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Donations Accepted Edition No. 656 **Thursday, September 17, 2026**

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

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

**Posted by Caltrans
District 1**

Read the rest of
Bridge
Over on Page 4



Above, from left: Troy James, left, stands with Chris Baldo, both integral members of the Roots of Motive Power organization. The barbecue offered tri tip, pork, macaroni and tomato salads, and a roll (and beans, not pictured). Antique farm equipment at the Roots yard ranges from "restored" to "waiting-to-be-restored." Below: Wendy Wilmes holds up two home-grown tomatoes that were from a giant box, that she donated to the silent auction, grown at the Willits and Covelo Baldo-Wilmes farms.



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
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Along with free train rides, demonstrations, small engine displays, and open access to explore the yard, attendees were also welcome to purchase tickets to the barbecue, and to bid on

Read the rest of
Roots Over on page 7



At left: Maggie marvels at the reveal of her name, printed on paper from the carved and inked block on the table. Below, from left: Holly Kimball holds up a commemorative Roots T-shirt. This fine carving was left on the table for others to appreciate. Ticket booth volunteers smile for the camera including, from left: Thyri Hammang, Jade Frankum-Hammang, and Jeannie Sherber.



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Read the rest of
Lucas
Over on Page 11



Above, left: Chugging around the tracks on the Roots Loop gives a unique view for passengers. Above, right: Chad Johnson, studio director and instructor at the San Francisco Center for the Book, rolls ink onto one of the pre-cut blocks, readying it for a print. Below, from left: While train rides and wandering the yard to see the equipment are free experiences, donations are always gratefully accepted at the ticket booth. Roots dudes take a quick moment to smile for a photo on the back of The Best, including, from left: Troy James, Joe Smith, and Jimmy Booth. "The Vitruvian Maggie." The Keystone Driller was set up and demonstrating its well-digging capabilities. At bottom, from left: Roots' Loren Bryon and Jerry Moore check valves and equipment out in the yard. Two generations enjoyed looking at the small engine display at the Rec Grove. Roots volunteer Dave Sherber smiles in the passenger car.



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Data centers

To the Editor:

I recently read about the 45-day hold on data centers in Mendocino County. I was pleased that there is concern but horrified to see that it is only 45 days. In the "Mendocino Voice," a recent column suggested that the 45 days will give the county time for a careful study, evaluation, and planning for a successful transition to a high-tech future.

Apparently, this writer hasn't followed the attempts to study, evaluate and plan for a successful evolution of a crop that we have been trying to harness for decades. I beg the supervisors to think seriously and deeply about wandering down a slippery path that threatens this county's resources in favor of tech billionaires.

Dee Mullen, Covelo

Wonderful Willits

To the Editor:

I'd like to share with you our recent experience in your town. We were traveling up to Oregon on a vacation and had booked a night at Mendocino Redwoods RV Resort for a night's rest. Upon leaving Saturday morning, we noticed smoke coming from our motorhome's exhaust. We drove into town and stopped at the O'Reilly Auto Parts store. I explained our issue, and Jay came outside to take a look. He immediately said it was a blown head gasket. I asked if he knew anyone who could help with it, and he immediately called his friend, another Jay, at South Main Auto. He said to come on over, and luckily his business was basically next door.

Jay looked it over and agreed that it was a blown head gasket and made several suggestions of what our options were. We initially planned to have it towed home and fixed there and made arrangements via Jay to have Chris at One Lane Towing do the job the next day. Jay said we could park in his lot overnight and even gave us the gate combination so we could come and go.

Later that afternoon, we met Ross, who owns a towing company and shares property with Jay. He had heard of our troubles and had some other ideas he shared with us. His nephew Reese stopped by, and we all talked over our situation. Reese suggested we have the repair made here in town instead of spending the hefty sum towing it home. He got on the phone and networked and found that Chris at Nor Crawl would do the work for us. Chris agreed to meet us at 8 am Sunday morning to go over the details. We let Chris at One Lane Towing know of our plans to repair in town, and I think he was probably relieved he didn't have to make that long tow.

It had been a long, stressful day, and we needed a good meal. Ross recommended The Broiler over at Redwood Valley. We took his suggestion and had a wonderful meal. Everyone there was so nice. It was a good way to end the day.

We met with Chris at 8 am and took care of business. He had some customers ahead of us but said he'd be able to start the work next week. We decided to leave the RV and pack our tow vehicle and go back home to wait. Jay agreed to let us park the RV in his lot until Chris was ready to start work.

We just wanted to let you and your readers know how all of these folks turned a really bad situation around with their kindness and willingness to help complete strangers. This

all happened on a weekend – a time when others wouldn't be available, much less so willing to spend the time to find solutions. We are so appreciative to these folks – they really showed how amazing a small community is. Believe me, we're from a city of over 300K and kind acts like this are few and far between.

We also wanted to give a shout out to Taqueria Bravo. We enjoyed a delicious lunch there on Saturday. Keep up the good work guys, we'll be back when we return to pick up the RV.

We hope that you might be able to publish my letter so that all of these fine folks know that their kindness was deeply appreciated.

With sincere gratitude to these folks in Willits.

Sherri and Orrin Anderson, Riverside, California

Editor's Note: Willits Weekly has made an exception to our Letters Policy which says we print letters only from Third District residents, to bring you this lovely story written by travelers through our town.

Sober Grad board seeks new members

To the Editor:

To the Willits community: Willits Sober Grad is planning ahead for a leadership transition. At the conclusion of the 2026 - 2027 grad cycle, three of our long-time board members, our President, Vice President, and Secretary, will be stepping down. We are reaching out now, early, to find the people who will carry this work forward.

Willits Sober Grad is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) whose mission is to provide a safe and sober party for seniors to attend after graduation. The first Sober Grad party in Willits was held for the Class of 1986, and for the past 40 years it has remained a valued tradition in our community.

Willits Sober Grad exists because people like you believe in what we do, and show your support year after year through your donations, supporting our fundraisers, or volunteering at the party. It is a community effort, and we do what we do because we believe it saves lives.

The good news is that all three outgoing board members are committed to seeing this year's event through, which gives us a real window to bring in new leadership. We are looking to fill three open officer positions, President, Vice President, and Secretary, beginning with the 2027 - 2028 cycle. New volunteers are warmly invited to join now and shadow the outgoing officers throughout this year's planning and event, so the transition is smooth and nothing is lost along the way.

If you are passionate about keeping this tradition alive for Willits' graduating seniors and would like to learn more about any of these roles, please reach out to Carrie Lambert, Secretary; carrie.wsg@gmail.com, (707) 671-6173. With gratitude,

Willits Sober Grad Board of Directors

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. To-go lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, in front of the main desk, 1501 Baechtel Road. Due to increasing food costs, dine-in and to-go meals are now \$9.

Thursday, September 17: Ground Beef Burrito

Friday, September 18: Lasagna w/Meat Sauce

Monday, September 21: Open Faced Chili Burger

Tuesday, September 22: County-Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Country Gravy

Wednesday, September 23: Meatloaf w/Sides

Thursday, September 24: Fish Sticks & Rice Pilaf

Friday, September 25: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

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

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

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

Local candidates forum set for September 20

Submitted by the Little Lake Grange

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

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

The local races featured at the Forum are:

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

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

Willits City Council – two candidates, Robin Leler and Sherrie Ebyam, running uncontested for two seats on the Council – will introduce themselves starting about 3:35 pm. (Incumbents Larry Stranske and Bruce Burton are not running for reelection.)

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

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

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

Members of Willits Community Television plan to produce a video of the Candidates Forum to upload to WCT's Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/@WillitsCommunityTV/ after the forum.

Harvest Celebration at the Grange, October 4

Submitted by Little Lake Grange, WELL

WELL and the Little Lake Grange will host a Harvest Celebration gathering to celebrate the end of summer and the bounty of this year's harvest, on Sunday, October 4, 1 to 4 pm at the Grange. We will have reports from the action groups that grew out of the Town Hall meetings on Food Security at the Grange over the past year. Many have continued working on key areas to strengthen our local food capacity and ability to provide food to our Willits community. Find out about these and how you can participate! Reports will be near the beginning of the event, so don't be late.

In addition to information from the action groups, the Harvest Celebration will include entertainment, kid-friendly crafts, and food processing demonstrations. At this point, we have lined up apple pressing with apple juice available to take home, bring a jar or purchase one for a donation; acon processing demonstration; seed saving including how to clean and store seeds for next year - with seeds to take home; winnowing grains demonstration; a Grange garden tour; pumpkin painting; corn doll making; and more in the works.

Bring your extra harvest abundance to share with neighbors and the Food Bank. Bring seeds to clean and share!

The event is free of charge; however donation jars will be plenty and are very appreciated. The monies collected will go to support the efforts of the presenters, the Grange and WELL.

We look forward to sharing the abundance of the season and the wisdom held among our people with you on October 4, Sunday afternoon, from 1 to 4 pm, at the Grange Hall, 291 School Street.



Above, from left: These three attendees just could not keep from dancing to the music of Indiana Slim and the Kingsnakes. Craig Benson of Eureka, even after 20 holes, enjoyed dancing to the music of the Cosmic Family Band. Scott and Mary Jane kept dancing throughout the evening to the energetic tunes. Below: The Kingsnakes had a horn section that added even more flair and energy to their numbers. At right: Indiana Slim and the Kingsnakes kept the people dancing with some rocking New Orleans music.



7th Open Shindig

Disc golf players from around the country groove with locals at the tournament party

Last Saturday evening at the Brooktrails Golf Course, disc golf players from all over the country got together with some Willits locals and had a party with live music, plenty of food choices, and a "closest to the pin" contest in the dark.

Mathew Caine As the professional players in the 7th annual Brooktrails

Open tournament were finishing up their second round, throwing for the final hole, players who had already completed their rounds brought chairs and made up a gallery, cheering on their competitors as the light faded and the music heated up. There was a feeling of comradery born of a common experience, as earnest competitors sat together and recounted the rounds of the day. There was a great energy with much laughter and dancing.

"It's been a great weekend," said Kimberly Herron, who with her husband, Alex, manages the Brooktrails Golf Course. "It's great for the community. The concert is for our players this weekend. This is a thank

you for allowing us to do this for them. It's for the community too, just a fun hangout. It increases our visibility with the community, as well as California. Let's let more people know we are here and what we have to offer! We have Cosmic Family Band, Indiana Slim and the King Snakes, and Blue Luke playing tonight. It's a fun, great vibe evening."

The pro shop and the Back Nine Bistro were doing great business, with hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, and beer flying out the door of the packed building. In addition to the bistro, Ramirez Taco Truck had a stand set up, as did a slushie truck, and Flying Dog Pizza, so no one had to go hungry as they listened and danced to the three spirited music groups.

Da Grand Pooba, who arranged for the music, and has done so for other evenings at the golf course, mused: "We started with a Saturday program, doing some music on the weekends, in front of the pro shop. It

Read the rest of Shindig Over on page 9



Above, left: Blue Luke capped off the evening with his left playing of classical and original blues guitar numbers. Above, right: The Cosmic Family Band was a conglomerate of regular players and musicians from several other bands. At right: Richard "Tootrees" Jeske played marimbas during the Cosmic Family Band set. Below, left: There were games – some involving throwing discs – to keep the young ones busy and amused. Below, right: Event organizer and Brooktrails Open director Joseph Haggard finished his round and came to enjoy the music and to set up a nighttime "closest to the hole" competition.

Photos by Mathew Caine



The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

A Strategic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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If you want to be included in this column please call:

April Tweddell
 (707) 972-2475

april@willitsweekly.com

Playful Clifford

Clifford is 2 years old and weighs 48 pounds. He may be a little reserved when you first meet him, but don't let his shy side fool you! Give this handsome fawn pitbull mix a little time to get to know you, and you'll soon see his true personality shine through.

Once he's comfortable, Clifford is a friendly, playful, and outgoing guy who loves having fun and showing off his goofy side. He's looking for someone who will give him the patience and time he needs to build a relationship, and in return, you'll get a wonderful companion who is ready to play and enjoy life with you!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinoshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

Handsome Halo

Halo is one handsome mixed-breed boy with a heart of gold. He's 3-months-old+ and weighs 72 pounds.

Sweet and gentle, Halo is the calm sidekick who would love nothing more than a family to call his own. He's a truly deserving boy waiting for someone to see just how special he is. Halo has lived with dogs, he's good on a leash, and enjoys car rides. Halo's adoption fee is fully sponsored, thanks to Alex & Patty McMillen!

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

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Above, from left: Player Malum Thompson decided to utilize his forehand shot in an attempt to squeeze through the trees on the narrow path. Trophy plaques created by Fat Freddy of Sonoma are awarded to the best amateur players. Savannah Hoaglen worked the refreshment stand at the halfway point of the course, offering drinks, candy bars, and pastries. At left: Disc golf player Marty, 71, chose a forehand shot to try and reach the hole. Below: These signs on each hole showed information about distance, direction, and hazards.

Above, left: Some of the Roots of Motive Power crew stands together for a quick photo during the annual Roots Steam Up event. Above, right: The Best supervises the shovel's digging efforts in the tractor pit at the far end of the Roots yard.

Photos by Mattie Kimball

The rest of Roots From page 1

silent and live auction items to help fundraise for annual expenses to go towards the costs of keeping up the yard, as well as maintaining and replacing equipment. This year, somewhere in the range of \$20,000 was raised at the event to help with expenses.

"Attendance was really good, and the weather was, too," said Roots' Chris Baldo. "I'm always a worrywart about having to keep the cost-to-income equation as balanced as we can, which is hard when we're doing so much for free. Thankfully we were able to ask the bidders to 'go deep!' and they really came out to support the cause."

Baldo noted that in the \$8/gallon diesel era we are

Photos by Mathew Caine

Disc Golf

Brooktrails course hosts 7th annual Open tournament in the redwoods

Brooktrails Open Disc Golf Tournament Director Joseph Haggard is on the verge of seeing seven years of hard work, planning, and imagination come to fruition. Not satisfied with simply producing local disc golf competitions, he has each year raised the level of play at the Brooktrails Golf Course, gaining the reputation of the third best multi-use (golf and disc) course in the state of California, and fifth best in the world, according to Kimberly Herron, who along with her husband, Alex, manage the course and the pro shop. With this reputation, Haggard was able to create tournaments that have brought some of the best pro players in the country to the little town of Willits, increasing its visibility and status.

Mathew Caine

Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"We have 159 players from all over. We have people who are coming in from Washington, from Oregon, Los Angeles, all across California. We have some people who are over on the East Coast, flying in to come and play in the event," said Haggard proudly. "The most exciting thing, I think, is that we have been approved for next May, the Disc Golf Pro Tour. It's going to be here, part of their West Coast swing. It's the pro tour series for the best disc golf players in the world. They're going to be right here at this course. We're going to have a whole film crew. It's all going to be covered. We'll have top pros. Spectators are going to be able to come out and watch. It's going to be a next level top-tier event.

"I'm really excited for that," Haggard said. "I've been working towards it for seven years. We started talking to them in 2020 and we've been building out the course and getting it prepped. We got accepted in for next year, May 28, 29, and 30." Bleachers are being planned for the spectators. It will have all the trappings of a major golf tournament, attracting some of the best players in the world.

Last weekend's Brooktrails Open was organized into several divisions; Mixed Pro Open, Women's Pro Open, Mixed Pro 40+, Mixed Pro 50+, Mixed Pro 60+, Mixed Amateur, Women's Amateur, Mixed Amateur 40+, Mixed Amateur 50+, Mixed

Read the rest of Tournament Over on page 9

At left: Steam engineer Mattie Kimball takes a rest on top of The Best during the past weekend's Roots of Motive Power Steam Up event.

Photo by Maureen Jennison

Above: The Brooktrails course is full of traps and pitfalls. Craig Benson attempts to throw around some trees. At left: This player decided his forehand shot was preferable, to get some distance and accuracy. Below: Tournament Director Joseph Haggard shows some of the specially made discs that are given to the amateurs.

OBITUARY |

Evelyn Parks

It is with a heavy heart that we announce Evelyn Carolinda Silva Parks passed away July 13, 2026 at the age of 91. Born August 8, 1934 to John E. Silva and Frances Mello Silva.

Evelyn was a Willits resident for 61 years. She worked for several years in the school cafeteria and later worked at Microphor until her retirement.

She was preceded in death by her parents John E. Silva and Frances Mello Silva; brothers John, Henry, Maurice, Joe, and George; and sisters Mary, Angie, Velma, Lucy and Alice.

She is survived by her brother Frank Silva, sisters-in-law Betty and MaryAnne Silva; her children Diana Shevchenko, Norma Miner, Rick Staley, and Michael Parks; many nieces and nephews; her grandchildren; and great-grandchild.

Evelyn will be sorely missed by her many friends and family.

It is her request to not have a memorial service.

OBITUARY |

James Trevey

James Michael Trevey passed away suddenly due to a tragic accident Saturday, August 1, 2026, at age 78. The son of James Francis Trevey USN and Jeanne Celeste Trevey, he was born at the post-war US Naval base in Bremerhaven Germany as a US citizen on October 11, 1947.

Raised in Glendale Arizona, Michael attended the University of Arizona in Tucson for a year until he found his way to California in the summer of 1967. He drove ambulance and worked at print shops for a time, living in the hills above Santa Cruz. Motorcycles and sailing were his passions as a young man.

After sailing the Pacific and southern latitudes, his entrepreneurial endeavors afforded him an acreage property in Willits, California where he and his wife, Mary Anne, lived for the last 51 years. He and his wife cemented their place in the community by starting Mariposa Market in 1979. In the late 1980s, Michael created a successful plumbing and mechanical company Entech, which was highly regarded for its precision work, attention to detail, and community relations.

Michael leaves behind his wife, Mary Anne, daughter Marta, her husband, Chris, along with two grandsons, Raylan and Cyrus Bartow. Michael also leaves three brothers, a sister, and the community he loved. He will be remembered for his dry sense of humor and comical outlook on life. He was well-loved and respected by many of the local populace and will be sorely missed. Celebration of his life will be held October 17, 2026, at the Frey Winery tasting room in Redwood Valley at 2 pm.

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Mid week promotions: Wednesday - Matinee prices to all shows all day.

COYOTE VS ACME

(PG) 1h 43 min
Fri: 4:15
Sat: 1:15, 7:15
Sun: 4:15
Wed: 4:15
Thur: 4:15

Showtimes: September 18 to 24

THE WEIGHT

(R) 1h 52 min
Fri: 4:30, 7:30
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30
Wed/Thur: 4:30, 7:30

Closed Monday/Tuesday

PRACTICAL MAGIC 2

DELUXE THEATRE (PG13) 2h 10min
Fri: 4:00, 7:00
Sat/Sun: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
Weds/Thur: 4:00, 7:00

Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.

THE UPRISING

(R) 2h 8 min
Fri: 7:15
Sat: 4:15
Sun: 1:15, 7:15
Wed: 7:15
Thur: 7:15

Pg. 6 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Willits Weekly | September 17, 2026

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Pg. 7



At top, from left: Nappa cabbage is easiest in fall, and one of the fastest-growing vegetables. It makes crunchy salads and stir-fries. Crimson clover is a soil-enriching cover crop that is pretty enough for the front yard. Fava beans are a food crop that grows over the winter, a cover crop that enriches the soil, and a unique black-and-white flower that attracts beneficial insects. Love-in-a-mist sprouts best in September, and will bloom very early in spring. Leaves are already starting to fall, and now is the time to gather them while they are dry and light. Leaves from oaks or fruit trees make wonderful compost or mulch. Do not use walnut leaves – they're toxic to many plants.

Above, from left: If you want a cover crop that enriches the soil during the winter, vetch is an easy choice. When it starts to bloom in spring, just cut it down and dry it for a free nutrient-rich mulch. Tomato or pepper seeds are ready when the fruit is deep red-ripe. Squeeze tomato seeds into a jar, and let them ferment for 4 days or until there is a layer of white mold on top. Then rinse in a strainer and dry on a plate. Taisol is the most cold-hardy Asian green, and its mild flavor has earned it a place in most boxed "spring mix" and "super greens" salads. Seed-saving can be as simple as putting these dry cilantro seeds into a bowl. Seeds are ready to store when they shatter (rather than squish) when struck. This fine show of "Watermelon Pink" poppies was planted in fall for bloom the next spring. Below, from left: Arugula is one of the easiest and quickest things to sow in fall. Astro is a mild and fast-growing strain. Fall is a great season for salad crops, and many edible flowers like violas, calendulas, and nasturtiums grow well now too. Many locals can, freeze, or ferment their produce. My recipes for pickles and fermented hot sauce are at quailseeds.com



CONGRATS

Willits Frontier Days high point winners

Congratulations to the high point winners from this year's Willits Frontier Days horse show: Danielle Barry, over 18 years old; Kaydence Lopez, 13-18 years old; Charlie Pinon, 12 and under; and Madison Lawrence for her win in the Ranch horse class.



Eric HART
FOR MENDOCINO SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3

FIND A WAY TO YES

Our goal shouldn't be a county government that simply functions. We should strive for one that helps the whole county thrive.

A minimally functioning county government creates and enforces the rules. A well-functioning government also helps residents understand them and navigate a path forward.

That matters because when residents, businesses, and communities succeed, the whole county succeeds.

- **SERVICE** – Start with “How can we help?”
Understand what residents are trying to accomplish, set clear expectations and timelines, and explain the path forward clearly.
- **OWNERSHIP** – Help people navigate the process.
Empower employees with the support and authority to use good judgment, take initiative, and stay engaged until residents understand their options and next steps.
- **SOLUTIONS** – Don't stop at “no.” Help find a way to “yes.”
Sometimes “no” is no. More often, it should be: “Not this way, but here are some other ways to get where you're trying to go.”

1st: Fix the Foundation

2nd: Find a Way to Yes
Each builds on the last.

3rd: Stronger Together

EricHartForSupervisor.com | Paid for by Eric Hart for Supervisor 2026

FARMERS INSURANCE

Randall Cantua, LUTCF
Agent
Cantua Insurance Agency
16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490
786 Redwood Drive
Garberville, CA 95542
Tel 707.459.3276
Tel 707.923.2179
Fax 707.923.9550
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Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420
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Fax: 707 459-6369

LEGAL NOTICES

WW626
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2026-F0319
The following person or persons are doing business as Hydration Dealer, 25595 Poppy Drive, Willits, CA 95490; 704-354-4744.
Registered owner: Shalee Hansen, 25595 Poppy Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 3, 2026.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on September 3, 2026.
/s/ Shalee Hansen
Publication Dates: September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026

WW627
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2026-F0313
The following person or persons are doing business as Soul Flowering Holistic, 3001 Blackhawk Drive, Willits, CA 95490; 831-713-3238.
Registered owner: Thallia Bird, 3001 Blackhawk Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on August 25, 2026.
/s/ Thallia Bird
Publication Dates: September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026

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



Above: There were plenty of food choices at the Brooktrails Golf Open concert. These friends and teammates had a tail gate party with some of their choices.

At right: Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles brought her dog to enjoy the music.

Photos by Mathew Caine

The rest of **Shindig** From page 3

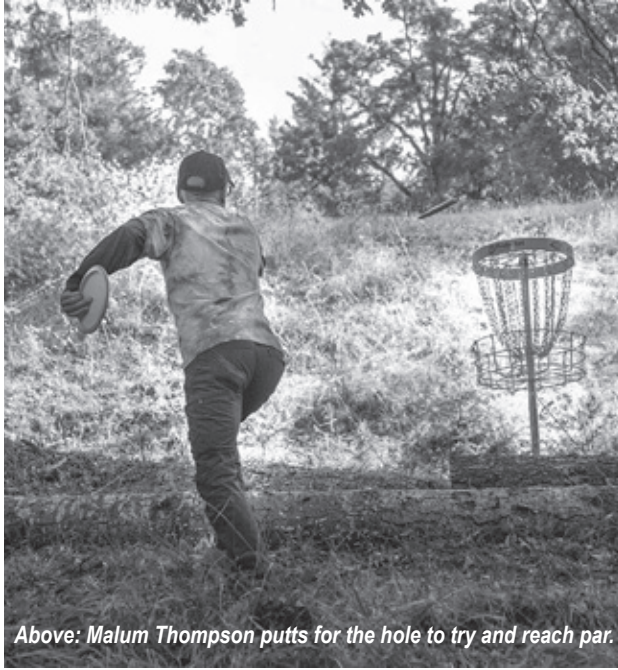
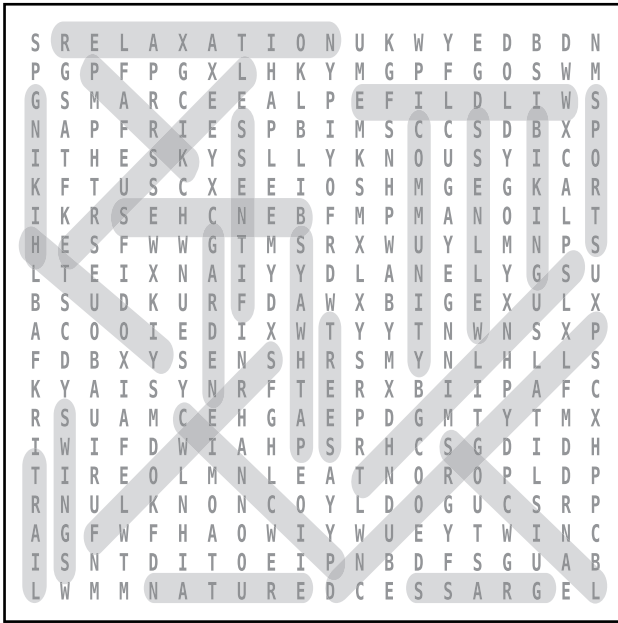
turned into an open mic night on Thursday nights. We've been working with that. This is the first time we're doing something bigger. We're trying to see what works for this venue, and next year we'll have a music program.

"The Cosmic Family Band has eight players tonight, including Clay Hawkins, Andrew Robertson, Chris Cichacki, Tootreese, and more. It's amazing. The next band is Indiana Slim and the Kingsnakes. And then Blue Luke and his band. It's quite an evening of music. You can't beat the backdrop, with the redwoods."

"There were about 300 people here from the weekend's disc golf tournament and their friends. They seem to be sticking around, and more people are showing up from town," Pooba said. "This could turn into something. I know they're going to do this disc golf tournament on an annual basis. We weren't sure what it was going to be like to bring both the golf and the music together, but it seems to be working really well."

Joseph Haggard, the tournament director, has been working for the last seven years on creating the Brooktrails Open Disc Golf Tournament, and he loves seeing both players and townspeople enjoying the music and the vibes together. "I've wanted to do more community-oriented stuff around the golf tournament," said Haggard. "We bring a lot of people to Willits from outside of the area. I wanted to give an opportunity for some of our local artists to perform and involve the general public and the players and create some commingling."

As the gallery was watching the end of the professionals' round, the music playing in the background, someone made a great shot, hit the basket from 20 yards out. A voice from the gallery shouted, "I know that guy. I know that guy!"



Above: Malum Thompson putts for the hole to try and reach par.

The rest of **Tournament** From page 7

Amateur 60+, and Mixed Amateur 2.

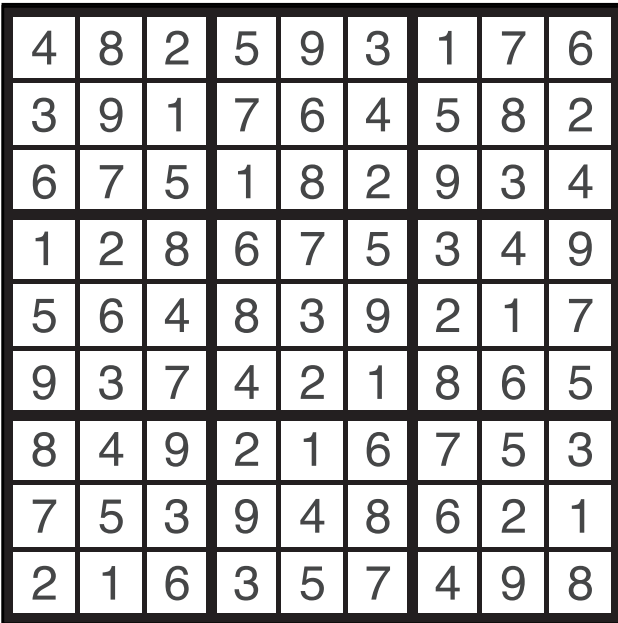
In the interest of creating a course that is both inviting and challenging, Haggard and his crew of amateurs have put in hundreds of hours, watching players, finding the lanes that are too easy, and making adjustments to create a world-class disc golf experience.

"We have disc sponsors like Proto Pipe and Bill's Flying Discs," said Haggard. "We have jerseys for the event. They're highlighting the redwoods with our sponsors down below. All of the amateur players get a jersey. We also have towels that show the whole layout of the course. They use them to keep their discs nice and dry, while showing them where to go throughout the course. Players get discs for coming out and playing. We sell some of the extras. The amateurs get the discs as part of their players package when they register. The pros just play for cash. The amateurs just get trophies if they win. These are by Fat Freddy. He's an artist in Sonoma County. The name is a Grateful Dead reference. The amateurs get the player pack; a jersey, towels, discs, coupons to local businesses here in Willits. First place for the Pro Open is going to be around \$1,400, with the Pro Over 40 division at around \$1,000 for first place."

Willits Weekly embedded with a threesome of Over Sixty Amateurs to follow and gain an understanding of the play and the course. Malum Thompson of West Salem, Oregon, Craig Benson, out of Eureka, and CR Gonzales, from Hollister, California, displayed a great sense of comradery, even though they were competing against each other. "In this sport, you root for your card mates as much as for yourself. You still want to win; you want to out-throw them, but you want to do it with them making their throws. You want to beat them at their best. We cheer each other on and we feel each other's pain. We've all had the good rounds and the bad rounds. It's how you respond to it that makes the difference," explained Thompson, a member of team Proto Pipe. "There are 20 holes on this layout. We're playing 60 sixty holes over the three days. It takes about 4.5 hours to play the course."

Of course, disc golf has its set of sports jargon, one of the aspects that brings the players together. The words describe the types of discs, the flight patterns, how the discs are "hyzers" or "anhizers," describing how they fade to the right or left, to follow the course or get around trees, of which there are many on the Brooktrails course. Of course, there is a certain amount of bravado involved when a player does well. As player Thompson is fond of quoting Will Rogers: "If you can do it, it ain't bragging."

Visit www.pdga.com/tour/event/105380 for information and scores.



CLASSIFIEDS

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

For Rent
2 bed 1 bath home, fenced yard, downtown Willits. \$1625 + Deposit. Lincoln Realty 707-459-4599

Now Hiring – Production Technician
Natural Pigments in Willits is hiring a full-time Production Technician for hands-on artist-materials manufacturing. Physical work includes lifting up to 50 lbs, handling pigments, oils, resins, and binders, and operating mixers up to 50 gallons. Monday–Friday day shift. \$20–\$25/hour depending on experience. Apply on Indeed: Production Technician – Natural Pigments, Willits.

Indoor Yard Sale
Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, September 26** – 8 am to 4 pm

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

Love Willits Weekly?
Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a "street subscriber"! You send in an annual donation, and pick up the edition on the street each week! We love our regular subscribers too: \$75 for home delivery in the Willits area; \$120 for a year's subscription in the U.S. mail. Fill out a form on page 2!

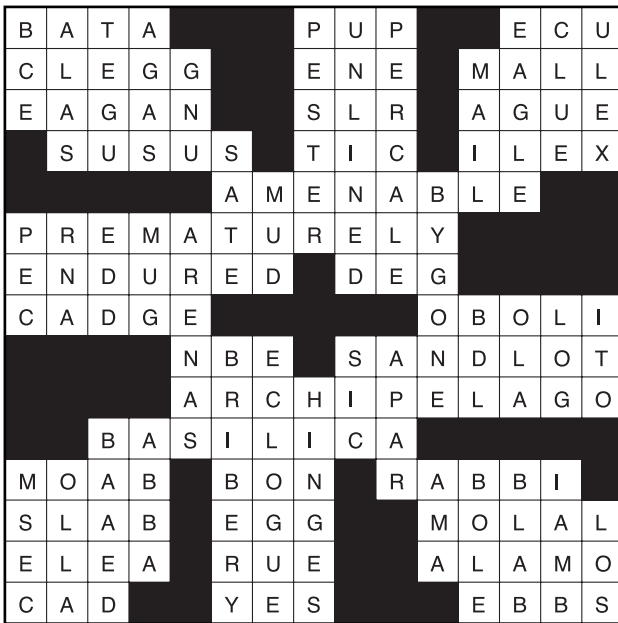
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Include a Classified ad here next week!



Above: Brooktrails Open Director Joseph Haggard displays the jerseys that are given to the amateurs with a depiction of the redwoods and logos of the sponsors: Flying Dog Pizza, Emerald Green Botanicals, Proto Pipe, Karkar's Deli, and Shanachie Pub. Below, left: CR Gonzales of Hollister came equipped with a bunch of discs for every situation, some for tee shots, some for fairway, and some for putting. Below: Alex Herron manages the Brooktrails Golf course, as well as the pro shop and the bistro, along with his wife, Kimberly. At bottom: Player Malum Thompson decided to utilize his forehand shot in an attempt to squeeze through the trees on the narrow path.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Thursday, September 17

Bit & A Bite at the Museum: Join the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum for light refreshments, and conversation with Margi Gomez Gudhe, painter, ceramic artist, musician, writer and Gallery curator at Willits Center for the Arts, who will discuss her latest adventure: printmaking, using special papers and collage. A tour of the museum afterwards. Thursday, September 17 at 12:30 pm. All are welcome, admission by donation. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits. Also learn about volunteer opportunities.

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, September 17, from 3 to 5:30 pm, for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

ATW speaker series, 'Madrone Care Network' at WCA: Avenues to Wellness presents a panel discussion on palliative care, "Madrone Care Network: Supporting Families Through Serious Illness," as part of their third Thursday of the month speaker series. Thursday, September 17, 6 to 7 pm, Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. FREE to the public, Wheelchair accessible. Palliative care is a medical specialty focused on comfort for people living with serious illness. It is appropriate for any age or stage of the illness. ATW is a community-based wellness program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit: avenuestowellness.org for an online archive of past events. Call: 456-9676 for more info.

Friday, September 18

"Bakersfield Mist" at WCT: Willits Community Theatre presents a dark and meaningful comedy by Stephen Sachs, loosely based on the story of a woman who bought a painting at a thrift store and came to believe it was a Jackson Pollock worth millions of dollars. Directed by Jim Williams, and starring two WCT veterans: Cindi Mohr as the boozy, hard-tongued ex-bartender Maude and Steve Marston as Lionel, the effete and expert art appraiser. Opens Friday, September 18 and runs through October 4, with 7 pm shows on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 pm matinees on Sundays. 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$25 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.

Mudrone at Shanachie: New band Mudrone plays an assortment of folk, rock and blues tunes, Friday, September 18 at 8 pm. Featuring Jeff Cowin on guitar & vocals, Jim Switzer on guitar, Jeff Martin on guitar & vocals, along with special guests on bass and drums. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, September 19

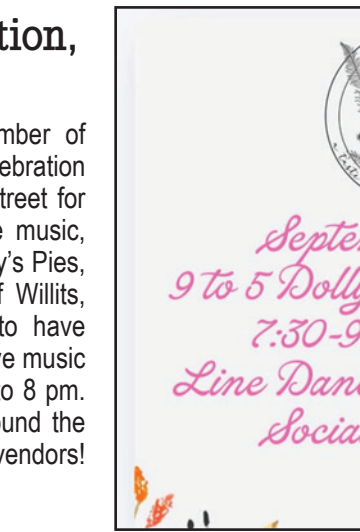
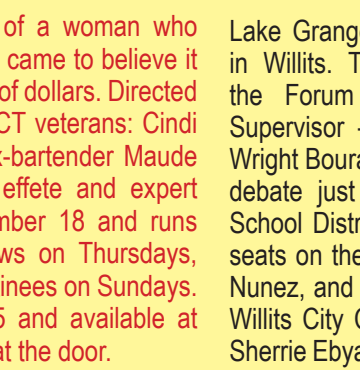
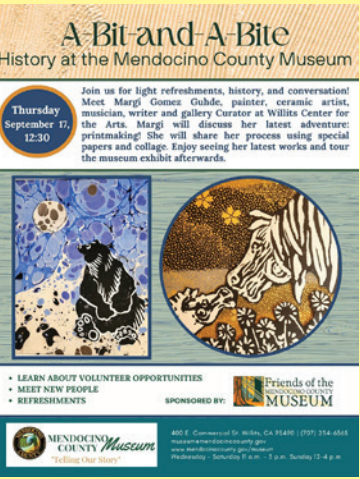
Brooktrails Clean Up Day: Come lend a hand to pick up trash in Brooktrails! September is Coastal Cleanup Month - let's all do our part to reduce litter ending up in waterways. Kids and families encouraged. Saturday, September 19, 10 am to noon. Meet at Ohl Redwood Grove Park and split into groups depending on size. Questions? 541-633-9731.

Harvest Moon Celebration, October 3

Kick off autumn at the Willits Chamber of Commerce's annual Harvest Moon Celebration in downtown Willits. Join us on Main Street for our FREE, family-friendly event -- live music, games, a pie eating contest with Kemmy's Pies, and of course the great community of Willits, family, friends, and neighbors ready to have fun, enjoy good eats, and shop local! Live music by Soul Circus Saturday, October 3, 4 to 8 pm. Wood Street to Commercial Street, around the bend to Humboldt Street. At capacity for vendors!

Skunk Train Circus Runs

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



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

"Bakersfield Mist" at WCT: Willits Community Theatre presents a dark and meaningful comedy by Stephen Sachs, Saturday, September 19 at 7 pm. 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$25 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door. See Friday, September 18 listing for more info.

Back Porch Trio at Shanachie: fun-loving sound, original songs and covers, influenced by folk, blues, classic rock, jam band, americana, and bluegrass. BPT is Rosie Wetzel (ukulele and vocals), Steve Hahm (acoustic guitar and vocals), and Jeff Taylor (bass). Saturday, September 19, at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, September 20

"Bakersfield Mist" at WCT: Willits Community Theatre presents a dark and meaningful comedy by Stephen Sachs, Sunday, September 20 matinee at 2 pm. 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$25 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door. See Friday, September 18 listing for more info

Local Candidates Forum at the Grange: A Candidates Forum is set for Sunday, September 20, covering local races for Mendocino County's 3rd District Supervisor, the Willits Unified School District Board, and the Willits City Council. From 2 to 4 pm at the Little Lake Grange, School and Pine Streets, in Willits. The local races featured at the Forum are: 3rd District County Supervisor -- a run-off between Buffey Wright Bourassa and Eric Hart, start their debate just after 2 pm. Willits Unified School District board -- four candidates vying for three seats on the board: Nicole Karker, Jeanne King, Paula Nunez, and Mason Neil Rescina -- start about 2:45 pm. Willits City Council -- two candidates, Robin Leler and Sherrie Ebyam, running uncontested for two seats on the Council -- will introduce themselves starting about 3:35 pm. These races are on the November 3 General Election along with other important county and state races and 14 state propositions. Ballots will be mailed to voters starting October 5. Other information will be available at the Forum.

Monday, September 21
Willits Gem & Mineral Society at the Grange: the monthly meeting

of the Willits Gem & Mineral Society is set for Monday, September 21, from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Meeting includes: a live talk and demonstration by Willits glassblower Cool Hand Suuze. Will be car-pooling / walking to demonstration site.

Wednesday, September 23

Willits Stamp Club at the Library: Monthly meeting at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Wednesday, September 23 this month, from 5 to 6 pm. Bring your collection, and enjoy an evening perusing stamps. Refreshments provided. More info: taisofam@pacific.net.

Thursday, September 24

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, September 24, from 3 to 5:30 pm, for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

"Bakersfield Mist" at WCT: Willits Community Theatre presents a dark and meaningful comedy by Stephen Sachs, Thursday, September 24 at 7 pm. 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$25 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door. See Friday, September 18 listing for more info.

Friday, September 25

"Bakersfield Mist" at WCT: Willits Community Theatre presents a dark and meaningful comedy by Stephen Sachs, Friday, September 25 at 7 pm. 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$25 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door. See Friday, September 18 listing for more info.

Dolly Parton Night at The Munchery: Dust off those boots and join us Friday, September 25 from 7:30 to 9 pm for a night of line dance lessons, social dancing, and Line Dancing with Rise and Thrive. Come dressed in your best Dolly-inspired look. \$10. 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

Deanne "Bunny" California at Shanachie: Percussionist and second singer for Willits Farmers Market Band, "Bunny" is a prolific songwriter and cover artist, whose live piano and vocal sets span melancholy goth-infused pop, jazz, rhythmic stompers, happy standards, and soul-stirring siren walls. Friday, September 25, at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, September 26

Willits Community Clean-Up Day: Join us and help keep Willits clean. Saturday, September 26 from 9 am to noon. "We'll be jumping down into Willits' creeks and rivers to clean them out before the rains come. Bring closed-toed shoes!" Meet at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street.

"Bakersfield Mist" at WCT: Willits Community Theatre presents a dark and meaningful comedy by Stephen Sachs, Saturday, September 25 at 7 pm. 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$25 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door. See Friday, September 18 listing for more info.

Blue Luke at Shanachie: Prodigy guitarist "Blue Luke" Andrews takes the soul of the blues, the groove of funk, the grit of rock & roll, and the harmonies of jazz into the modern world. Saturday, September 26, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, September 27

"Bakersfield Mist" at WCT: Willits Community Theatre presents a dark and meaningful comedy by Stephen Sachs, Sunday, September 27 matinee at 2 pm. 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$25 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door. See Friday, September 18 listing for more info.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

"The Uprising"

The Story: This is a mostly factual historical drama. It is also quite an exciting flick. It is a dark epoch of Plague and much suffering. England is being ruled by 14-year-old King Richard II, and also by his Royal Advisors. The date is 1381 AD.

Dan Essman
Columnist

A common peasant named Ploughman (Andrew Garfield) has lost his family to Plague. He labors behind a plow in a muddy field. Subsistence farming in the late 14th century is exhausting work. And Ploughman is truly exhausted. And then: tax collectors and brutal government soldiers show up at Ploughman's village. They are demanding payment of taxes, or face arrest and imprisonment. And then Ploughman says "Enough! No More!" He is answered with violence.

The ordinary folk take up arms and fight against the soldiers and the tax collectors. The story that is being recreated on screen is known in history books as "The Peasants' Revolt." It is quite feasibly the birth of the legend of Robin Hood

My Thoughts: As we all know, in our United States, We the People rebelled against taxation without representation. In the 14th century, the people were represented by the king and his council. As we all know, the un-elected representatives are quite often more ruthless than trustworthy. That's why our forefathers designed a representative republic which allows us, the ordinary folk, to peacefully say "No More Abuse." It's our job. Thus, this darn fine movie "The Uprising" is a cautionary tale about the inevitable dangers of the un-rectified abuses of government power.

Parents: Too violent for little children. Teens and up. *Willitsian* Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

The rest of

Chief

From page 1

at some of the service clubs. "I think everybody feels it, and so we'll have a booth set up at Harvest Fest to recruit some volunteers."

Firefighter training in September consisted of "over the bank operations with our heavy rescue which is rescue 5430 and brush 5461.... We did have a couple big incidents, Highway 20, we service that area, and, in the Pine Mountain area. So, we had to utilize our over the bank skills in those areas." Alvarez also mentioned EMT calls including child birth, birthing emergencies, and a neonatal resuscitation.

He commended Little Lake Training Officer Harry So for teaming up with Roadrunner Driving School to give a presentation to the students at the 7th Day Adventist School on Bray Road on safe driving topics.

Chief Alvarez encouraged Willits and especially 95490 residents again to make sure their address is visibly posted on the front of their homes or the bottom their driveways. "It's extremely, extremely important to have the visible addresses posted.... This is how police or fire or the ambulance get to you in the event of emergency. A fire, we're going to figure out where it's at eventually, but a medical aid call out String Creek or Tomki or Hearst...."

The fire department has access to multiple GPS functions. "We have a tablet command which is a GPS function," Alvarez said. "We have active 911 which is a GPS function. And we have Starlink for those rural areas -- a lot of times you don't have [cell] service out there, so when we go out there, we rely heavy on GPS. But again, if you don't have an address post, and it's hard to find you, there's nothing worse than pulling up on scene, when you have three navigation aids, and it says you have arrived. You look around -- and you're in the middle of nowhere. It constantly happens. So

super important to get that addressing.... The green reflective sign is key when you're driving around high mountains, having it pretty visible and well lit up."

In town, Fire Chief Alvarez said, the address signs just need to be in a contrasting color.

This chief also reminded residents that just because we got a little rain in the Willits area, it doesn't mean it's safe to burn now -- the burn ban is still in effect.

When there's a little bit of rain, Alvarez said, "is when we'll get our calls for service. People get the rain, they start lighting up their burn piles," which is dangerous.... The state-mandated burn ban in the warmer and dryer months of the year "is there for a reason."

One more piece of safety advice -- to check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. "In October it was a standard thing to check your smoke detector and your CO alarm," he said. Now that the lithium ion batteries last 10 years, it's still important to check everything is in working order, including the combined smoke and CO detectors.

"I've seen them save lives," he said, referring to carbon monoxide alarms. "In what could have been a serious situation. Their alarm did sound. We go to the house ... and the CO is way up there. And they have small children, too. So, you go to bed, you don't wake up from that stuff." Some of the things in our homes that produce carbon monoxide are, Alvarez said, include gas stoves, ovens, generators, vehicles running in the garage, fireplaces and wood stoves. "Never run your generators or barbecue grills indoors. Keep chimneys, heaters, and appliances maintained.... How to stay alive? Install the CO detectors. They're, I want to say, anywhere from \$40 to \$60 for a combination unit. And again, they're going to last you about 10 years."

The rest of

Chamber

From page 1

for everyone who calls Willits home.

New board of directors

The Chamber's new board of directors brings together leaders from a diverse range of local businesses and organizations. We serve with the support of the businesses and organizations we represent, united by a shared commitment to help Willits thrive. We care deeply about the future of Willits because this community is more than where we work; it is our home.

Board members include:

- President: Gary Huddle, Granite Construction
- Vice President: Jim Devine, Historic Noyo Theatre
- Secretary: Johnniann Johnstone, Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic
- Treasurer: Natalie Spackman, North Coast Builders Exchange
- Historian: Chuck Persico, Westgate Petroleum

Chamber Coordinator update

One of the Chamber's most significant developments is the return of Misty Johnson as Chamber Coordinator, effective September 1.

Misty brings extensive chamber experience, strong community relationships, and a deep understanding of local business needs. Many community members also know her as co-owner, alongside her husband, Sean, of Mendo Web Design.

Her leadership and experience will help strengthen Chamber programs, enhance member services, improve communication, and expand engagement opportunities throughout Willits.

Chamber office hours

To better serve local businesses, residents, and visitors, the Chamber has updated its office hours at 299 East Commercial Street to: Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm. This schedule better aligns with visitor activity and local attractions while also providing access to Chamber resources on Fridays when City offices are closed.

Recognizing that weekends generate significant tourism traffic, the Chamber is actively exploring opportunities to expand office hours to Saturdays and Sundays. Achieving this goal will require either additional funding support or a larger volunteer base, both of which are currently being explored.

The Chamber office continues to serve as a valuable information center, assisting hundreds of visitors and callers each month with:

- Tourism information
- Business referrals
- Relocation inquiries
- Event information
- Community resources

In addition, Chamber promotional materials, visitor guides, event flyers, and #ShopLocal campaign materials are distributed throughout the community to help increase visibility for local businesses and attractions.

Community events and economic impact

- Chamber signature events include:
 - Willits Car & Bike Show (May)
 - NEW First Friday Concert Series (May, June, August, September)
 - Harvest Moon Celebration (October)
 - NEW Willits Light Up the Park (December)

Chamber events continue to generate strong community participation and economic activity in our community. The Willits Car & Bike Show attracts more than 200 vehicles from multiple states each year, while the Harvest Moon Celebration hosts more than 80 vendors annually. In addition, the First

The rest of

Lucas

From page 1

2POT08-B Remains in a Warning Status."

Evacuation warnings and orders in Lake County are still in place.

Tuesday's afternoon's report shows 2,071 personnel currently working the fire; there had been more like 2,500 total personnel over the couple of days before that. Monday's afternoon force included: Engines 303, Water Tenders, 56, Helicopters, 10; Dozers, 79; Hand Crews, 78, and Other: 351, for a total personnel count of 2,609.

Five night-flying helicopters had been working overnight since Friday to help keep the fire from spreading, despite some windy conditions including a Red Flag Warning from the

Friday Concert Series brought hundreds of residents and visitors downtown for free, family-friendly events, increasing foot traffic and creating valuable opportunities for local businesses. The Chamber will also coordinate the Willits Light Up the Park event in partnership with Willits FFA this December. Together, these events attract thousands of visitors, strengthen community engagement, support local businesses, and contribute to the overall vitality of the local economy.

Economic benefits

The Chamber's events, marketing efforts, business programs, and tourism promotion contribute to:

- Increased visitor spending
- Greater customer traffic for local businesses
- Stronger business visibility
- Job retention and economic activity
- Increased sales tax revenue
- Business retention and expansion

Local businesses report some of their highest sales during Chamber-sponsored events. To quantify this impact, the Chamber is developing a voluntary reporting system to track:

- Average daily sales
- Event-day sales increases
- Annual business growth trends

Community benefits

In addition to economic activity, Chamber events strengthen the community by:

- Building community pride
- Encouraging civic participation
- Creating family-friendly activities
- Supporting local businesses
- Fostering connections among residents and visitors

Community partnerships

The success of these events depends on the support of volunteers, sponsors, vendors, businesses, community organizations, public safety partners, and Chamber board members.

The Chamber would like to recognize **Granite Construction** for its ongoing assistance with event infrastructure, transportation, street closures, lighting, and traffic safety coordination. Their support helps make free community events possible while reducing demands on City resources.

Business support and workforce development

In addition to community events, the Chamber is renewing its focus on business support and economic development opportunities. The Chamber is actively pursuing collaborative partnerships with West Business Development Center, North Coast Builders Exchange, and other workforce and regional economic development organizations to bring resources to our membership.

Current priorities include:

- Supporting local businesses through networking, education, and advocacy.
- Hosting quarterly educational workshops and seminars designed to help businesses grow, adapt, and succeed.
- Promoting workforce development initiatives that address labor shortages and connect residents with meaningful employment opportunities.
- Expanding business resources and professional development opportunities for Chamber members.
- Encouraging entrepreneurship and supporting business retention and expansion efforts.

Regional Collaboration and Partnerships

The Chamber continues to strengthen relationships throughout Mendocino County and the North Coast region. A notable example is the Cham-

ber's first collaborative event with the Greater Ukiah Chamber of Commerce, which is scheduled to take place in Willits on October 23. This event provides an opportunity to strengthen regional connections and encourage collaboration across communities.

Marketing and tourism promotion

Tourism remains an important component of the Chamber's work and a valuable contributor to the local economy. The Chamber promotes Willits and its many attractions through its websites and social media platforms:

Willits.org serves as the Chamber's primary website and provides information regarding:

- Membership opportunities
- Chamber programs and services
- Community resources
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Chamber events and activities

VisitWillits.com serves as a visitor-focused resource featuring:

- Local attractions
- Restaurants and dining options
- Lodging accommodations
- Shopping opportunities
- Outdoor recreation
- Community events and activities

Social media outreach

The Chamber maintains active Facebook and Instagram platforms to:

- Promote local events
- Highlight Chamber members
- Share community information
- Support local business marketing efforts

- Engage visitors and residents year-round

Together, these platforms help position Willits as a welcoming destination while supporting local businesses and encouraging visitor spending.

Partnership with the City of Willits

The Chamber extends its sincere appreciation to the City of Willits for its continued partnership and support.

The Chamber greatly values its collaborative relationship with the City and appreciates the shared commitment to strengthening the local economy, enhancing quality of life, and maintaining a vibrant community.

We look forward to identifying additional opportunities to work together in support of local businesses, economic development, tourism, and community engagement.

Looking ahead

Community involvement remains central to the Chamber's mission.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 pm, and the Chamber is actively establishing committees to help guide programs, events, and activities throughout the year.

In the coming months, the Chamber will focus on:

- Strengthening member engagement
- Expanding visitor center and membership services
- Expanding business education opportunities
- Supporting workforce development efforts
- Growing regional partnerships
- Enhancing tourism promotion
- Increasing volunteer and community participation

The Chamber encourages residents, business owners, and community members to visit the Chamber office, meet Chamber Coordinator Misty Johnson, learn more about Chamber programs and membership opportunities, and discover ways to become involved in shaping the future of Willits.

The cause is still under investigation by CAL FIRE, but the agency has confirmed there had been reports of dry lightning in that area very early Thursday morning before the fire started.

Fire watchers could see the aerial attack proceed on www.flightradar.com and keep updated on the fire with Watch Duty. The Sheriff's Office <https://mendocoready.org/> also posts emergency information, as does the Mendocino Sheriff page on Facebook. During the Lucas Fire, multiple lookout cameras in the AlertCalifornia system showed the fire and plume of smoke; search for "Lucas Fire" or zoom in to the area on the map <https://cameras.alertcalifornia.org/>



Above, from left: The Sheep Dog Trials are always a great watch at the Boonville Fair, happening this year on Sunday, September 20, starting at 10 am. The inside of the halls showcase fun fruit and vegetable displays. Apple pie, apple tasting and apple cider are three delicious reasons to head to Boonville for the fair this weekend.

Boonville Fair

2026 Mendocino County Fair
will be held in Boonville this weekend

Fall is in the air, and there's no better weather for a trip over the hills to Boonville where the annual Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show will be held this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Each day holds special events including a horse show and soccer games on Friday; Parade of Champions and crowning of the Junior Apple Jack, CCPRA rodeo, and dance with live music on Saturday; and the Sheep Dog Trials, Main Street Parade, second CCPRA rodeo, and second dance on Sunday. See a full list of events and more info online: <https://mendocountyfair.com/all-events/>

At left: Karen Smith of Wingwood Farm smiles with one of her Nubian goats shown as part of the Senior Livestock Show held at the fair. At right: The more bumps the better (am I right?!) on an heirloom tomato – and the first-place ribbon meant the judge agreed, too. Below: Shelves of plates displaying all types of tasty apples on display at a past Boonville Fair. At bottom: Giant pumpkins weighed and displayed, making the fair feel even more like the fall season.



MONDAY NIGHT IN THE VALLEY

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO
WWW.SVRCASINO.COM

Guests who earn 100 points will receive 1 entry ticket to place into the drawing barrel of either the home team, or away team, for Monday Night Games!
Every Touchdown, winner will be drawn from that team's barrel, plus the winning team barrel will be drawn for **\$50 free play** up to 10 winners each Monday night!
Enjoy Café Specials 5PM to 9PM.



HALF TIME **HOT SEATS**

HOT SEATS UP TO 10 WINNERS
FOR \$20 FREE PLAY AT
THE HALFTIME OF EACH GAME FEATURED!

MONDAYS AND SUNDAYS

FOURTH QUARTER FORTUNES

SUNDAYS:
50 Points Per Entry after Earning 200 Points For Drawings every 15 minutes in the fourth quarter of Sunday Nights Game! Wins start at \$10 and Double each time you are drawn up to four times per Night! Win Up to \$150 in Free Play!!

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A County Supervisor must listen to residents, understand the rules, balance competing needs, and make informed decisions that support responsible growth while protecting what makes Mendocino County special.

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