLES**  
**FREE SHUTTLE FROM WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL**

**September is LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH**  
 This card gives you access to free movies, music, books, video games, & more!  
**VISIT US & GET YOUR CARD TODAY!**

**12TH ANNUAL MARY BURGESS MEMORIAL RANCH RODEO**  
 COMING SOON TO WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS  
 SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2023

**Friday, September 22**

**Library Fall Book Sale:** the annual Fall Book Sale at the Willits Branch Library Conference Room starts Friday, September 22, from 10 am to 5 pm, and continues Saturday, September 23 from 10 am to 5 pm; and Sunday, September 24 from 10 am to 3 pm. On Sunday, all books only \$3 a bag! Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library, Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street; 707-459-5908.

**Pumpkin Patch Opening:** Pumpkins opens their Pumpkin Patch on Friday, September 22, from 10 am to 8 pm, at 19606 Walker Road "We are so excited to bring such a fun and positive experience to our community. There will be fun activities and food for kiddos of all ages to enjoy. We can't wait to welcome you all to our patch." Info: (707) 354-8187

**Printmaking Demo at the Museum:** As part of the "ImPRESSED" exhibit, this demo by artist Solange Roberdeau is of "suminagashi" (which translates to "floating ink"), the ancient Japanese tradition of ink water marbling. This one-hour demo will introduce museum visitors to the beauty of this direct and non-toxic craft and give individuals a chance to make their own small print on paper to take home! Friday, September 22 from 6 to 7:30 pm. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum), [museum@mendocinocounty.gov](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.gov) or 707-234-6365.

**Senior Center BBQ Chicken Dinner for 2:** Willits Senior Center fundraiser offers a BBQ Chicken Dinner for 2, to pick up, on Friday, September 22, from 5 to 6 pm. Dinner for 2 is \$35, includes 1/2 chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, cornbread with honey butter, and peach cobbler. Thanks to the Willits Lions Club for providing and BBQing the chicken. Friday, September 22 from 5 to 6 pm. Pre-sale tickets only; Visit or call the center, 1501 Baechtel Road, 707-459-6826.

**Blue Luke at Shanachie:** "Blue Luke" Andrews is a prodigy guitarist, born and raised in Dos Rios, Mendocino County: "Imagine a band that takes the soul of the blues, the groove of the funk, the grit of rock & roll and the rich harmonies of jazz to create exactly what you've always wanted to hear." Friday, September 22 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

**Saturday, September 23**

**Library Fall Book Sale:** the annual Fall Book Sale at the Willits Branch Library Conference Room continues on Saturday, September 23, from 10 am to 5 pm; and Sunday, September 24, from 10 am to 3 pm. Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library, Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street; 707-459-5908.

**Sunday, September 24**

**Library Fall Book Sale:** the last day of the annual Fall Book Sale at the Willits Branch Library Conference Room is Sunday, September 24, from 10 am to 3 pm. On Sunday, all books only \$3 a bag! Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library, Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street; 707-459-5908.

**Retirement Party for Mail Carrier Tim Porter:** The public is welcome to attend a retirement celebration potluck for longtime Willits Post Office city carrier Tim Porter. Sunday, September 24 from 3 to 7 pm at the Rec Grove Park. Come share stories and memories to celebrate Tim's retirement. Questions: 459-5255

**COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES**

**'My Big Fat Greek Wedding'**

**The Story:** Heartwarming family comedy without any abuse or violence. Tola Portokalos (director Nia Vardalos) has lost her father Gus. She has promised him that she would deliver his journal about life in America to his childhood friend who lives on a Greek island. Tola's large, talky, passionate and scrappy family (most of them women) receive an invitation from the mayor of her father's childhood village to a big reunion party being thrown for all the village's former citizens. Romance happens. Characters meet and hug previously unknown relatives. Tola gets drunk, and gets drunk again. There's a nude beach sequence. There's a big wedding sequence. Somehow it all holds together, and the mayor turns out to be a cousin.

**My Thoughts:** This is a kind movie. It's pleasantly funny. The movie celebrates the universality of human joy in being liked, being hugged, and being a member of a family. And further, the flick invites us, the audience, to a place at the table and consider ourselves to be members of the family. And what a joy: no bad guys, no guns, no shootings, no monsters, no fist fights. I honor this flick for all the tiresome and typical Hollywood tropes that weren't in it.

**Parents:** This is a non-preachy salute to family. It's a movie about grown-ups, with situations and dialogue and jokes that are for grown-ups, but nothing that would hurt children. There's a lot of shouting and drinking and eating, and ultimately a lot of love. *Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.*



Dan Essman  
 Columnist

**WGP HOLD'EM POKER TOURNAMENT**  
 SATURDAY, OCT. 7TH 2023  
**ROARING 20'S THEME**  
 BEST DRESSED TO THE WINS \$100 IN CHIPS  
**\$100 PER TICKET**  
 LIMITED AMOUNT OF TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR IN PERSON  
**WILLITSSTAMPCLUB.COM**  
 OR CONTACT STEVEN FOR INFO!  
 TICKET PURCHASE 707-554-9788  
**SPARETIME SUPPLY WAREHOUSE**  
 300 EAST COMMERCIAL ST. WILLITS, CA

**NOYO THEATRE** Willits, CA  
 57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-6660  
[www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com)  
**Starts Friday, Sept. 22: The Expendables 4**

**THE NUN 2**  
 (R) 1 hr 50 mins  
 Fri.: 5:00 & 7:30pm  
 Sat.: 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30pm  
 Sun.: 1:30, 4:00 & 6:30pm  
**Mon.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 6:30pm**

**THE EQUALIZER 3**  
 (R) 1 hr 49 mins  
 Fri.: 5:15 & 7:45pm  
 Sat.: 2:45, 5:15 & 7:45pm  
 Sun.: 1:45, 4:15 & 6:45pm  
**Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 6:45pm**

**Ongoing Events**

**'Made in Mendocino, Art Quilts' at WCA:** Diverse and creative work of 20 talented art quilters at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Each piece has been carefully selected to demonstrate the diverse range of quilters' artistic visions and technical mastery, showcasing the vibrant diversity within the local community." Free admission. Galleries open Friday-Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

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

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

**Brown Bag Lunch Program:** Sack lunches served at the City Park (or across the street in case of rain) every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to be assured a lunch! Provided by various churches and community organizations.

**Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl:** "Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Game starts at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need!" Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street.

**The Redwood Empire Food Bank:** Twice-monthly drive-thru food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields, 9:30 to 11 am. Groceries to go, senior basket (for low-income seniors 60 or older), and diapers.

**'Garraoke' at Diggers Bar:** Karaoke night the second and fourth Friday of every month, with host and DJ Garrett Moore. "From 8 pm to midnight, then get down until closing!" Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

**Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 2 pm:** The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: .

**Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym:** Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers a free karate program for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 pm, for new students ages 7 and above. Use the back doors to enter. Special small child (Lil Dragons) classes only on Thursdays at 6 pm, ages 3 to 6. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565. Program is continuous year-round. Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street.

**Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show**

**September 22 to 24 at Boonville Fairgrounds**

The annual Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show runs September 22-24 at the Boonville Fairgrounds, 9 am to midnight each day. General admission: \$10 adults; \$8 ages 13-18; \$6 ages 7 to 12; kids 6 & under are free. Apple Tasting, Livestock, Wool & Fiber Show, Exhibits.

Friday, September 22 features Apple Bowl Football at 5 pm, and a dance with the Scott Forbes Band at 8 pm. Free for kids under 12 on Friday; and \$8 for seniors 65 and over.

Saturday, September 23 features CCPRA Professional Rodeo at 8 pm, and a dance with Dean Titus & the Coyote Cowboys at 9:30 pm.

Sunday, September 24 features Sheep Dog Trials and Classic Car Show, both starting at 10 am; the Parade at noon; CCPRA Rodeo at 2 pm; and a dance with Los Elegidos de Oaxaca & Imperio SN at 6 pm. See full schedule online: <http://mendocountyfair.com/>

**Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events**

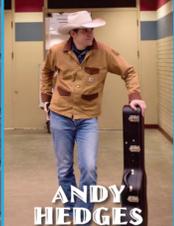
**Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street**

**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!"

**MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 3**  
 (PG13) 1 hr 31 mins  
 Fri.: 5:45 & 8:00pm  
 Sat.: 3:30 & 5:45 & 8:00pm  
 Sun.: 2:30, 4:45 & 7:00pm  
**Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 7:00pm**  
**OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Reelers**

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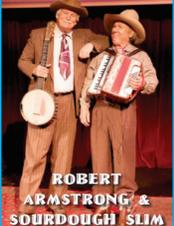


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Throwdown  
1pm

Concert  
2:30pm

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Garden  
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## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

### Outgoing Daisy May

Daisy May has been in foster care for the last several weeks with her brother and sister, Sweet William and Daffodil. Daisy May is very outgoing and active, and loves to play and rough-house with her siblings.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Daisy May or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com).



Daisy May.

and happiness wherever he goes.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Jasper or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com).

### Handsome Duffy

Meet our sweet, shy boy Duffy. Duffy is a transfer from Bones Rescue in Covelo. This boy had a rough start at life, which is why he's a little timid of people. But he's been hanging out in a very supportive foster home to help him grow his confidence. He's looking for someone he can bond with and be their best friend! Give us a call if you're interested in meeting Duffy!



Duffy.

### Loving Jasper

Prepare to be captivated by the regal charm of Jasper, the handsome Great Pyrenees mix who's ready to find his forever pride. With his loving nature, Jasper is truly ready to bring joy, love, and endless entertainment to his new family.

He loves people and other dogs, making him a perfect fit for a family environment. With Jasper, you'll have a loyal and affectionate companion who adores spending time with his loved ones, whether it's snuggling up on the couch or going on exciting adventures.

When it comes to leash manners, Jasper is a true gentleman. He walks with grace and poise by your side, making every stroll a pleasure. Whether you're exploring the neighborhood or enjoying a hike in the great outdoors, Jasper will be your steadfast companion, spreading love



Jasper.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to come 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.mendohumane.com](http://www.mendohumane.com), on our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



## Mendocino County invites applications for:

**Community Health Worker II**  
\$18,48 - \$22.47 Hourly

**Corrections Deputy**  
\$54,184 - \$65,873

**Deputy Probation Officer I/II**  
\$51,937 - \$69,617

**Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II**  
\$62,628 - \$87,214

**Eligibility Specialist II**  
\$47,132 - \$57,324

**Employment and Training Worker I/II**  
\$48,672 - \$65,124

**Juvenile Corrections Officer**  
\$50,710 - \$61,630

**Registered Veterinary Technician**  
\$52,832 - \$64,230

**Senior Program Specialist**  
\$61,880 - \$75,233

**Senior Public Health Nurse**  
\$100,297 - \$121,908

**Supervising Agricultural/Measurement Standards Specialist**  
\$71,968 - \$87,464

**Supervising Juvenile Corrections Officer**  
\$61,734 - \$75,046

**Veteran's Services Representative**  
\$46,384 - \$56,368

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

[www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs)

EOE

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW449

### NOTICE INVITING BIDS

1. Notice is hereby given that the Governing Board of the Willits Unified School District, of the County of Mendocino, State of California, will receive sealed bids for the Replacement of Blosser Lane Elementary School Cafeteria HVAC system up to, but not later than, 10:00 am, on September 25, 2023, and will thereafter publicly open and read aloud the bids. All bids shall be received at the Willits Unified School District Office, 1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490.

2. Each bid shall be completed on the Bid Proposal Form included in the Contract Documents, and must conform and be fully responsive to this invitation, the plans and specifications and all other Contract Documents. Copies of the Contract Documents are available for examination at the office of the Superintendent, 1277 Blosser Lane, County of Mendocino, California. Documents are also available online at [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com).

3. Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, a cashier's or certified check, or a bidder's bond executed by a surety licensed to do business in the State of California as a surety, made payable to the District, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the maximum amount of the bid. The check or bid bond shall be given as a guarantee that the bidder to whom the contract is awarded will execute the Contract Documents and will provide the required payment and performance bonds and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the Contract.

4. The successful bidder shall comply with the provisions of the Labor Code pertaining to payment of the generally prevailing rate of wages and apprenticeships or other training programs. The Department of Industrial Relations has made available the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which the work is to be performed for each craft, classification or type of worker needed to execute the Contract, including employer payments for health and welfare, pension, vacation, apprenticeship and similar purposes. Copies of these prevailing rates are available to any interested party upon request and are online at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR>. The Contractor and all subcontractors shall pay not less than the specified rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract. It is the Contractor's responsibility to determine any rate change.

5. The schedule of per diem wages is based upon a working day of eight hours. The rate for holiday and overtime work shall be at least time and one half.

6. The substitution of appropriate securities in lieu of retention amounts from progress payments in accordance with Public Contract Code §22300 is permitted.

7. Pursuant to Public Contract Code §4104, each bid shall include the name and location of the place of business of each subcontractor who shall perform work or service or fabricate or install work for the contractor in excess of one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) of the bid price. The bid shall describe the type of the work to be performed by each listed subcontractor.

8. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening for bids except as provided by Public Contract Code §55100 et seq. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding.

9. Minority, women, and disabled veteran contractors are encouraged to submit bids. This bid is not subject to Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise requirements.

10. The project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the California Department of Industrial Relations. In accordance with SB 854, all bidders, contractors and subcontractors working at the site shall be duly registered with the Department of Industrial Relations at time of bid opening and at all relevant times. Proof of registration shall be provided as to all such contractors prior to the commencement of any work.

11. Each bidder shall possess at the time the bid is awarded the following classification(s) of California State Contractor's license: **C10, C20 and C38**

12. (Optional) The Governing Board has found that the Project is substantially complex and therefore requires a retention amount of 5%.

13. Bidders' Conference. A mandatory bidders' conference will be held at Blosser Lane, 1275 Blosser Lane on September 25, 2023 at 9:00am for the purpose of acquainting all prospective bidders with the Contract Documents and the Project site. Failure to attend the conference may result in the disqualification of the bid of the non-attending bidder.

Willits Unified School District

By: Terry McEntee

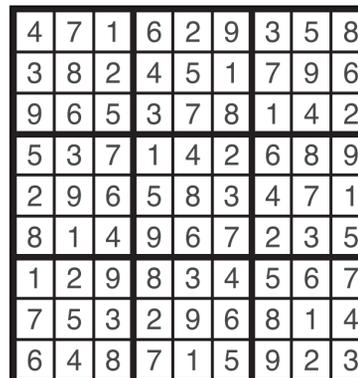
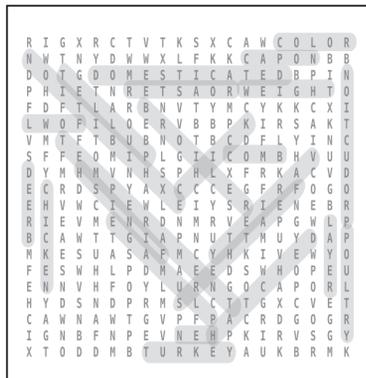
DATED: 9/1/23

Publication Dates: September 7 and 14, 2023

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**Just \$30**

gives you this 3.25" wide x 2" tall black-and-white ad space in Willits Weekly!



## CLASSIFIEDS

30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

### Bake an Apple Pie

Win an engraved Rolling Pin. Not JUST Cowboy Poetry, Apple Pie Throwdown, and Art in the Garden at Emandal, Saturday, October 14 [www.emandal.com](http://www.emandal.com)

### Computer Help

Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email [uicarbhall@gmail.com](mailto:uicarbhall@gmail.com)

### Counseling / Psychotherapy

Accepting new MediCal clients, Divora Stern LCSW, sliding scale available. PHONE SESSIONS only: 707-354-9911. No need for computer / travel, just call. 22-year private practice, CBT, energy psychology, and alternative modalities.

### 5th Wheel Trailer 4Sale

1998 33' Ajo w/popouts. Good condition. Full kitchen. Dining set, Sofabed, Recliner, Entertainment Ctr, Shower/tub, Q-bed, 5' closet. \$3,750 / BO. Needs roof patch & heater serviced. [cindybpanzer@comcast.net](mailto:cindybpanzer@comcast.net) (510) 913-2600

### Personal Assistant Available

Personal assistant available in Brooktrails/Willits. Transportation, medical appointments, shopping, and other help you might need. French, English, Spanish speaking. Part-time. Leave voicemail for Yannick: 707-738-9645

### For Rent

New, lovely 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath apartments. Kitchen includes all appliances, granite countertops and lots of cabinets... also a spacious pantry. Large Bedrooms with big closets. Laminate and vinyl floors. \$1800/mo (707) 489-1080

### For Rent

Willits Center for the Arts Great Room is available for rent for meetings and special events. Room holds 175 people. Contact Sasha at 707-459-1726 or manager@willitscenterforthearts.org

### RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/lp>

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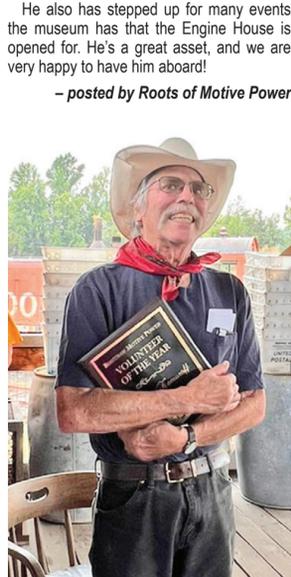
## Bear Kamoroff

Roots of Motive Power  
Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Bear Kamoroff who was voted Volunteer of the Year by the Roots of Motive Power Board of Directors. Bear took over the Roots librarian position two years ago and has made a lot of improvements and organized the Library.

He also has stepped up for many events the museum has that the Engine House is opened for. He's a great asset, and we are very happy to have him aboard!

— posted by Roots of Motive Power



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rcantua@farmersagent.com  
0C67822

OBITUARY |

## Gladis Shannon

It is with great sadness that we announce that Gladis Ardella Shannon of Willits passed away on December 24, Christmas Eve, 2022.

Gladis was born in Arkansas in 1932 and raised in Rattan, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Otha Eugene Shannon (Gene), her father, her mother, nine brothers and sisters, and a grandson. She was the last one in the family of her generation; she is survived by two sisters-in-law, Myrtle Deaton, who is the sister of Gene Shannon, Gladis' husband, and Lillie Mae Arms, who was married to Gladis' brother, Lawrence.

Gladis married her lifelong sweetheart, Otha Eugene Shannon (Gene) at the ripe old age of 14. He was 19 and fresh out of the army. She had her first child, Henrietta Jean, at home in Rattan, Oklahoma when she was 16.

Gladis is survived by her five children: Henrietta Dukes, Kenneth Shannon, Luci Shannon, Richard Shannon, all of Willits, and Timothy Shannon of Sacramento. She is survived by seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Gladis was active in her church and community for many, many years, and if you were one of the lucky ones, you got to enjoy her raised glazed doughnuts, her famous homemade corn dogs, her yummy biscuits and gravy, some of the delicious candy she made during the holidays, or anything she happened to cook. It was all amazing.

She loved her church and she loved Jesus. That's our consolation; she is with Him now.

Gladis' funeral and a brief graveside service were held on January 3, 2023. Watch for an announcement for her Celebration of Life.



The rest of  
**Huffman** | From page 1

make that happen there were, according to Huffman, "A lot of politics."

He explained, "A group of hardliners insisted on concessions with every round of voting. By the end, there were a lot of concessions made. The Rules Committee, which controls the floor agenda and what comes to a vote, now includes the most intense and extreme elements of speaker McCarthy's party."

This was all to say that Huffman and the rest of the Democratic Party in Congress are having a difficult time moving bills forward. The fiscal year for the federal government begins October 1. There are 12 different appropriations bills, generally passed annually, that provide budgets for various government agencies to operate. Huffman says even these basic bills aren't being passed, which will likely mean another government shutdown.

Much of the meeting was spent discussing what Huffman described as his highest priority, climate change, and the catastrophic effects it's having on California as a whole, and the 2nd District more specifically. Many folks in the meeting had much to say about their own harrowing experiences with recent wildfires.

With fire on the tip of everyone's mind, and as California transitions more and more to cleaner sources of energy, a question was raised about how an already taxed and antiquated grid power system would be able to handle the additional loads coming from the push for greener energy.

Huffman talked about aggressively pursuing major upgrades with transmission lines. He said a good deal of federal money is in place from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to support major transmission line upgrades, and that it's a matter of getting the various authorities, who involved with managing and maintaining our grid power system, comfortable with the idea of overbuilding the grid so that it's able to handle a huge increase in capacity.

He also spoke about how PGE is underproducing many of its high-voltage lines (though he said not nearly enough). He elaborated: "We've still got a long way to go when it comes to the adequacy and the safety of PGE's part of this grid. We're functionally in an energy moratorium in parts of my district where PGE is not allowing new hookups because, frankly, they're spending all their money out there trying to upgrade the most vulnerable parts of their system so that they don't spark fires every time the wind blows. We've got to push them to do more and to do it faster."

The issue of homeowner's insurance when fires do come through the area was another big topic. One woman shared that her home policy with AAA has gone up to over \$15,000. Huffman sympathized and said this is something he hears about a lot. Some new buyers in California may not be able to get policies at all. He told the group, "The challenge at the federal level is that insurance is typically regulated and controlled state by state, so there's very little at the federal level to effect insurance markets." Because there are so many natural disasters on such a grand scale due to climate change, Huffman said, FEMA is not the answer.

He continued, "Starting at the state level, trying to get the insurance commissioner and the state legislature to hold these carriers accountable and make them charge reasonable rates could be a way to go." The backstops to insurance providers, massive companies like Swiss Reinsurance, think California is too high a risk. Huffman said he doesn't know what the exact answer is, short of some massive government intervention, which he said would be a tough sell politically and otherwise.

Furthering the climate change discussion, Huffman went into detail on bills like the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act that have quite a number of green energy provisions in them. He made it seem that for every two steps forward toward cleaner energy, there were two steps back. An example he gave was West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin's role in requiring yearly fossil fuel leases both on and offshore, in exchange for the development of offshore wind and onshore solar and geothermal renewables on public land.

Representative Huffman explained, "If we're listening to the science, this transition to clean energy has to mean we wind down fossil fuel business as usual, but Joe Manchin locked a lot of that in. In the Investment and Jobs Act we included about \$8 billion for a national electric vehicle charging network, and there's even more in the Inflation Reduction Act, but there was almost three times that much for a new LNG [liquefied natural gas] facility in Alaska."

The subject of offshore wind power is a big one in Humboldt County right now, and

one Huffman enthusiastically supports. An excerpt from his website reads: "The offshore wind proposal, driven by the Biden and Newsom administration efforts to dramatically increase renewable energy, would erect dozens of turbines, with blades as long as a football field in an area of the Pacific Ocean nearly 10 times the size of Manhattan. The turbines, which would be about 20 miles from shore in water up to 2,500 feet deep, are a key part of the state's plan to generate enough offshore wind energy to power more than 20 million homes."

Roe v. Wade was another significant topic Huffman was asked about. He said a bill to codify Roe would have made it to the president's desk except for the Senate filibuster. The filibuster rule itself is a hot button issue these days. Huffman described it as "antidemocratic." He said it comes to us from the days of Jim Crow when they were desperately afraid of too much civil rights legislation making it through the senate, so they created this super-high, super-majority bar.

Because of the filibuster rule, it's no longer, and hasn't been for quite some time, a simple matter of majority rule (51 votes to pass a bill after debate has ended). The filibuster, and its supermajority requirement means that it takes 60 votes to end the debate over a bill so that it's able to be voted on at all. Huffman and most Democrats would like to see the filibuster done away with.

Brief discussions on nuclear technology, immigration, and student loan forgiveness concluded the event. It's very unlikely that we'll see any new nuclear energy infrastructure in California, Huffman said. There's a current moratorium on it, and Huffman thinks nuclear waste is still too big a safety issue and one that nobody really wants to deal with. He's also hopeful that advancements in battery storage will handle a lot of our base power requirements in the future.

In regard to immigration, Huffman says the federal government is further away from comprehensive immigration reform today than in his previous years. An earned pathway to citizenship, visa reform, and border security were all on the table when he first came to Congress, but in subsequent years, it's completely blown up. He said he is tentatively hopeful that some kind of reform for immigrant children who have been in the U.S. for most of their lives can be achieved.

He touched on the fact that our ports of entry are very insecure, which opens us up to bigger issues like cartels moving fentanyl across the border and furthering the synthetic opioid pandemic, but he believes building a wall will do nothing to keep these problems out of the United States.

And if you're one of the many people looking forward to some kind of student loan forgiveness, Huffman says they're basically not able to legislate a solution. President Biden's plan is to keep trying to use any authority he has to bring any kind of relief possible. With a different Senate and a different House and no filibuster, Huffman does think student loan forgiveness is achievable.

The meeting wrapped with most people seeming satisfied with the answers they were given. Huffman's field representative for Mendocino County, Jez Anderson, passed out her contact and gathered notes and letters community members brought for representative Huffman to look into further, which he promised to do.

You can contact Jared Huffman through his website Huffman.house.gov. Or you can call (202) 224-3121 for the U.S. House switchboard operator who maintains addresses and phone numbers of all House members.

**Huffman in Round Valley**

Representative Huffman also visited Round Valley on August 29. Here's a firsthand report of his visit, from his Congressional office: "Last week, I spent time in Covelo where I met with community leaders including the president and council members of Round Valley Indian Tribe.

"I also toured transformative infrastructure projects the Tribe is working on using federal grants. Thanks to investments from the COVID-19 economic stimulus package, the CARES Act, as well as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Tribe developed a new Emergency Operations Center and three cell phone towers. They're also expanding broadband to connect 726 tribal households, three tribal businesses, and seven tribal community anchor institutions.

"It's wonderful to see federal dollars in action in our community, and I'm proud to have voted for these pivotal pieces of legislation that are making a difference for the North Coast!"

The rest of  
**Memorial** | From page 1

bearing their names," Sheriff Kendall wrote in the event announcement, "to honor our fallen peace officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their courage and devotion to our communities will never be forgotten."

During the ceremony Kendall read the names and "End of Watch" dates for each of the nine fallen peace officers on the memorial, as honor guard members presented bouquets for each name.

The honored fallen officers: Sheriff William H. Tainter, End of Watch 1863; Constable Thomas Sharp Lynch, End of Watch: 1909; Deputy Sheriff William White, End of Watch: 1950; Deputy Sheriff George Robert Bob Davis, End of Watch: 1995; Deputy Sheriff Ricky Paul Del Fiorentino, End of Watch: 2014; Sheriff J. Henry Smith, End of Watch: 1905; Marshal John F. Dixon, End of Watch: 1915; CHP Officer Paul Jarski, End of Watch: 1981; and CHP Officer Thomas Adams, End of Watch: 2011

Sheriff Kendall noted the project was started "multiple years ago by my predecessor Sheriff Tom Allman and our District Attorney David Eyster, but was delayed due to COVID. This endeavor continued over the past few years to approve the design, layout, and production of the memorial. The memorial was supported by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and became a community project to honor fallen peace officers in Mendocino County.

"We received assistance during this project by countless members of the community," Kendall said, "and for that support I will always be grateful."

Sheriff Kendall ended his remarks

at the ceremony with a plea for unity. "I appreciate everybody being here this evening," he said. "We all have common needs and common goals. America seems to be in a strange time. We've seen a lot of assaults on peace officers; homicides on peace officers have been on the rise. I hate seeing this.

"We all have to stand together, and we've got to stand in unity if we want to see these things improve," Sheriff Kendall said. "So just on a closing thought, as we shut down this ceremony and begin to have a little fellowship with some pretty good barbecue [thanks to Big Earl's BBQ], I'm hopeful that we can all think about the things that unite us and not the things that divide us. Think about how we can move forward in the United States, particularly in Mendocino County and our communities.

"Let's all work together to make tomorrow a little bit better than what today was. And I think that is a pretty realistic goal."

The main contractor work on the project was completed by Fort Bragg Electric for the foundation and conduits for the lighting. Mendocino County residents are encouraged to visit the monument at night, to experience the lighting.

The memorial was designed and created by Bell Memorials and Granite Works, who also made the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Willits. Daniel Steele and Machine, Inc. provided their crane and operator at no cost for the installation of the memorial.

To watch a video of the moving ceremony, visit <https://youtu.be/MPQ2XhQIG6>

The rest of  
**Pleas** | From page 1

Having surreptitiously placed an electronic tracker in Southern California on the courier's vehicle, the three crooks – dressed to look like law enforcement agents, masked, armed for what appeared to be a war, and driving a vehicle outfitted to look like a law enforcement vehicle – tracked their target as it traveled from the Los Angeles area towards Covelo, initiating what would have appeared to any driver on the road that day to be a law enforcement pull-over of the courier vehicle and second vehicle on Covelo Road.

The financial target of the crooks was the almost \$700,000 secreted away in a hidden compartment in the courier vehicle – a stash of money and a hidden compartment known to defendant Jesus Vargas from when he used to be the illegal cannabis money runner until he was fired and replaced.

Defendant Jesus Vargas also pled no contest Wednesday afternoon to having committed a separate armed robbery of an uninvolved motorist who also had pulled over when he saw the flashing lights on the faux police vehicle.

Finally, defendant Jesus Vargas admitted a special sentencing enhancement charged by the District Attorney that during the robbery and kidnappings he was armed with a firearm.

Because kidnapping and robbery have been characterized as violent felonies by the California Legislature, defendant Jesus Vargas now stands convicted of two strikes, within the meaning of California's current version of "Three Strikes."

Again, because kidnapping and robbery are characterized by law to be violent felonies, the early release credits defendant Jesus Vargas may attempt to earn in state prison should be capped by prison authorities at no more than 15 percent.

Because he had procrastinated in resolving his case, defendant Jesus Vargas was also required by the prosecutor to waive a full year of actual jail custody time credits in order to be able to resolve the matter, making the defendant's overall sentence equal to a state prison commitment of just over 20 years.

The defendant's case was referred to the Mendocino County Adult Probation Department, as required by law, so

Adult Probation may gather background information on the defendant that will be used by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in their intake, classification, and prison facility assignment responsibilities.

The law enforcement agencies that gathered the evidence supporting the defendant's convictions were the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol, Cal Fire, the Las Vegas Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, various law enforcement agencies in Southern California, and the District Attorney's own Bureau of Investigations.

Special note is made of Cal Fire's involvement in this case. As the crooks were preparing their getaway after having pulled over the two vehicles, hooded the money runners at gunpoint, restrained them with zip ties in the back seat of the fake law enforcement vehicle, zip-tied the uninvolved driver on the ground and stole his keys and cell phone, and inserted defendant Jesus Vargas as driver of the money vehicle, Cal Fire fire crew vehicles traveling from Covelo came upon and witnessed what they considered to be a very suspicious situation happening at the turn-out not far from Highway 101.

The trailing Cal Fire vehicle stopped and freed the uninvolved motorist, received a quick summary of what that victim said had happened, and called in the crimes to the Sheriff's Office, which allowed sheriff's deputies to eventually locate the two vehicles on Highway 20 as the crooks were trying to go out through Lake County.

Mendocino County DA David Eyster has been directing the prosecution of defendant Jesus Vargas, as well as the defendant's brother, Nathan John Vargas, and their crime associate, Roy Ha.

Defendant Ha was sentenced on June 7, 2023 to 30 years in state prison. Defendant Nathan Vargas was sentenced on June 23, 2023 to 25 years in state prison.

Mendocino County Superior Court Victoria Shanahan accepted defendant Jesus Vargas' no contest pleas and firearm enhancement admission Wednesday afternoon. The defendant will return to court in late September to be formally sentenced to the stipulated prison sentence.

**MENDOCINO COUNTY FAIR & APPLE SHOW**

SEPT. 22<sup>ND</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

OPEN 9 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY!

**FRIDAY, 9/22:**  
Free admission for children under 12  
Admission is \$6 for seniors 65 and over  
5 pm: Apple Bowl - Football  
8 pm: Dance - Scott Forbes Band

**SATURDAY, 9/23:**  
8 pm: CCPRA Rodeo  
9:30 pm: Dance - Dean Titus & the Coyote Cowboys

**SUNDAY, 9/24:**  
10 am: Sheep Dog Trials  
10 am: Classic Car Show  
Noon: Parade  
2 pm: CCPRA Rodeo  
6 pm: Dance - Los Elegidos de Oaxaca & Imperio SN

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

Apple Tasting | Livestock | Wool & Fiber Show | Exhibits

**BOONVILLE FAIRGROUNDS**

See full schedule online: <http://mendocountyfair.com/>

**A FREE PASTOR'S LUNCH**

The Senior Center  
1501 Baechtel Rd.

Thursday, September 21, 2023  
Time: 12 Noon

— Menu —  
Coffee, Soup, Tea  
Pork Loin, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll  
Dessert

A gift from a church member; ENJOY!

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It's great that most of us have no idea what measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough, pneumonia, or meningitis can do to a child. Let's keep it that way.

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at the barbecue, raising money for the operation and training at Roots of Motive Power. A silent auction offered such items as a wooden train model, a library of railway books, an air fryer, and other useful or artistic goods. A raffle allowed the people to purchase tickets to win their choice of prizes from a special shelf. A live auction was held with even more exciting gifts.

Roots of Motive Power was formed in 1982 to gather and preserve the steam implements that were instrumental in the economic growth of the county. Since then, the organization has created a living museum of devices, trains, steam implements, and more.

It has become a training ground for those who have come to appreciate the powerful machines. Roots runs various steam classes throughout the year for those wishing to learn to operate these behemoths.

"We added a class this year," said Chris Baldo, one of the founding fathers

of Roots, "the Dipper Stick class, for the steam shovel. For all the years we've been running, we had a crew that knew how to run that delicate, gargantuan machine that can break itself very easily. Those guys are beginning to get long in the tooth, and we needed to train some replacement folks. So, we're teaching an annual class and the plan is to teach another one every year," Baldo said.

The class schedule can be found at the Roots website: <https://rootsofmotivepower.com>. Memberships in the organization are \$35 a year and include an extremely detailed and entertaining history publication which publishes three times a year.

The next Roots event is the Christmas Holiday Express which operates on December 2, a Christmas party which features Santa arriving on a steam locomotive. Trees, trains, singing, carolers and refreshments make this an event for kids of all ages. The event is free and open to the public.



## Female version of "The Odd Couple," Neil Simon's beloved comic classic, shows at Willits Community Theatre from September 15 to October 1

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

Neil Simon's female version of his beloved comic classic, "The Odd Couple" shows at the Willits Community Theatre September 15 through October 1. The production features Blare Elliott as the obsessive-compulsive Florence Unger and Lisa Wilcox as the less-than-neat Olive Madison, with the pair of opposites going at it again. Also appearing are Sarah France, Meg Gardner, Gretchen Anderson, Tiffany Leigh-Logan, Jeff Shipp and Bhavy Ducharme

Director Maria Monti says the storyline is the same, with the total neatnik Florence, kicked out of the house by her husband, and invited by her longtime friend, Olive, to come stay at her thoroughly messy digs. Monti says, "It makes for a very good laugh."

"It's a heart-warming play," says Monti. "You get to see how these characters bring out the worst in each other, and then by the end, it's about the love between them." In Simon's writing, Monti says, the playwright has a way of making you laugh, but it's also serious in nature. "He knows how to use language that's either pure sarcasm or just plain silly and it goes straight to your heart."

Monti praises the play for being Simon's version of girl power, with six women on stage, all friends, and two men. The show also provides an opportunity to just let go and enjoy the humor and the quirky characters, and to have a good laugh. Shows are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available online at: [www.wctperformingartscenter.org](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org) or at the door.

At left: Blare Elliott, front, and Lisa Wilcox star as the OCD neatnik Florence Unger and the messy Olive Madison in Neil Simon's female version of "The Odd Couple."



Above: Troy James, one of the founders of the Roots of Motive Power, works on the Keystone driller.

At left: Hilding Larson, Roots volunteer, lives in San Luis Obispo, but comes to Willits to help out with the Steam Fest.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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