

# Willits Weekly

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Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 503

Thursday, June 1, 2023

## Deadline June 27 for Brooktrails fire assessment ballot

Barbara O'Reardon  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board focused on three items at their May 23 meeting.

The board unanimously approved the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$133,477.52.

The second agenda item was "Discussion of Brooktrails Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment District Ballot Measure and Community Investment in the Fire Department" which has remained on the agenda for the past several weeks in preparation for the final vote tabulation which will take place on Tuesday, June 27 at the Brooktrails Community Center.

Brooktrails property owners have all received individual ballots on the fire assessment via mail, and they have been advised to either mail in their ballots or bring them to the 7 pm meeting at the Community Center on June 27.

Brooktrails residents are

Read the rest of **Ballot**  
Over on Page 13

## PG&E inspecting gas pipelines in Willits

Submitted by PG&E

As part of our commitment to providing customers with safe and reliable natural gas service, Pacific Gas and Electric Company will be conducting an internal inspection of our natural gas pipelines in the Willits and Redwood Valley areas. These in-line inspections are done throughout our natural gas system to support the ongoing safe and reliable delivery of natural gas.

The work - Beginning in May and lasting through September 2023 - will take place near Baechtel Road and East Hill Road in Willits, and south of the intersection of West Road and East Road in Redwood Valley. We do not expect any disruption to natural gas service for customers while the work is conducted.

During this inspection timeframe, customers may observe crews, trucks and other equipment while work is staged and conducted. We expect work will take place from 8 am to 5 pm on weekdays.

"In-Line-Inspection" technology is PG&E's preferred method of

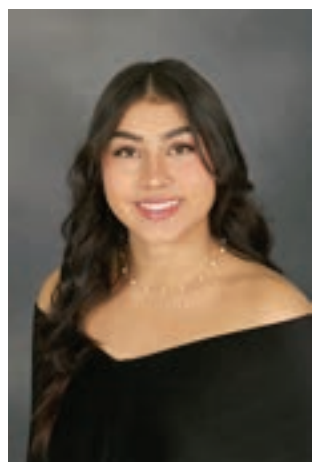
Read the rest of **Inspecting**  
Over on Page 15



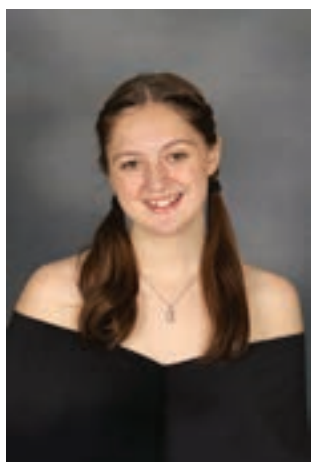
Photos by Maureen Jennison

## Con'GRAD'ulations 2023

The next batch of Willits graduates is getting final preparations underway before walking across the stage and into the next part of their lives. This week, finals are being held, the valedictorian and salutatorian will be selected, and the trip to Great America is planned for Friday. Early next week, students will do their check-out procedures, returning books, computers and uniforms, and then will participate in graduation practice for several mornings. The inspirational senior walk at Brookside School is planned for Thursday, June 8, and a senior breakfast is planned for the morning on Friday, June 9. Graduation will take place at 5 pm on Friday, June 9, and the Main Street parade will follow the ceremony. Willits Police Department reminds the public that only graduates are allowed to sit in the open back of vehicles! Congrats, grads! Order a copy of the group photo above by logging onto: <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/graduation>



Senior Class President  
**Laila Britton**



Senior Class Secretary  
**Emily Maxwell**



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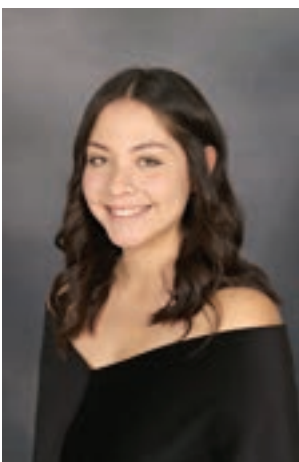


ASB President  
**Megan Nava**

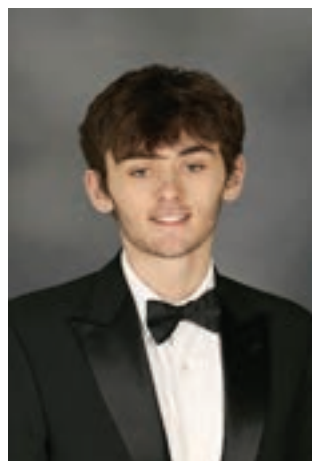
**The annual graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, June 9 at 5 pm at Willits High School's Maize Field**

Students from Willits High School and Sanhedrin High School will walk across the stage together to accept their diplomas.

See all the grads on pages 8 and 9!



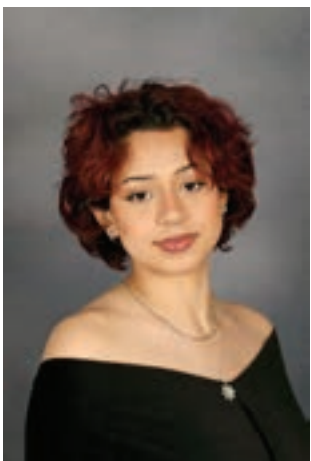
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**Shelby Perez Bowen**



ASB Co-Historian  
**Alessandra Manzo**



ASB School Board Rep  
**McKenna Thom**

## New Deputy Sheriff Coroners sworn in

Posted by Mendocino Sheriff

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce that Deputy Isaac Sanchez and Deputy Sierra Rogina were sworn in as Deputy Sheriff Coroners on May 30, 2023.

Deputy Rogina was raised in the Ukiah area and Deputy Sanchez was raised in the Philo and Boonville area. Deputy Sanchez and Deputy Rogina both have ties to Mendocino County and have started their careers in public service by joining the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Rogina and Deputy Sanchez attended the Santa Rosa Junior College Basic Police Academy

and graduated on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. They will both begin their 18-week training program with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and will be working on patrol throughout the county during their training programs.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Deputy Sheriff with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, please visit [www.mendocinosheriff.org](http://www.mendocinosheriff.org) and select "Careers" on the top right banner.

At right: Deputy Issac Sanchez, left, and Deputy Sierra Rogina were sworn in May 30 as Deputy Sheriff Coroners for Mendocino County.

Photo courtesy Mendocino Sheriff



## Council sets July hearing for water, wastewater rates

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At their May 24 meeting, Willits City Council members accepted the results of a consultant's study of water and wastewater rates, which recommended a five-year rate plan designed to ensure the city recovers the cost of providing water and wastewater services, including infrastructure improvements.

City staff and consultant Bartle Wells Associates recommended raising rates each of the next five years, adding up to 33 percent in total. The version of the plan the council approved would front load some of the rate increases, with a 7 percent raise the first three years (fiscal years 2023/24 (starts August 1, 2023), 2024/25, and 2025/26), and then 6 percent raises in fiscal years 2026/27 and 2027/28.

"Volumetric" water rates (based on the amount you use) will go from the current \$6.28 per 100 cubic feet of water for Tier 1 customers to \$6.63 in fiscal year 2023/24, to \$7.06 in fiscal year 2024/25, to \$7.52 in

Read the rest of **Water**  
Over on Page 15

## Firefighters fundraiser set for June 17

Submitted by Little Lake Firefighters Association

Join us for the 95th Annual Firefighters Association Open House and BBQ Fundraiser 2023!

The fundraiser is set for Saturday, June 17 from 12 noon to 8 pm at the Little Lake Fire Protection District Station 54 on Commercial Street.

The Little Lake Firefighters Association is a nonprofit organization made up of 40+ volunteers who respond to our community's fires, rescues, and other emergencies 24 hours/day, 365 days/year! The money raised from this once-a-year fundraiser will be used to purchase specialized equipment, to provide the most current training and education to your volunteer firefighters, and to fund other vital activities of the Firefighters Association.

With your donation of \$10 per ticket, you have a chance to win some great prizes from businesses within our community! We are also selling dinner tickets which consists of a Barbecued Chicken Quarter, Salad, and Garlic Bread for \$20!

The grand prize is a

Read the rest of **Benefit**  
Over on Page 13



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Vote for Round Valley Skate Park Project

To the Editor:

Greetings. My name is Desirea Fish, and I hail from Covelo, California. Currently, I reside in Phoenix, Arizona. Recently, on a spontaneous whim, I decided to participate in Tony Hawk's skate park hero contest, with the intention of garnering attention for the Round Valley Skatepark Project.

Following my wedding in 2012, which took place here in Arizona, our photographers we hired struck up a friendship with the attendees, and later relocated to my childhood hometown of Covelo, California. Since their relocation, they have become actively engaged in the local community. They even established one of the best pizza establishments in Covelo, known as the Covelo Cave. Presently, their focus lies on the Round Valley Skatepark Project.

Russell Silva, a member of the aforementioned couple, has always held a deep affection for skateboarding culture. For him, it has served as an invaluable means of decompression and stress relief. However, since settling in Covelo and raising his family there, he has been unable to find a local outlet for his skateboarding pursuits.

As someone who once embraced skateboarding during my teenage years, following my move from Covelo to Arizona, I understand the significance of a community skate park as both a recreational facility and a safe haven for youngsters.

Motivated by this understanding, I took it upon myself to enter the Tony Hawk skatepark contest on behalf of the Round Valley Skatepark Project – and to our delight, we were selected as contenders! We are grateful for this opportunity to share here, allowing us to reach a wider audience and garner more support.

Attached is the link to the contest submission and a QR code for your convenience. Please share! My aim is simply to maximize exposure by sharing this opportunity with as many individuals as possible. Link to our project: <https://skateparkhero.org/2023/desirea>

Thank you for your valuable time and thoughtful consideration.

Desirea Fish, formerly of Covelo

## Food Bank update

To the Editor:

The Willits Food Bank continues to give out food and various incidentals to hungry and food-insecure people in the Willits community. Our recipient numbers continue to increase. Donations are sincerely appreciated for money as well as food, some clothing items, and bedding.

Special thanks goes to Barbara Lincoln H & R Block Tax Office for the most food donated: 1,396 pounds! Also, thank you to the Willits Post Office, Willits schools, Adventist Health Howard Hospital, Lutheran Church, Methodist Church, Rite-Aid, Sparetime Garden Supply, and to many individuals who bring in food for our distributions to those in need. Please let us know if your organization needs to be thanked here!

The Redwood Empire Food Bank continues to bring free or low-cost good food delivered to our door twice each month. We are very grateful to be able to give out quality groceries.

## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto: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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To those local organic gardeners who have room to plant extra rows for healthy donations to the Food Bank this growing season, your efforts and hard work will be well-received. We get local garden food in the tons each year! Please help to keep those in need in better health by your kind generosity.

Moving update: The food bank plans to move from East San Francisco Street to Railroad Avenue during the 2023 summer. The new facility will give us more space both inside and outside, with some additional possibilities for growth.

Please watch for the Summer Fund Drive coming soon!

Thanks to all who help in so many ways to keep our local food bank running smoothly through your donations, and to our excellent staff and volunteers who bring their best each day. Special appreciation to the Food Bank Board of Directors who work together to solve complex problems and to keep moving forward. You're amazing!

Ruthanne Volz, executive director, Willits Community Services and Food Bank

## A more food secure future

To the Editor:

Local, healthy, organic food. Many in our community would like to eat that if available and affordable. Even if the first three words don't call to you, we still all want to eat food. Some trust that the systems in place to bring us food, power and goods will continue indefinitely into the future. Others feel that we should begin the transition towards more local production.

In order to have local food available we need to have both places and people to grow the food. From a tomato plant in a pot on your porch, to a backyard garden bed, to empty lots in town, to acreage in the Willits valley and beyond, food can be grown at all different scales in many ways. I, myself, am concerned about where my food will be grown in the not-too-distant future.

Recently I have been meeting with others as part of a "Building Community" forum (next meeting June 18, 4 pm, Willits Methodist Church at School and Pine) to discuss food security and other pertinent topics. As part of the food group we have explored where and how we can inspire and create options for local food production.

At the city level Willits could adopt a "Garden Friendly" city resolution as Fort Bragg and Point Arena have done, tasking a city official with encouraging gardens throughout the city, promoting food security, and celebrating our local foods. With backyards, empty lots and the community gardens, there is much that could be done to increase local production, while our community could work and learn together while creating gardens and growing food. High schoolers interested could help build and maintain local gardens while becoming more integrated into our community.

On a larger scale, food production will require more than part-time gardeners on small plots. While the Willits valley is currently doing great at raising hay and cows, the diversity in crops produced is small. I believe that we should be rethinking how farmers access land and have pathways for those who want to farm to have long-term affordable access to production land.

A CSA – a community supported agriculture subscription – operates by community members paying a fee each year to become a member of a farm and receive a portion of the produce from that season's harvest. On a larger scale, this could be something where members of the community join together to buy or invest in the farm itself, hire a farm manager, and secure food production not for one season but for years to come. The farmer could be guaranteed housing and a stipend/salary, and the land would remain secure as members of the community would own it.

I ask you.... Do you want to eat local organic food? If so, where do you see it growing and who do you see growing it in the future? If you want to be a part of this conversation, please come join the discussion on June 18 or send me an email to [mikeafarmer@gmail.com](mailto:mikeafarmer@gmail.com).

Mike Adams, Willits

## 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. Price is \$7.

**Thursday, June 1:** Turkey a la King, Green Salad, Roll

**Friday, June 2:** Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll

**Monday, June 5:** Sub Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

**Tuesday, June 6:** Lasagna w/Meat Sauce, Green Salad, Garlic Bread

**Wednesday, June 7:** Chicken Salad Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Pickle

**Thursday, June 8:** Sausage Cabbage Casserole, Green Salad, Roll

**Friday, June 9:** Ground Beef Tacos, Rice, Beans

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

**Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am.**

**Meals on Wheels:** The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Deb 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.

## Next Willits Song Circle set for June 7

The Willits Song Circle is a monthly gathering, this month on Wednesday, June 7, from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Methodist Church.

### What is a Song Circle?

A group of people who like to sing together, a community of song. Open to all!

### Who will lead it?

Hosted by Jane McCabe, led by Don Willis and Madge Strong, but anyone can lead a song.

### What kind of songs?

Rounds, popular songs, folk songs, simple part songs—anything that can be learned easily.

### Can I bring my guitar?

Guitar, drum, shaker—anything that you can sing along with.

### Do I have to lead a song?

No – you can just sing along.

### What does it cost?

It's free! Donations accepted for the use of the hall.

Join Jane, Don, Madge and a great group of friends for a fun and harmonious singfest, the first Wednesday of every month, at the Willits Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, School and Pine Streets. See you there!

## Museum invites families to make milk carton sculptures on June 10

Submitted by Mendocino County Museum

Mark your calendars! Our Mark Walker Art Challenge will take place Saturday, June 10 from 1 to 3 pm in our newly opened Museum Makerspace. Join us as we take inspiration from the art of Mendocino County Folk Artist Mark Walker and use milk cartons and other found objects to create colorful and funky works of art.

In the spirit of Walker's resourcefulness and clever use of found materials, we hope this program will challenge participants to rethink art and how it is made. Participants are invited to display completed creations in our Community Art Cabinet in the Museum Makerspace.

Read the rest of **Sculptures** | Over on page 13



Above, from left: Dink Walkley accepts a trophy for Best of Show for his 1940 Ford Coupe. John Yde organized the Corvettes, including this go-cart. Steve Alexander and his son brought a beautiful '66 Mustang and a newer Cadillac Escalade. Below, left: A row of well-maintained classic cars sit in the early morning sun. Below, right, from top: Alan Billinger and his daughter, Zoe, show off this 1940 Mercury convertible. Bruce Burton won one of the sponsor trophies with this 1912 Pathfinder. Attendees appreciate the beautiful 1950s Bel Air.



# Mint Condition

## Over 120 entries of classic perfection at Willits Chamber of Commerce Car and Bike Show

After 41 years, the Willits Chamber of Commerce Car and Bike Show, as evidenced by the number of entries and the number of attendees, is still going strong and will, most likely, be a continuing annual event for the people of Willits to look forward to.

The weather was perfect, until it rained, but even the moisture did not dampen the spirits of the participants as they proudly showed off their restored and preserved motive metal sculptures, their hoods open to demonstrate the metallic engineered beauty of the motors, transmissions, interiors, and paint jobs. The gleaming and colorful mélange of hues and shiny chrome were a testament to the love these enthusiasts have for their (mostly) classic vehicles.

In the end, several of the entries received prizes, trophies cut out of metal by the crew at MetalFX. Most of the trophy winners were choices by the sponsors and reflected their personal aesthetics, like the 1912 Pathfinder, owned by Bruce Burton, or one of the many Corvettes in attendance, a couple of which won sponsor trophies.

But the major trophies were given out for Best of Show (chosen by the Willits Chamber of Commerce) and won by Dink Walkley for his bright orange 1940 Ford Coupe. The Mayor's Choice, by Greta Kanne, was Daryl Lev's red GMC truck. The Police Chief trophy was awarded to Steve Quinliven's muscle car, a 1968, bright red Camaro. The Fire Chief was impressed with Al Fox's 1947 Willys wagon.

At right: The Willits Wild Bunch motorcycle club attends the event to raise money for their Toy Run.

Below: Gretchen and Christopher Moore show a couple of classic Volkswagens.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Please feel free to visit our office for brochures, maps and additional information about the area

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## What's Happening Around Town

has been breeding tomatoes and peppers at Green Bee Farm in Sunol, California for two decades, and his tomatoes are in high demand by chefs in the Bay Area. He will share his tips for growing and breeding tomatoes, and will be sharing tomato starts with community members before the talk. Round Valley Library, 23925 Howard Street, Covelo. The talk is free, and everyone is welcome. Info: [www.mendolibrary.org](http://www.mendolibrary.org) or 707-983-6736.

**"Hymn to Her" at WCT:** This locally written production about the evolution of love and romance over the past 400 years in America, written by Mike A'Dair, opens at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane, on Friday June 2. The show is comprised of seven one-act plays set in a sequence of various locations and times between 1640 and 2017: directed two each by Jeff Shipp, Elk McCarthy and Garrett Moore, with one play directed by playwright A'Dair. Runs Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm, through

June 11. \$20; tickets are available at [wctperformingsartscenter.org](http://wctperformingsartscenter.org), and at the door.

### Saturday, June 3

**Willits Junior Horsemen's Playday:** the first of two Junior Horsemen's Buckle Series events at the Willits Horsemen's Arena, Saturday, June 3 and Saturday, June 25. Featuring Cloverleaf Barrels, Washington Poles, Speedball, Dollar Bill Race, Single Stake, Steer Daubing and Keyhole. Starts at 9 am. The Juniors event is open to the public to come and watch. For entry form and more info about signing up as a competitor, visit "Willits Junior Horsemen's Association" on Facebook, or call Mary at 707-354-0112.

**WCA June Show Opening:** The June exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts features the paintings of Darrell Carpenter and paper cuts and collages by Robert Ross. Meet the artists at the opening reception, Saturday, June 3, 6 to 9 pm. Gallery hours are Friday-Sunday, 11 am until 5 pm. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: visit [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org) or call 707-459-1726.

**"Hymn to Her" at WCT:** Seven one-act plays at the Willits Community Theatre about the evolution of love and romance over the past 400 years in America, written by Mike A'Dair. Saturday, June 3 at 7:30 pm. \$20. See Friday, June 2 listing for details.



but anyone can lead a song: Rounds, popular songs, folk songs, simple part songs—anything that can be learned easily. Free. Donations accepted for the use of the hall.

### Friday, June 9

**June WCA Art Talk:** Willits Center for the Art's talk this month features guest speaker Jennifer Rycenga on "Spectacular Hidden Gems: A Cornucopia of Little-Known American Women Artists." Friday, June 9 at 6:30 pm at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org)

### Sunday, June 4

**Willits Horsemen's Association BBQ & Rodeo Playday:** Back in full swing with the big BBQ, a barrel race, the main rodeo event, and an added cornhole tournament, w/entry at \$100/team. To enter the cornhole tournament, call Paul Riley, 707-272-6261. The barbecue starts at 11 am, and BBQ tickets for adults are \$20 each and \$10 each for children under 10. The rodeo starts at 1:30 pm and is free for spectators to attend. Rodeo events include: Breakaway Roping, Team Roping, Steer Daubing, Barrel Racing, Steer Stopping, Pole Bending, Goat Tying, and Hide Race. Free events include a Stick Horse race and the Boot Scootin' Boogie (kids only). For entry form and general rodeo info, visit "Willits Horsemen's Association, Inc." on Facebook or call Karen at 707-529-6884.



### Saturday, June 10

**Summer Reading Kickoff at the Library:** Celebrate the beginning of the Summer Reading Program with musician and scientist Don O'Brien, offering "Extreme Science Magic," his seemingly magical fast-moving and interactive science experiments. Saturday, June 10, 10 to 10:45 am. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-5908.

**"Hymn to Her" at WCT:** Seven one-act plays at the Willits Community Theatre about the evolution of love and romance over the past 400 years in America, written by Mike A'Dair. Saturday, June 10 at 7:30 pm. \$20. See Friday, June 2 listing for details.

### Sunday, June 11

**"Hymn to Her" at WCT:** Seven one-act plays at the Willits Community Theatre about the evolution of love and romance over the past 400 years in America, written by Mike A'Dair. Closing show today: Sunday, June 11 matinee at 2 pm. \$20. See Friday, June 2 listing for details.

### Wednesday, June 7

**Art Night at Willits Library:** Bring your own project to work on in the company of fellow artists, third Thursdays of the month. Geared towards adults. Wednesday, June 7, 4:30 to 6:45 pm. Light refreshments. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-5908.

**Willits Song Circle:** this month's gathering is Wednesday, June 7, from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, School and Pine streets. A "song circle" is a group of people who like to sing together, a community of song. Open to all. Hosted by Jane McCabe, led by Don Willits and Madge Strong,

### COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

## 'The Little Mermaid'

**The Story:** Disney's combined live action/animated remake of their fully animated full-length feature



Dan Essman  
Columnist

fixated on human beings. (With legs! And castles. And sailing ships.) She's especially taken with a handsome and dashing young land-person who's an actual prince (Johan Hauer-King). Her stern father, the King of the Sea (Javier Bardem) forbids her from having anything to do with land-people. But she does not listen to her father.

As we all know, bad things always happen to a pretty little mermaids who disobey their papas. Then, an especially nasty witch with tentacles (Melissa McCarthy) casts a spell on our one mermaid in particular. Poor feckless and bedazzled Ariel, she's in for a tough time.

**My Thoughts:** The technical effects are stunning. To my (special effects-jaded) eyes, Ariel is half-young woman, half-funny fish, a proper mermaid under the sea. When the flick ended and the good guys won, I met an excited troupe of very happy kids leaving the Noyo.

They were ecstatic. Their mothers asked me to take pictures of them in front of the "Little Mermaid" poster. (I took three or four). I think our local kids' reactions say all that needs to be said about the movie, why it was made, and who it was made for.

**Parents:** This is a family picture, a Disney movie. The kids will love it.

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

REDWOOD EMPIRE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: [REDWOODEMPIREFAIR.COM](http://REDWOODEMPIREFAIR.COM)

## JUNE 2-4, 2023

## Skunk Train benefit for Train Singer Greg Schindel, June 3

Posted by the Skunk Train

Join us for a very special one-time train ride this weekend to celebrate our dear friend Greg Schindel, the Train Singer – all proceeds go to support our friend as he works toward defeating cancer.

Greg Schindel, known to thousands as the beloved Train Singer, is currently in a battle with cancer – and we're all trying to come together to support him.

This special benefit run of the Wolf Tree Turn train on Saturday, June 3 departs the Willits depot, 299 East Commercial Street, at 1:30 pm – all proceeds will go to benefit Greg and support him and his family during this difficult time.

The Wolf Tree Turn is a 2-hour round trip that takes you from the Willits valley floor to the highest point on our rail line. During this trip you will pass through Tunnel #2 and descend into the redwood-thick Noyo River Canyon – an amazing ecological wonderland, and an excellent opportunity to discover the mighty giants that made Mendocino County famous.

The train will stop briefly at Crowley while you enjoy the splendor of one of the oldest and most iconic trees along our route. The Wolf Tree was so named for the large growth off of one side – woodsman called these wolf trees because they choke out smaller trees and underbrush. Passengers are able to get off the train during our stop at Crowley, to better enjoy the views.

You'll make the trip to Crowley on board one of our historic Diesel-Electric engines.

Greg Schindel has been aboard our trains as the Train Singer since 1988, entertaining generations of travelers on the Redwood Route.



Greg Schindel, the Train Singer, performs on the Skunk Train.

In the years before Train Singer, Greg received his early education at a boarding school in Exeter, New Hampshire. He later earned a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from Sonoma State University. In the 1960s and '70s, Schindel worked the music scene in Southern California, where he developed his original style of music, described as "Northern California Transcendental Folk Jazz." Schindel was the lead singer and songwriter for the musical group, "Kindred Souls."

His songs include thoughtful lyrics about life in the country, love, and experiences along the way. True to his heart, Greg fell in love and started a family, his greatest accomplishment of all. Over the years, the family has grown, and Greg's musical talent has blossomed into the multi-faceted character he is today.

Fares: Adult: \$79.95 (ages 13 and up); Child: \$59.95 (ages 2-12); Infant: \$10.95 (under 2); Dog: \$10.95.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/skunktrain/items/123236/availability/1199295547/book/>

To support the ongoing preservation and rehabilitation of our railroad, an 8 percent historic preservation fee will be added to each purchase.

Trains run rain or shine. Always dress appropriately. Guests should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to departure as the train leaves promptly at the departure time.

Wheelchair accessible. Some cars might require switching from your chair to a coach seat.

For more information, see our FAQs at <https://www.skunktrain.com/frequently-asked-questions> or call 707.964.6371.



## Brookside Transitional Kindergarten extending to full day for the 2023 / 24 school year

By Jaclyn Luna for Brookside Elementary

Pre-enrollment is currently open at Brookside Elementary School for the 2023 / 2024 school year. One big change coming up next year is that transitional kindergarten will be a full-day class, from 8:10 am to 2:30 pm daily.

In the past, including the current year, TK has been a half-day class, with students getting out at 11:30 am. The new schedule will extend the day for the school's youngest students and they will be in class the same time as the rest of the student population. Children are eligible to pre-enroll for TK if they will turn 5 years old between September 2, 2023 and April 2, 2024.

Children benefit from attending TK in multiple ways. According TK teachers Cyndi Pfingsten and Kari Rescina, TK helps the student develop

fine motor skills which are needed before they begin writing. Additionally, TK gives students an opportunity to develop friendship and social skills. Students learn how to be a student, gaining skills like listening, following directions, taking turns, cooperating with teachers and classmates, and participating in whole group and small group activities.

Children attending TK have opportunities to develop fundamental math and English language arts skills through daily hands-on activities. Children have free choice playtime every day. Children who attend TK are better prepared for kindergarten.

Parent Bonnie Hinton said of her son attending TK, "When my son went to TK, he

learned all of his letters, all of his sounds, and all of his numbers. He knew words and could read by the time he got to kindergarten. By the time he graduated kindergarten, he was reading at a level 11, when kindergarteners only need to read level 5."

Hinton's son remains a strong reader. He is currently in fourth grade and reading at a high school level. She attributes her son's academic success, in part, to attending TK at Brookside Elementary.

A current immunization record and birth certificate are necessary to complete enrollment. Pre-enroll is available at [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com). Call Brookside Elementary with any questions at 459-5385.

### Thursday, June 1

**Twining Time at Brickhouse:** Anita and John Wagenet of Twining Time play an eclectic mix of original and covers of many genres. Thursday, June 1, at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 Main Street, from 12 noon to 2 pm. "Tight harmonies and original interpretation are our specialty. Enjoy a Brickhouse Coffee break with Twining Time to entertain you."

**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.

### Friday, June 2

**Tomato Breeding Talk at Round Valley Library:** Fred Hempel of Artisan Seeds will talk on tomato breeding at the Round Valley Library Community Room, Friday, June 2 at 3 pm. Hempel

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Presenting

Art Talks

Jennifer Rycenga Ph.D.

Spectacular Hidden Gems: A Collection of Little-Known American Women Artists

June 9, 2023

6:30 pm

71 East Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490

[www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org)

Learn the role of a Hospice Volunteer

Learn the Application Process

Understand the philosophy of Adventist Health Hospice Services

Participate in optional Volunteer Support Groups

Location: WILLITS Center for the Arts

FREE to the public

Call 459-7476 for more information

Adventist Health Hospice Services

### Redwood Empire Spring Fair

It's Spring Fair time this weekend at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah. June 2-4. Free Fair admission. All grandstands require a ticket. Gates open 3 pm on Friday and at noon on Saturday and Sunday. Monster Trucks & Mudd Boggs at 6 pm Friday and Saturday. Monster Truck tickets are \$25 at the gate for age 12+, \$15 for age 3-11. Live music every day. Carnival (wristbands are \$27 at the fair) – and don't forget the Fair food! Parking: \$10. More info: [www.redwoodempirefair.com](http://www.redwoodempirefair.com)

Vendors Faire

Come pick up some one of a kind Father's day gifts

SATURDAY JUNE 10 2023 11AM-5PM

11 N MARIN ST. WILLITS, CA

## 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  
707-303-5456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Barton Jerinigan  
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-6:40 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 Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Confessions by appointment: 459-2252  
Sunday Mass inside: 9:00 a.m. English 10:30 a.m. Spanish  
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Covid guidelines apply.  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

**Willits United Methodist Church**  
Labyrinth and Peace Garden  
A place to find comfort where all are welcome  
Pastor Rosemary Landry  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
707-459-2855  
[www.willitsunited.org](http://www.willitsunited.org)  
[www.willitsunited.org](http://www.willitsunited.org)  
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc  
If you want to be included in this column please call:  
**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
[april@willitsweekly.com](mailto:april@willitsweekly.com)



# Congratulations to the Willits High School Class of 2023!

The public is invited to attend the graduation ceremony on Friday, June 9 at 5 pm at Willits High School's Maize Field, and then watch the parade down Main Street

All Willits graduates are encouraged to come spend Friday night celebrating at Sober Grad which will be held this year at the Willits Charter School. Event is free to attend, full of prizes, food and fun for grads and a great way to encourage an alcohol- and drug-free night of celebrations. Graduates must arrive at the event before 9 pm (with doors closing at 11 pm) and need to stay until 4 am to be eligible for prizes.

Photos by Maureen Jennison and Triple S Camera

Graduates list and name spellings provided by school



Adan Alfaro-Erostico Aliyah Amador Jady Arnold Katherine Austin Axel Awender Steward Carly Barbita MaryAnn Bertolino Laila Britton Martin Burton Victor Calderon Elijah Caughron Jorge Ceja Valencia  
 Aily Mariela Chavez Hernandez Mathieus Cohen-Barling Ivan Dalton Tyler Dalton Aurora-Belle David Jared Dunham Stephanie Estrada Grant Forrester Seth Frost Amber Garcia Isaiah Garcia Ella Garman  
 Bryanna Gijon Aaliyah Gravier Reece Greenberg Haileigh Gregg Caitlin Huffman Dane Jennison Kayla Jimenez Catrina Johnson Ava Kelly Daniel LaCount Emily Lawrence Savannah Lewis  
 Damian Lopez Daniel Lopez Isabela Lopez Mora Harless Lukenbill III Bryan Mandujano Alessandra Manzo Marisol Martinez Emily Maxwell Amy Mendoza Eric Mendoza Karina Mendoza Stephanie Mendoza  
 Zynthia Mendoza Jaquelin Mercado-Mendoza Jesus Meza Juan Meza Sahil Mohan Megan Nava Justin Nielsen Alexa Nunez Mariah Ochoa Jose Pena Uriel Pena Mexicano Lizandra Perez  
 Shelby Perez Bowen Adrien Rabano Sheyla Sanchez Alejandro Sanchez Jorge Joseph Sayad Anya Schwebs Yuliana Sierra Christopher Skaggs Elijah Smith Shaun Stockley McKenna Thom Alexandra Titus  
 Giselle Torres Gonzalez Jayden Vargas Wyatt Weaver Leilani Welch Kati Williams Anthony Wright Kaiden Wyatt Noah Zynda

**pho-tog-ra-phress**  
 [uh-tog-ruh-friss]  
 now: Maureen Jennison: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

**WHS / SHS Graduation Ceremony**  
 photos from Friday, June 9 will be available to purchase - prints and digitals!

Scan the QR code with your phone or log on to:  
<https://photographress.zenfolio.com/whsgrad2023>





# Congrats to the Sanhedrin High Graduates

Come watch them graduate with Willits High School on Friday, June 9 at 5 pm

All Willits graduates are encouraged to come spend Friday night celebrating at Sober Grad which will be held this year at the Willits Charter School. Event is free to attend, full of prizes, food and fun for grads and a great way to encourage an alcohol- and drug-free night of celebrations. Graduates must arrive at the event before 9 pm (with doors closing at 11 pm) and need to stay until 4 am to be eligible for prizes.



Aaron Adams Ivan Aguilar Roberto Archundia Gracie Bouthillier Johanna Cabrera Lopez Dalton Chilson



Nakai Cleland Alysa Colvard Lynette Juarez Duran Degan Dykes Natali Garcia Carrillo Chad George



Jorge Guerrero Jr Dylan King Walker Klee Nicholas Komes Jessie Loya Jessica Quinliven



Rubi Rosillo Jaron Schrage Ashton Self Stacey Shaul Bryce Sjolund Samantha Taylor

Not pictured: Christian Alonso, Spencer Bufardeci Jonathan Cortez Ramos, Sara Dye Aiyana Faber Castillo, Ulali Faber Castillo, Chy'na Harvey, Ismael Jimenez, Caydance Johnson, Gianni Nelson, Logan Nielsen, Brooke Paterea, Hunter Paterea, Carolina Patten Flowers, Lexi Shannon, Julie Walters and Trevor Wilson.

Photos by Maureen Jennison and Triple S Camera

Graduates list and name spellings provided by school

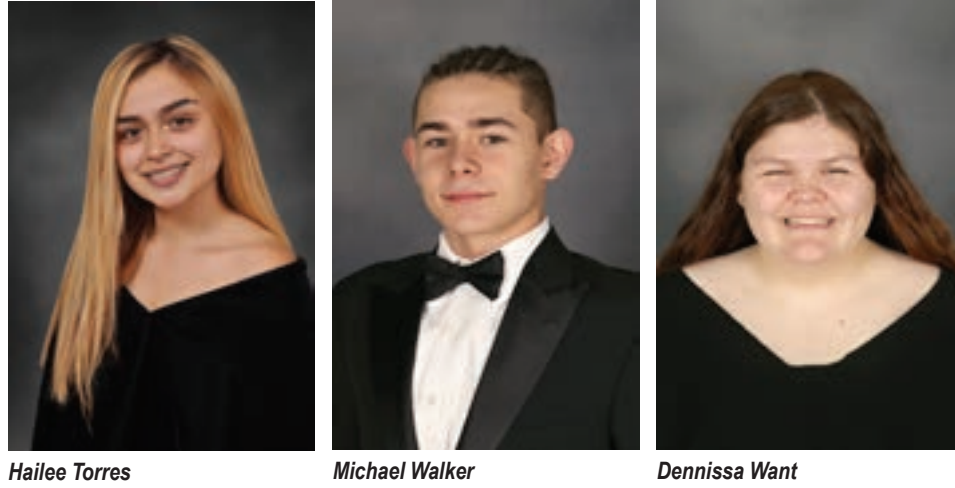
## Hazel Cooke

### For Willits Frontier Days 2023 Sweetheart

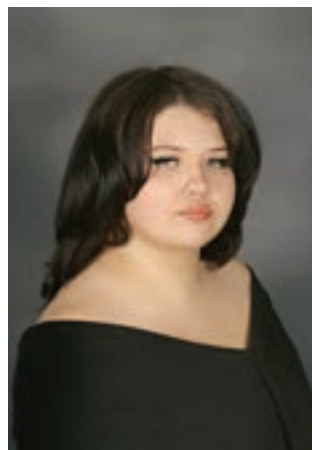
**For Tickets Call or Text 707 354 0985**

<p><b>Friday, June 23</b></p> <p>8 pm Truck Pull 9 pm Street Dance w/ Joe Peters</p> <p><b>Saturday, June 24</b></p> <p>10 am Steeplechase Judging</p> <p><b>Sunday, June 25</b></p> <p>8 am Horse Show</p> <p><b>Thursday, June 28</b></p> <p>4 pm Carnival Opens</p> <p><b>Friday, June 30</b></p> <p>Downtown Celebration</p>	<p><b>Sunday, July 2</b></p> <p>7 am Lunch Cowboy Breakfast 9 am Rodeo Grounds</p> <p><b>Monday, July 3</b></p> <p>7 pm CCFPA Rodeo West Coast Rodeo Stock Center Act - Diablo Ladies Drill Team Western Dance - The Bronckstock Boys</p> <p><b>Wednesday, July 4</b></p> <p>10 am Harvesters Competition Parade 12 pm Country Music Rodeola Suburban 4 pm CCFPA Rodeo West Coast Rodeo Stock Center Act - Diablo Ladies Drill Team</p>
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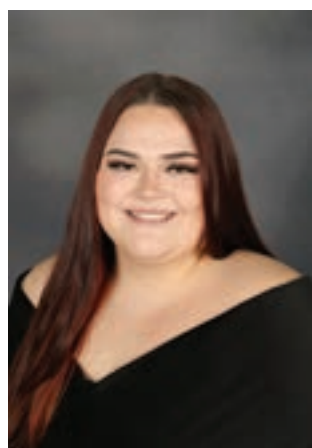
Kids under 3 FREE for all events  
For event entries and up-to-date information visit us at [willitsfrontierdays.com](http://willitsfrontierdays.com)



Hailee Torres Michael Walker Dennissa Want



Mimi Willett-Leon



Sheridan Wood

**Congrats, grads!**

**Restaurant El Mexicano**  
EST. 1982

**El Mexicano congratulates the Class of 2023 Graduates!**

Make reservations for celebrating in our restaurant or order party trays to bring to your graduation party!

**Congratulations!**

Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.  
166 South Main Street • Willits  
707-459-5702

WW436  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MARTHA MAGALINE ANDERSON AKA MARTHA M. ANDERSON**  
CASE NO. 23PR00084

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: MARTHA MAGALINE ANDERSON AKA MARTHA M. ANDERSON

A Petition for Probate has been filed by BENJAMIN SCOTT ANDERSON in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that BENJAMIN SCOTT ANDERSON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: June 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

If you object to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: MARGARITA S. RICE, ESQ., CARTER RICH PC, 305 N. Main Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Telephone: 707-462-6694  
Publication Dates: June 1, 8, and 15, 2023

WW437  
**CITY OF WILLITS SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 24, 2023 at their regular noticed meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2023-02.

**ORDINANCE OF THE WILLITS CITY COUNCIL REPEALING AND REPLACING THE CURRENT TITLE 6 OF THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED ANIMALS WITH A NEW TITLE 6 ENTITLED ANIMALS INCORPORATING THE PROVISIONS OF MENDOCINO CODE TITLE 10.**

The City Council Repealed and Replaced the Current Title 6 of the Willits Municipal Code Entitled Animals with a New Title 6 Entitled Animals Incorporating the Provisions of Mendocino County Code Title 10. The existing text of Willits Municipal Code, Title 6, is outdated and obsolete and in conflict with provisions of Title 10 of the County Code. The regulations set forth within Title 10 of the County Code proposed for incorporation in the City code include, among other things, the licensing of animals, investigation of animal complaints, impoundment, sheltering, and the quarantine and control of suspected rabid animals. A certified copy of the full text of Ordinance No. 2023-02 is posted and may be read at the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA.

The forgoing Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting, held on the 24th day of May, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Rodriguez, Stranske, Strong, Gonzalez and Kanne  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

This summary of the adopted Ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code Section 36933.  
/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk  
Publication Date: June 1, 2023

WW438  
**CITY OF WILLITS SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 24, 2023 at their regular noticed meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2023-03.

**ORDINANCE OF THE WILLITS CITY COUNCIL REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 8.24 OF THE CITY OF WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE WITH CHAPTER 8.26 REGARDING LICENSURE OF TOBACCO RETAILERS.**

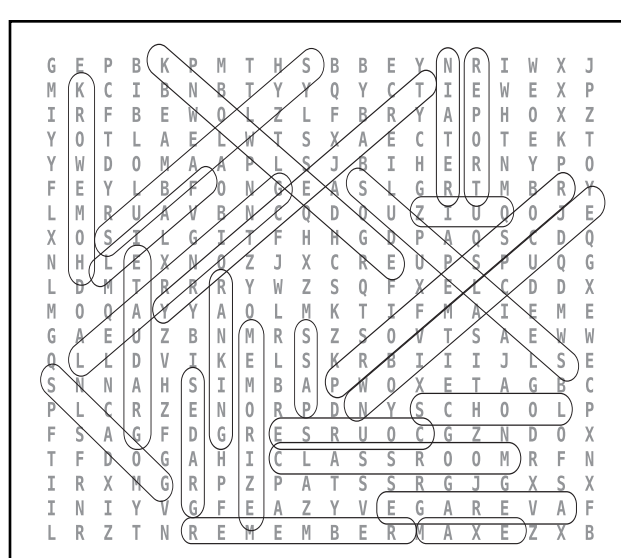
The City Council Repealed and Replaced Chapter 8.24 of the City of Willits Municipal Code with Chapter 8.26 Regarding Licensure of Tobacco Retailers. The City Code will reflect the following changes: Modified language in the definition entry for "Characterizing Flavor" and Reduction of the monetary penalties found in Section 88.26.090(b).

A certified copy of the full text of Ordinance No. 2023-03 is posted and may be read at the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA.

The forgoing Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting, held on the 24th day of May, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Rodriguez, Stranske, Strong, Gonzalez and Kanne  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

This summary of the adopted Ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code Section 36933.  
/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk  
Publication Date: June 1, 2023



## LEGAL NOTICES

WW435  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Galen Hathaway, aka Galen R. Hathaway, Decedent**  
Case No. 23PR00080

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: GALEN HATHAWAY, aka GALEN R. HATHAWAY

2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Steven P. Hathaway in the Superior Court of California County of: Mendocino

3. The Petition for Probate requests that: Steven P. Hathaway be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

4. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **Date: June 15, 2023, Time: 2:00 p.m. Dept: TM** Address of Court: 700 So. Franklin St., Ft. Bragg, CA 95437

7. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

10. Attorney for petitioner: Christopher J. Neary (#69220)/ Jennifer M. O'Brien (#278821), Neary and O'Brien, 110 So. Main St., Ste C, Willits CA 95490. Telephone: 707-459-5551  
Publication Dates: May 25, June 1, June 8, 2023

WW439  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Willits Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on **June 14, 2023**, at 6:30 p.m., will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

**PROJECT:** Minor Subdivision No. MLD-22-01

**REQUEST:** Proposed minor subdivision to create two parcels from one 0.73-acre legal parcel (APNs 005-150-04 & -05). Proposed PARCEL 1 (APN 005-150-04) is approximately 0.39 acre and is currently developed with a 2,225 sq. ft. commercial building. Proposed PARCEL 2 (005-150-05) is approximately 0.34 acre and is currently developed with a primary residence and attached accessory dwelling unit.

**LOCATION:** In the City of Willits, positioned westside of North Main Street, approximately 350 feet south of its intersection with Sherwood Road; 140, 142, 144 North Main Street; APNs 005-150-04 & 005-150-05 (One legal parcel).

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** Categorically Exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Section 15315 (Class 15 - Minor Land Divisions) of the CEQA Guidelines.

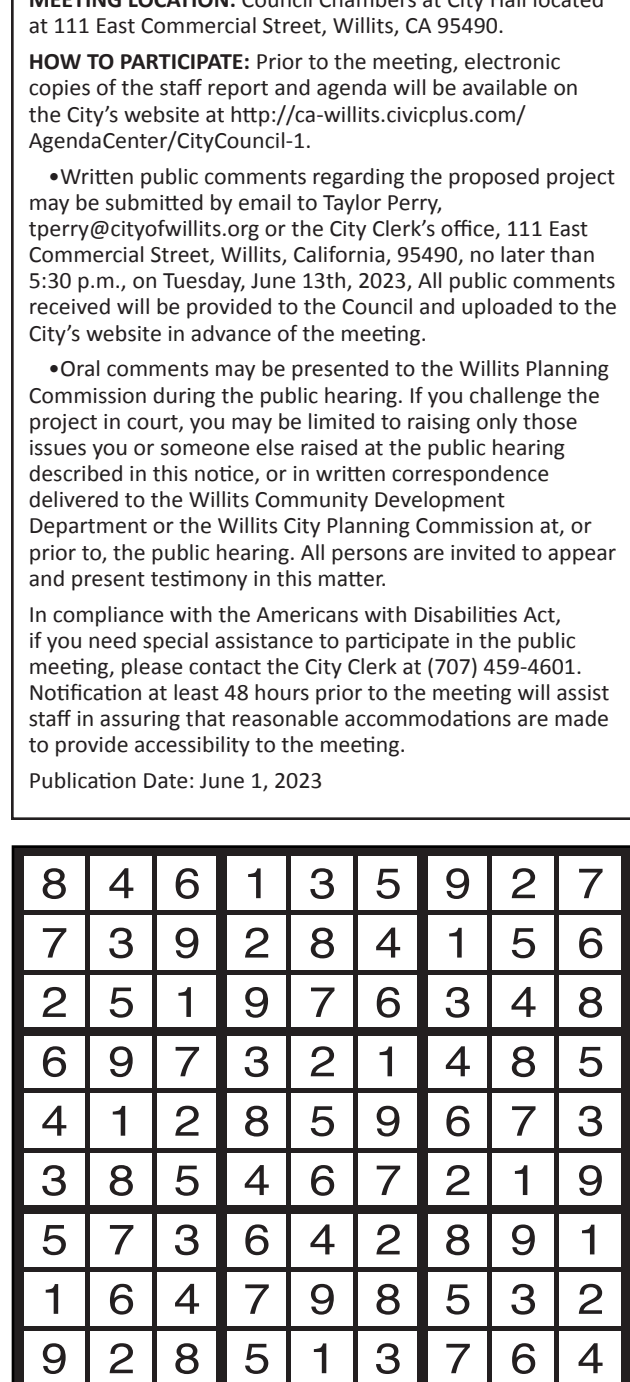
**MEETING LOCATION:** Council Chambers at City Hall located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Prior to the meeting, electronic copies of the staff report and agenda will be available on the City's website at <http://ca-willits.civplus.com/AgendaCenter/CityCouncil-1>.

• Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Taylor Perry, [tperry@cityofwillits.org](mailto:tperry@cityofwillits.org) or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13th, 2023. All public comments received will be provided to the Council and uploaded to the City's website in advance of the meeting.

• Oral comments may be presented to the Willits Planning Commission during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits City Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.  
Publication Date: June 1, 2023



**Mendocino County invites applications for:**

**Account Specialist III**  
\$44,179 - \$53,684

**Administrative Assistant**  
\$44,324 - \$53,872

**Chief Planner**  
\$95,846 - \$116,500

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

**Deputy District Attorney I/II/III**  
\$76,419 - \$122,824

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

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

**Health Program Eligibility Worker**  
\$37,960 - \$46,155

**Heavy Equipment Mechanic**  
\$51,376 - \$62,441

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

**Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help**  
\$24.38 - \$28.22 hourly

**Legal Secretary II**  
\$44,304 - \$53,851

**Mental Health Clinician I/II**  
\$59,737 - \$84,011

**Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist**  
\$56,825 - \$69,076

**Network Systems Analyst I**  
\$74,443 - \$90,459

**Road Maintenance Supervisor II - Bridge**  
\$65,936 - \$80,142

**Senior Department Analyst**  
\$72,113 - \$87,651

**Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C**  
\$70,387 - \$99,028

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca)  
EOE

The rest of **WPD** From page 4

paraphernalia, and violation of probation.

**May 13**

5:56 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue.

9:10 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

10:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Gregory Lane and issued a citation.

**May 14**

6:59 am: BOONEDENHEM, Meredith Bliss (58) of Laytonville was contacted near the intersection of Central Street and South Street. She was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

3:23 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

**Marc Komer**  
Legal Document Assistant

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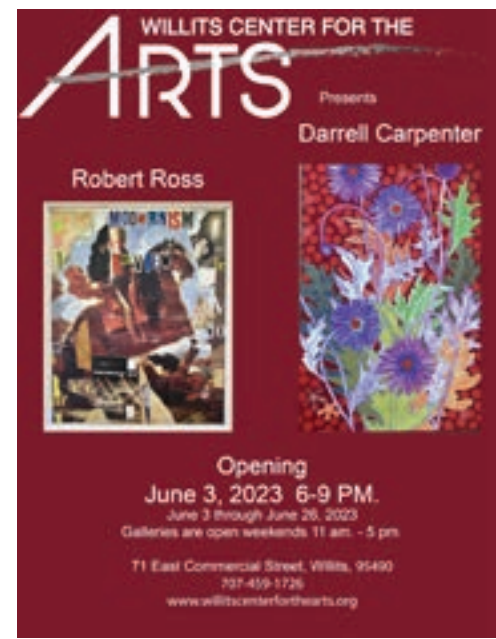
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245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

*I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.*







## Multi-dimensional talents of Darrell Carpenter and Robert Ross on display in June at WCA

Submitted by Willits Center for the Arts

Willits Center for the Arts is excited to be opening a new show on June 3, with an artist's reception from 6 to 9 pm. It will feature the paintings of Darrell Carpenter and paper cuts and collages by Robert Ross. The works of both artists are sure to complement each other and create a fascinating display of different artistic techniques.

Visitors to the Willits Center for the Arts will appreciate the opportunity to view such unique and diverse works of art. The combination of Carpenter's printmaking and Ross's paper-cutting and collage techniques will offer a multi-dimensional look at the power of visual art. It's a great opportunity for both artists to showcase their talent and for art enthusiasts to

appreciate their work. This exciting show will run until June 26.

### About the artists:

Ross studied at Reed College, the Art Students League of New York, and the Cooper Union, N.Y. He's lived on California's north coast since 1965, working in oils, acrylics and watercolor, collage, drawing, printmaking, and freehand paper-cuts.

Ross has taught at the College of the Redwoods, the Mendocino Art Center, the Oregon School of Arts and Crafts, and the California State Summer School for the Arts.

"I've been deeply influenced by jazz and classical music," said Ross, "which

Above, from left: A painting by Darrell Carpenter. The WCA show's poster. A paper cut by Robert Ross

is probably the source of my commitment to design, structure and rhythm – and to improvisation – rather than to any single medium or style."

Carpenter was born in 1960 in Ukiah and resided there until the age of 12 when his family purchased a home in Redwood Valley. From a young age, Carpenter demonstrated an affinity for creating various items such as kites, puppets and stuffed animals. His mother expressed that she never had to worry about him as he could always be found in a corner, engrossed in drawing and coloring.

Carpenter is a third-generation resident of Redwood Valley and graduated with honors from Chico State University in 1984, specializing in printmaking. He holds a BA

and focuses on printmaking and painting as a medium for his artistic expression. In order to have a dedicated workspace, Carpenter created a studio on his property, opting out of using his kitchen table, which was becoming increasingly difficult to keep tidy.

Carpenter's style is distinct and reflective of his personal experiences and environment. His art is a testament to his dedication and passion for his craft, and his work continues to inspire and captivate audiences.

Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, visit [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org) or call 459-1726.

## The rest of Lions From page 5

more than that, you click some more and it will bring up Google Maps so you can see where the eateries and other attractions are in that area. It will be a very interactive signage, the purpose of which is to promote a walkable Willits. We want people to park, get out of their cars, and see what Willits has to offer.

"We're working on the idea of an art walk along East Commercial Street, to take place in private parking lots like the Skunk Train lot. If it comes to fruition, it will be the first Saturday of July, August, and September, probably from 6 to 8 pm," said Mahoney.

The first speaker of the evening was Lucier who made a point of thanking all the companies, individuals, and the city who were integral in the recent remodel of the Scout Hut, which is available for rent for parties and other events. It has room for medium-sized gatherings and sports a very workable commercial kitchen.

One of the projects of the Lions, along with their generous scholarships and cooking for events, is a young speaker contest where kids can speak on a predetermined subject. The local winners will advance to county and state competitions. Bodie Emmet Gower, a sophomore from Ukiah High School, a very intelligent, personable and confident speaker, gave a short dissertation on the positive and negative aspects of social media, citing examples of people who have been able to reunite with family members after many years of searching through social media.

Gower showed both sides of the issue, with a look at the isolation of rooms full of people who are on their phones instead of relating directly to those around them, while on the other side of the coin, showing how young people are finding friendship and belonging through connections on social media.

Lucier also introduced Scoutmasters Ken Pederson and Kara Garvin of the local troop 42 who said that the building, owned and donated for use by the city, has been a Scout Hut for over 60 years and was built specifically for this purpose. He mentioned Annalee Gonzales, who has recently achieved her Eagle Scout designation, the pinnacle of the scouting tradition.

For more information on the Willits Lions Club or the Willits Chamber of Commerce, visit their Facebook pages.

## The rest of Cars From page 3

Prelude which is a sports coupe, manufactured and produced by Honda until 2001, introduced in 1979. It was the first exciting Honda.

"Several new technologies were pioneered on the Honda," Garrabrant-Sierra said. "Honda liked to do all the new stuff on the Prelude: fuel-injection, active torque-transfer system, which was a very important technological advancement previewed on this car only. It was the first Honda with V-tech. It has a 16-valve engine with 145 hp. It was designed by the same guy who designed the Ferrari. It was the car of the year for 'Road and Track' magazine in 1988."

John Purdy's 1956 Bel Air was almost all original. "Bought this in 2015. It was in this condition when I bought it. I've done a few things to it but it's pretty much as I found it. Parts are really available for these years." Some of the colors painted on the vehicles were a creative blend. Purdy said his Bel Air was a "Lexus Pewter Pearl."

Christopher and Gretchen Moore own Volkswagens, many of them in various conditions. "This is a 1957 Volkswagen Deluxe," said Gretchen. "It's the last year they had the split window, going to a bay window in subsequent models with more of a complicated motor."

"We found this behind a building and it needed a lot of work. It's my favorite," Gretchen explained, pointing to the VW van. "This other little 'bug' is a '52 (Christopher's birth year). It's called a Zwitter. It's a transitional model. It has the split window in the front. Something really cool about this model – they had these semaphores [little flags that go up next to the driver window] to indicate turning instead of lights."

John Yde of the Willits Shifters Car Club organized a showing of about 30 Corvettes of every style and color. The Willits Wild Bunch was there, showing their bikes and promoting their raffle to raise money for their annual Toy Run. Dickey Weinkle proudly showed off his Miata, a fascinating small convertible which piqued the imagination of several teen boys.

According to chamber volunteer Amythyst Romero, there were over 120 car and motorcycle entries, creating a colorful visual gallery of historical vehicles. It was a delight to see history in person.

**COVID-19 vaccines are here for children 6 months and older.**

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## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

### Curious Formalla

Formalla is a super sweet cat who loves to explore her surroundings. She shows interest in toys, but seems pretty independent overall. Formalla lived with other cats in her previous home.

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 Formalla 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).



### Agreeable Piper

Piper is a gorgeous girl, with a personality to match! Piper is a people pleaser and loves to make her humans happy. She will give you hugs and kisses first thing in the morning and will then invite you to play a round of fetch, to make sure your day is off to a good start.

Piper is very smart and enjoys learning new things. She knows many commands and might be a good candidate for agility training.

Piper loves to go on walks around the neighborhood and hikes through the parks. While she is still working on not pulling on the leash, Piper is very responsive to guidance and positive reinforcement (treats, praise) and frequently



Read the rest of **Pets** Over on page 13



## The rest of Benefit From page 1

hand-built redwood picnic table!

The members of Little Lake Firefighters Association would like to extend this invitation to all within our district to attend the Association's 95th Open House BBQ Fundraiser scheduled for Saturday June 17, 2023. BRING THE FAMILY! There will be a cornhole tournament, bounce houses, and muster truck rides!

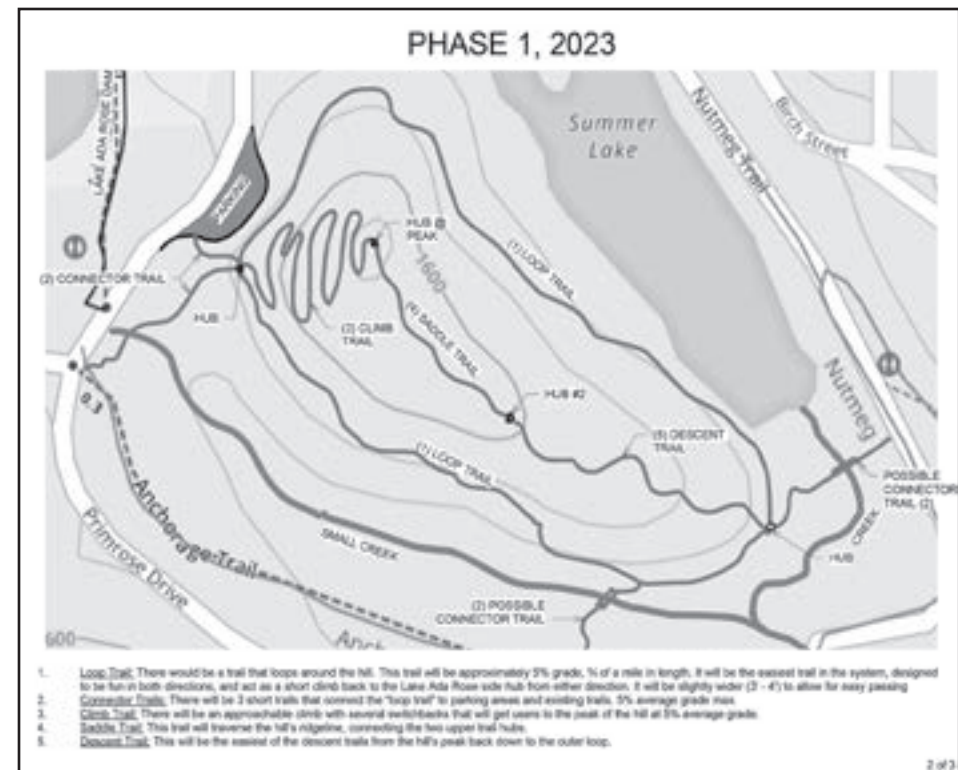
Timeline: Noon to 8 pm for Cornhole; 2 pm for Prize Announcement; 4 to 8 pm for dinner.

Thank you for your support of the Little Lake Firefighters' Association! – President Aaron Branscomb and Secretary/Treasurer: Harry So

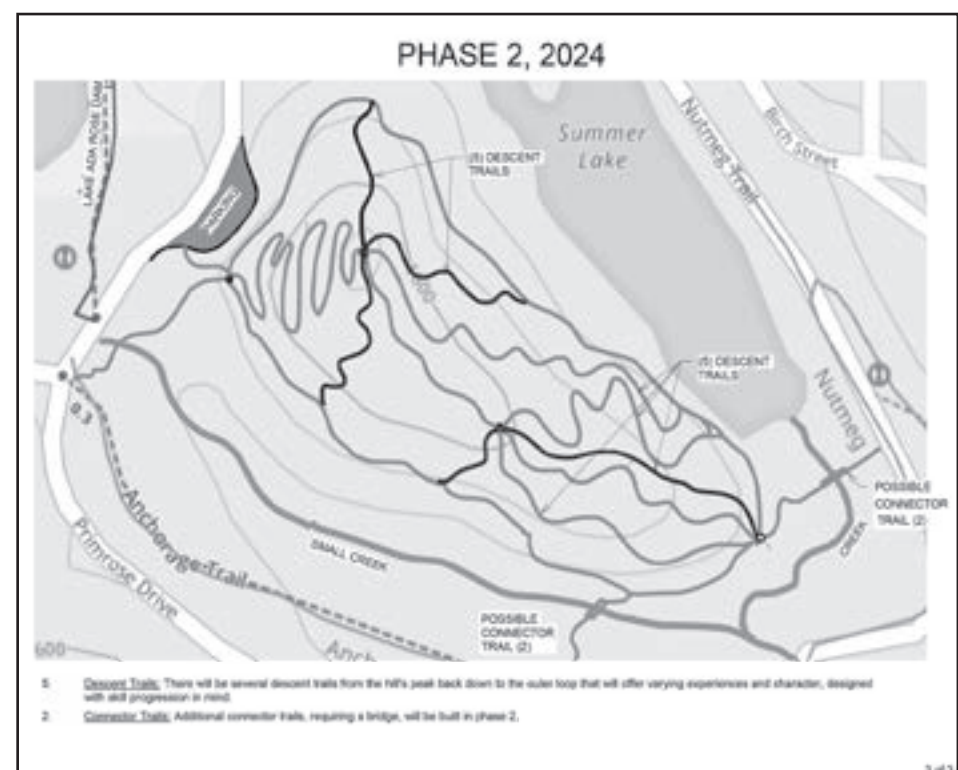
*[Editor's Note: Watch for a mailing with this letter from the Firefighters Association with yellow raffle tickets and a return envelope to mail back your donation to our local volunteer firefighters.]*

## The rest of Sculptures From page 2

This program is open to all but is ideal for families and children ages 5 to 12. Program attendance is free with the cost of museum admission. Info: [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum), contact the Mendocino County Museum at [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org) or 707-234-6365.



Above: This map shows various trails to be completed in Phase 1 of the Brooktrails and Willits Area Cyclists' "Beginner Trail Zone Project." Below: Phase 2 of the Brooktrails and Willits Area Cyclists' "Beginner Trail Zone Project" will include these trails.



## The rest of Ballot From page 1

also invited to visit the Community Center on June 27 to check out the progress made on updating the interior of the building. Brooktrails staff has given the walls a fresh coat of paint, and Big Fish Construction Co. worked to make the formerly uneven floor level and installed new, durable flooring.

The final item on the agenda was "Consideration of Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Beginner Trail Zone Project. Willits Area Cyclists." Willits Area Cyclists is the project sponsor and Brooktrails district is the lead agency on the project which is near the par course and was approved by the board at its April 22, 2023 meeting.

The Beginner Trail Zone Project is proposed in an accessible area off of the

Par Course bridge and to the south of the water treatment plant. District staff met with WAC to discuss impacts to infrastructure, greenbelt areas, or Willits Creek.

Adopting and implementing the specific mitigation conditions, the activities associated with the development of the beginning Trail Zone Project can be completed without negative impacts.

The Beginner Trail Zone Project is scheduled to be completed in two phases. In order for the project to begin, the district must approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration, which the board unanimously approved at the May 23 meeting, and directed the general manager to file the Notice of Determination with Mendocino County.

# CLASSIFIEDS

**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 [uicearbhall@gmail.com](mailto:uicearbhall@gmail.com)

**Indoor Yard Sale**  
Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, June 3** from 8 am to 4 pm

**Counseling / Psychotherapy**  
Accepting new Medi-Cal 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.

**For Sale**  
2019 Suzuki 4x4 400FS, 356 miles. Like new, 1 owner. \$3,500. 707-456-9033.

**For Sale**  
Two Lionel train sets with "railsounds", 1 NYC Limited complete in box 1; Penns freight 4614/ with 9 cars. Multiple switch tracks, accessories, buildings, etc. \$400.00 firm. Call John@707-459-0460.

**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/tp>

**Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks!**

## The rest of Pets From page 12

checks in with you when on a walk. She definitely has off-leash potential if she has consistent structure. While she can be cautious and at times vocal when she meets new people, she is very quick to warm up and form strong bonds with humans in her life.

Piper doesn't seem very interested in playing or wrestling with other dogs. She would much rather hang out with her people. She is fully house trained and has not exhibited signs of separation anxiety when left alone for a few hours.

Piper has the best smile and is an excellent dog, anyone would be lucky to have her added to their family!

To learn more about Piper or to view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://www.milofoundation.org) or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

## Confident Chandler

Meet our new friend Chandler! Chandler came to us from Anderson Valley Rescue. Chandler is a big guy who likes to tell you all about it. He is super sweet and will introduce himself once he gets to know you a little. He has lived with his siblings for three years and is very happy with feline companionship.

What does it mean to adopt Chandler?  
He needs to be indoors only, and live as a single cat or with other FeLV kitties. FeLV is only contagious to cats, so he can live with dogs, and any other non-feline animals. He needs a nutritionally complete and balanced diet as this is one of the best ways to help keep your FeLV kitty healthy. The best way to think of cats like Frank is that they are not sick until they are.

FeLV cats deserve all the love as any other cat and we are hoping to help take the fear out of FeLV. On average, FeLV cats can absolutely live long, happy and healthy lives - no matter how many years he has, we want him to spend all of them in a home with a family that loves him.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendohumane.com](http://www.mendohumane.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).

**Willits Weekly**  
Online & In Print



# Galen Hathaway

We are sad to announce the sudden passing of Galen Hathaway of Willits, California. On May 7, 2023, Galen passed away at the age of 91 in peace, surrounded by his loved ones.

Born April 2, 1932, in McCloud, California, he was one of five children. He attended UC Berkeley and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Portland, and then went on to graduate from Hastings Law School.

He met Susan, his wife of 21 years, in 1956. In 1960, Galen and Susan moved to Willits to practice law and start a family. Galen worked as the Willits City Attorney and as a City Councilman until 1973 when he was appointed as a Justice Court Judge in Willits. After that, he traveled to various California courthouses as a Circuit Court Judge.

In his retirement, Galen turned his attention to enjoying his relationship with Judith Benbrook and his family as well as improving his properties.

After becoming sober in 1968, he became an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous, and helped many others in their journey to sobriety.

Galen is survived by his five children: Darcy, Steve, Peter,

Jennifer, and Amy; a sister, Sally; a brother, John; 12 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

He will be remembered by his friends and family for his compassion, love of conversation, and great sense of adventure.

Most importantly, Galen will be remembered for his service to the community. Those in Willits will miss seeing him "holding court" as he made his daily visit to the Willits Post Office.

Though Galen's passing has left his family with an incredible sense of loss, they are comforted in knowing that he lived a rich and meaningful life that touched many people.

A Celebration of Life service with a BBQ and Ice Cream Social is scheduled on Sunday, June 11 from 2 to 5 pm, at the Recreation Grove in Willits. In lieu of flowers please offer your donations to Lucky Deuce in the form of a check mailed to: Lucky Deuce, 55 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits, CA 95490.



# Congrats to graduate Alexis Blower

Alexis Blower moved to Willits in 2011 with her Mom and little brother. She attended the Willits Charter School and graduated in 2021. She is all grown up now! At 20 years old she graduated from the Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology on May 24, 2023 with a degree in Aviation Maintenance. She is already working at the Denver Airport. She has goals to work for private airlines in the future. Congratulations, Alexis!



# Congrats to the Baechtel Grove Middle School 8th Grade Class of 2023!

Maria Aguilar, Adrianna Alvarez, Jemma Apodaca, Niko Avalos, Elijah Ballard, Pancrazio Bertolino, William Burrell, Andres Calderon, Miguel Campos, Alexis Carrillo, Mariana Carrillo, Briana Carrillo Olmedo, Harbor Cassells, Julian Castaneda, Mikal Clark, Amelia Coleman, Nina Corona, Kolten Davis, Sariah Esquivel, Ivan Estrada Castro, Zoey Fisher, Zoeanna Gallups, Bella Glenn, Kristofer Gonzalez Lopez, LaRon Gordon, Elizabeth Guerrero, Annie Gutierrez Torres, Calvin Hartley, Hendrix Hennigan, Phoenix Hernandez, Thomas Hinton, Jaden Howell, Beren Jeavons Arbayo, Clint Jewell, Gustavo Jimenez Tena, Lillyonna Johnson, Jakoby Kirby, Reese Knapp, Frank LaForce, Brodey Lamprich, Malayna Laviduskey, Ryan Logan, Kamran Lopez, Coen Lustig, Kaleb Lynn, Shyanne Mayfield, Olivia McCartney, Deven McDougall, Abraham Mendoza Lopez, Rian Middleton, Jethro Miller, Sophia Miya, Susana Navarro Terrones, Amsatou Ndoye, Kindra Nelson, Kassidy Noonan, Aliea Patereau, Brody Perez Bowen, Eduardo Perez Uvalle, Megan Perkins, Owen Pierce, Cristian Pulido Perez, Kevin Pulido Perez, Lidia Ramirez, Damian Reiter, Daylin Richerson, Nikolai Ritchley, Autumn Roat, Cash Rodriguez, Prislia Rodriguez Ramos, Agustin Rosado, Tristan Ruiz, Isabella Sanchez-DelValle, Jubalee Shenise, Isaac Silva, Colby Simerson, Tessa Simpson, Dari Suarez, Jorge Tomas, Ricardo Valencia Ceja, Ariana Vazquez, Isabella Whitehurst, Jasmine Wiegand, Jordan Yamskul, and Guadalupe Zuniga Mexicano.



# Mary Louis (Viox) Davis 1927 - 2023

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service for Mary Louise Viox Davis, 96, at 2 pm on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at the Willits United Methodist Church in Willits, California. Mary died Monday, May 1, 2023, in Verdigre, Nebraska, with loving family members by her side.

Mary was born Tuesday, April 26, 1927, in Talmage, Nebraska, the younger daughter of Irvin Louis and Christina Magdalena

Elizabeth (Petersen) Viox. She was baptized and confirmed at the Talmage Methodist Episcopal Church. After graduating from the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) in 1950, she traveled to the Bay Area, met Paul Davis, married him, and her "summer in California" lasted 62 years.

Four children were born to the couple: Anne, Jack, Alan, and Stuart. The Davis family lived in Alameda County, Dunsuir, Ukiah, and then settled in Willits in 1961, where Mary remained for 25 years until her retirement from teaching. Many memories were made over the Willits years, including trips to the Bay Area to visit family, where great meals and fun times were had when the cousins gathered.

She was a kind and caring teacher, one whom students could count on for extra help, emotional support, and for a few, even a place to live when they needed one. She made a difference in the lives of many students and formed strong friendships with her many colleagues.

Mary was also involved in the community, especially through the Willits United Methodist Church. She had a strong faith in God and believed in the good in all, embracing Jesus's teaching that we are all sisters and brothers. One former pastor commented that if her life was the only Bible someone ever "read," they'd know what Christianity was supposed to be.

After her retirement, Mary relocated to Humboldt County to be near her first two grandsons and got involved in many activities, including volunteering for the Arcata Chamber of Commerce and continued service to the church. Other grandchildren joined the family, and she relished her time with all of them. In 2012, with the onset of early Alzheimer's Disease, she moved to Nebraska where her son Stuart was to be close to her younger grandchildren.

Mary had a deep faith, a great sense of humor and fun, a Midwestern work ethic, a warm heart, a positive outlook on life and most of all a love for family, friends and her students. The death of her son Alan in 2004 impacted her greatly, and in many ways, she was never the same after it. And in many ways, we will never be the same without her.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, son Alan, sister Ardith and her husband A.W. "Bill" Hatfield, sister-in-law Elinor (Davis) Williams, nephews Bob Lawrance and Tom Hatfield, son-in-law David Gervan, and ex-husband Paul.

She is survived by her children: Anne Davis-Gervan of Geneva, Nebr., John "Jack" Davis (Diane) of Eureka, Calif., and Stuart Davis (Beth) of Plymouth, Ind.; grandchildren Calen (Terra) Davis, Chris (fiancé Courtney) Davis, Alexander (Michelle) Wissman, Megan Louise Davis, Edward Davis, and Rowynn Hall-Davis; nephews and nieces Jim (Mary) Hatfield, Chris Hatfield, John (Geri) Hatfield, and Nancy (Russell) Brown and their families; many cousins, and friends.

Memorials can be made to one of the following: the Alzheimer's Association, the Willits United Methodist Church, the Arcata United Methodist Church, or Arcata House Partnerships. (A full obituary can be found on the "Stuart Davis" Facebook page, dated May 12.)



# The rest of Water | From page 1

fiscal year 2025/26, to \$8.01 in fiscal year 2026/27 and to \$8.53 in fiscal year 2027/28. Tier 2 customers, who currently pay \$8.69 per 100 cubic feet of water will see rates rise similarly each year, up to \$12.81 in fiscal year 2027/28.

Tier 1 rates are applied to accounts using 0 to 6 CCFs (100 cubic feet, or 748 gallons) of water every month, and Tier 2 rates apply to accounts using more than 6 CCFs per month.

Non-residential water customers will go from the current \$7.84 per 100 cubic feet of water to \$10.32 in fiscal year 2027/28.

"Over the past several months," the staff report for the agenda item reported, "Bartle Wells Associates collaborated with staff to evaluate the water and wastewater utility's fixed, operational, and capital improvement priorities and to develop a comprehensive financial plan to adequately fund these costs over the next five years."

The council approved sending out the required Proposition 218 notices of water increases to property owners and ratepayers. Proposition 218 requires that rates for "property-related" charges cannot exceed the cost of providing service, and can't be raised without a public hearing.

The notices will include information about a July 26 public hearing on the rate increases, which are subject to "majority protest." As also required by Proposition 218, the notice will include:

1. The amount of the new or increased fee proposed to be imposed;
2. The basis upon which the fee is calculated;
3. The reason for the fee;
4. The date, time, and place of the public hearing on the proposed fee and such other information as the City of Willits shall determine is useful to those receiving it.

"The Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds account for all operational and capital expenditures needed to operate, maintain and improve these critical utility systems," the staff report said. "The funds operate without tax support as ratepayers sustain them."

The city adopted a plan for water and wastewater rates in 2017, setting rates for a five-year period through July 1, 2021. "The city's prior rate increases put the water and wastewater enterprises on a stronger financial footing," the report read, "but are not adequate to meet projected future operating and capital funding

needs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Willits stalled the [planned] rate increases for 2020 and 2021, keeping rates at the 2019 levels for three-years to ease the burden caused by the pandemic."

The analysis from Bartle Wells recommended gradual rate increases every year instead of bigger, less frequent increases because: they keep revenues aligned with costs of service; minimize annual impact on ratepayers; and bills are predictable, no rate "shock"

## City Department Reports

The council received written reports at this meeting from City of Willits departments, including Airport, Community Development, Engineering, Finance, Police Department, Public Works, and Utilities. Anybody interested in more details about what City of Willits staffers accomplish each month can check out the reports by downloading the May 24 agenda packet at <https://cityofwillits.org/AgendaCenter>. Each report is included in the packet.

The City of Willits passed a resolution at the May 24 meeting to recognize the week of May 21-27, 2023 as National Public Works Week. Here's the April "Achievements & Activities" and "Project Updates" included in the report from the Willits Public Works department.

## Achievements & Activities

- Mowed roadsides and abated weeds.
- Finalized application elements to upgrade park facilities for the Caltrans Beautification Grant.
- Trimmed Main Street trees for pedestrian clearance.
- Continued with the Public Work Yard cleanup with the removal of several tons of scrap metal along with woody debris from downed trees accumulated during this year's storm events.
- Received the variable message, sign trailer.
- Replaced 50 linear feet of 4 inch, steel waterline on Bittenbender Lane.



Tyler Ojeda of Ojeda Transport stands with some picnic tables he salvaged from the Burger King remodel for the Willits sports center.

Photo by Dickey Weinkle

- Serviced planter strips along East Commercial Street by removing unhealthy growth and placing wood chips.
- Loaned cleanup supplies and tools to the Elementary Charter School to help facilitate a cleanup adjacent to Lake Ada Rose in Brooktrails. Working with the Environmental Club at Willits High School to assist with planning and support of a cleanup project under the Skunk Train bridge by the Safeway complex.

## Project Updates

- Completed repairs to the Willits Arch. Paramount Sign Contractors provided the parts and labor to finish the work on April 8th. Public Works provided the traffic control in coordination with Caltrans.
- Removed unstable limbs and trees at Recreation Grove that were threatening the Rodeo Grounds. Donated the wood to the WFD to help with fundraising efforts. The stumps will be ground after the 4th of July events.
- Commissioned Precision Concrete to provide a sidewalk assessment of City owned facilities and areas surrounding the school properties.
- Determined a location for the art installation at Highway 20 Park. Engineers need to stamp the footing design before work on the site can start.
- Received the message kiosks (bulletin boards) for the Sports Complex to post field scheduling and reservations. The crew will install the kiosks by month's end.
- Collected quotes for a new sign at the City Hall / Community Center. The sign will

include the new logo, and potentially a small variable message component to advise the community of events and important dates.

• Repaired several water leaks at various locations, and flushing of the Distribution System is nearly complete.

• Serviced the waste lines and lift stations for the Carnival and Rodeo Grounds, Recreation Grove, and Sports Complex. The Wastewater Department oversaw the work.

• Finalized the contract for the installation of shade canopies at the Skate Park and Soccer Field. The work is tentatively scheduled to begin in September.

## Salvaged picnic tables

Willits Public Works Superintendent Kenan O'Shea shared this story at the meeting: "Well I just wanted to express a quick thank you to the Ojeda family," he said. "They acquired six concrete picnic tables for the sports complex.

"The city's own Amber Ojeda reached out to the project manager at Burger King and inquired about the fate of the tables during their remodel project, and she was told well, first come, first served – if you can get them, you can have them.

"So she contacted her husband who coincidentally owns Ojeda Transport [of Willits], and he took some time out of his busy work day to bring his little boy down and haul the tables down to the facility, and Sparetime brought their forklift over and placed them around so that you know, visiting families and people that are there for the sporting events, can sit down and enjoy a meal and watch their kids play."

# The rest of Inspecting | From page 1

inspecting our natural gas pipelines. The inspection process, used throughout the gas pipeline industry, uses an innovative tool known as a Pipeline Inspection Gauge, or PIG, that travels through the pipeline looking for potential issues that can occur over time, such as dents and corrosion. This is a preferred inspection method because it does not require any digging and minimizes impacts to traffic.

Before the inspection begins, temporary devices will be installed to maintain the flow of gas, which propel the tool through the pipeline. These devices also help reduce gas emissions and the risk of unplanned interruptions to customers' gas service.

As part of our safety work, we will be storing compressed natural gas at several locations along the pipeline, and one of them will be at the Willits location. The CNG will be stored in above-ground tanks.

CNG tanks are specially designed and engineered to contain the gas safely at between 3,000 to 3,600 pounds per square inch. These natural gas cylinders have also passed through stringent federal safety standards and thorough impact testing to ensure its integrity in the unlikely event of collision or other accidents.

CNG is non-toxic. This means there are no poisonous ingredients in it that can be absorbed into the blood once inhaled. It also doesn't contaminate the earth and water.

Since 2011, PG&E has been rigorously inspecting, replacing, and modernizing pipelines to proactively ensure the safety and reliability of its gas system. Some of the newer technologies applied to the gas system include remote-control and automatic shut-off valves that can stop the flow of gas faster in an emergency, and highly sensitive methane detection sensors that can track microscopic emissions.

## Willits Swimming Pool Information

### Summer 2023

**June 12, 2023 – August 11, 2023**

### Schedule

<u>Monday– Wednesday</u>		<u>Thursday &amp; Friday</u>	
7:30am–9am	Lap Swim	7am–9am	Lap Swim
8am –9:30am	Otters Practice	10am–1pm	Swim Lesson
10am–1pm	Swim Lesson	12pm–1pm	Aqua Aerobics
12pm–1pm	Aqua Aerobics	1pm – 3:30pm	Public Swim
1pm–3:30pm	Public Swim	4pm–5:30pm	Swim Lesson
4pm–5:30pm	Swim Lesson		
5:30pm–6:30pm	Otter Practice		

### Admission Price

Public Swim	\$5
Lap Swim	\$5
Lap Swim Pass (20 entries)	\$80
Aqua Aerobics	\$7
Senior Discount	\$6
Aqua Aerobics Pass (20 entries)	\$125
Swim Lesson (Sibling discount of \$5.00 per sibling) (Up to 4 Swimmers)	\$50

### Pool Closed: Saturday 6/17/23 for Otters Meet

**City Pool now open Saturdays for Public Swim**

*Posted by the City of Willits*

The City of Willits has announced a revised schedule for the City Pool, "as we have hired more lifeguards which will allow us to be open on Saturdays!!!"

The City Pool will offer Public Swim on Saturdays from 11 am to 4 pm, \$5, starting Saturday, June 12. On Saturday, June 17, the pool will host a Willits Otters Swim Meet.

Swim Lesson sessions also start June 12, with registration at the pool on Saturday, June 10 from 8 to 11 am, or online registration. Fee is \$50 per multi-day session, with a sibling discount of \$5.

Sign-up links available on Facebook and we will post dates for July lessons mid-month or you can contact the pool after June 12 at 707-459-5778 for more information.



# JAMMIN' JUNE 4x4 GIVEAWAY

**SATURDAY JUNE 24**  
**EARN ENTRIES DAILY**



## NO BULL!

You could lead the herd and become a big winner!

### GRAND PRIZE 4X4 ATV

2<sup>ND</sup> Place: **\$1000 CASH**

3<sup>RD</sup> Place: **\$1000 Free Play**

4<sup>TH</sup> Place: **\$500 Free Play**

Actual make & model may vary.  
See Players Club Booth for details.  
Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

  
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## FATHERS DAY HOT SEATS

