

# Willits Weekly

Online & Print

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Thursday, August 3, 2023



## Brooktrails board amends golf course agreement

Barbara O'Reardon  
Reporter  
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The Accounts Payable was the only item listed on the Consent Calendar for the Tuesday, July 25 meeting of the Brooktrails Township Community Services District board. The amount of the Accounts Payable, \$476,338.17 was significant, and Board President Rick Williams had some questions regarding the amount.

General Manager Tamara Alaniz responded, saying: "Every year there are costs to the district: insurance related expenses for our

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

## Laytonville man drowns at Dos Rios

By Sgt. J. Wells,  
for MCSO

On July 31, 2023 at about 4:40 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies along with California Highway Patrol and fire agency personnel were dispatched to the area of mile marker 12 on Highway 162 in Dos Rios for a possible drowning in the Eel River. Sheriff's Office deputies began an emergency response with lights and sirens.

Prior to Sheriff's Office personnel arriving at the scene, a CHP and a Round Valley Tribal officer arrived and observed a subject in the river. Both the CHP officer and Tribal officer immediately jumped into the river to try to save the

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

## Little Lake Fire update to city council

By Little Lake Fire Protection District

The Little Lake Fire Protection District provided the below written update on the fire department to the Willits City Council, at the July 26 council meeting.

In the month of June, Little Lake Fire had 38 calls – 9 fires, 21 rescues, 1 HazMat, 1 call for service, and 6 false alarms.

Fire Marshal Eric Alvarez has been busy with business license inspections, solar inspections, school, motel, and hotel inspections. Apartments will be starting soon.

Our volunteer association donated their time for the Hometown Celebration, Senior Rodeo, Junior Rodeo, 4th of July Rodeo,

Read the rest of **LLFD**  
Over on Page 4



Above, from left: A beautiful rainbow quilt won a Best of Division award in the Home Arts Building at the Redwood Empire Fair. Potatoes and cucumbers entered into the Horticulture Building. Kathy Lundgren's pineapple preserves won a first-place award in Home Arts Building. Below: Home Arts Building Supervisor Loraine Patton, left, stands with Assistant Supervisor Nancy Trumble.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above: Katie Kight's Best of Division Fine Arts entry, featuring lions. Below: Another Best of Division winner, a set of painted feathers by K Paintedfeather Sequeira, in the Fine Arts building.



Above, from left: This five-herb entry features home-grown parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme and oregano in an old spice shaker. These beaded moccasins by Patsy Jo Gott earned a first-place award in the Home Arts building. A lion quilt was made in the fair's theme, "Jungle of Fun." Below, from left: Floriculture and Horticulture Building Supervisor Francie Henry holds a 21-inch zucchini entered into this year's fair. Fine Arts building supervisor Brenda Hodges loved this stained glass entry of Roxie the German shepherd. At bottom, from left: Ester Cervantes' abstract mixed-media work also won a Best of Division award. Collections of all kinds are on display in the Home Arts Building. Lyn Blacklock made this lovely wire-wrapped pendant, entered into the Fine Arts Building.



## A Rip-Roaring Time

### Redwood Empire Fair offers a 'Jungle of Fun' at the Ukiah Fairgrounds August 3 through 6

Early August means it's time for the Redwood Empire Fair and, this year, the grounds are decorated in a Jungle of Fun for exhibitors to enjoy. Starting Thursday, August 3, buildings will open, the carnival will be running, and youth exhibitors will be showing their livestock in a variety of breeding and showmanship classes. The grandstands and live music stages will have different features every night, and one of the fair's main events, the Junior Livestock Auction, will be held on Saturday, August 5. Sign up to be an auction bidder, and see a full schedule of events, ticket pricing, and more at [www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com](http://www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com)

– Maureen Jennison

## City approves increased water, sewer rates

Jennifer Poole  
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Willits City Council members approved a five-year plan to increase water and sewer rates – about 7% each year – to “adequately fund the ongoing costs of providing water and sewer services” ... including “operations, maintenance, debt service, and capital improvements for the city's water and sewer systems.”

The vote was 5 to 0. The water and wastewater rates have not been raised since

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

## County workers unhappy

with lack of contract

Jennifer Poole  
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Mendocino County workers unhappy with contract negotiations showed up again to the July 25 board of supervisors meeting – the last board meeting before the board takes an August recess.

Workers in purple Service Employees International Union Local 1021 T-shirts, some holding “Will Strike If Provoked” signs, addressed the board, as did other public commenters on other matters. Each was given 3 minutes by Second

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

## COVID-19 update from Public Health

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

August 31, 2023 – If you look at the Mendocino County death data on the California Department of Public Health COVID-19 dashboard, it will show 154 deaths instead of 146 [the previous total reported for Mendocino County].

The State of California has changed the way COVID-19 deaths are counted. The state now counts COVID-19 deaths based on the same criteria as other illnesses. The increase is the result of re-counting past COVID-19 deaths with new criteria.

For the state, this is an increase of 0.3%, and for Mendocino County, it is a 5% increase.

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







Above: Natalie Johnson, 11, is bringing her market sheep, Nyomi to the fair. This is her fifth year with the Potter Valley 4-H, and her second year raising a market animal. "Nyomi is super-friendly," Johnson remarked.

Photos courtesy Dolores Johnson

## Animal exhibitors readying for Redwood Empire Fair

Submitted by the Redwood Empire Fair

It's controlled chaos at the Redwood Empire Fair. On Tuesday, trucks and trailers were lined up from the animal barns to the entrance as they waited to have their animals weighed in and approved for exhibition.

4-H and FFA leaders, along with family members, accompanied exhibitors and their animals to their assigned pens, many of which were being decorated in the fair's "Jungle of Fun" theme. Animals were being washed, bedded down and fed, and families were unpacking - preparing for the long weekend of competition which culminates with Saturday's livestock auction - one of the most successful in the state of California.

This year's Sheep Showmanship and the Market and Breeding Sheep Show takes place on Thursday, August 3 at 8 am.

The Market and Breeding Swine Show takes place Thursday, August 3 at 8 am, with Swine Showmanship scheduled for Friday, August 4 at 8 am.

Beef Showmanship, Market and Breeding Beef takes place on Thursday at

5 pm. The Dairy Cattle Show starts at 1 pm on Friday, August 4. The Beef Ultrasound Carcass Contest is on August 4 at 1:15 pm.

The Primary Goats and Breeding Goat events take place on Friday at 1:30 pm, with the Pygmy Goat Show to follow at 2 pm. The Round Robin Large Animal Showmanship event is on Friday at 4 pm, and the Small Animal Round Robin Showmanship event is scheduled for Friday at 7 pm.

Saturday is the Community First Credit Union Ag Day, with the Junior Livestock Auction starting at 10:30 am at the Racine Pavilion.

On Thursday, August 3, children 6-12 years old and seniors 65 and older are admitted to the fair for free until 6 pm. Children under 5 are always admitted free. Grandstand shows are always included with fair admission. The Redwood Empire Fair opens at 3 pm on Thursday and Friday and at noon on Saturday and Sunday. For more information phone (707) 462-3884, visit the Redwood Empire Fair's Facebook page or <https://www.redwoodempirefair.com/summer-fair>.



Above: Firefighters gather at the Skunk Train's Bridge 15.03, after a fire was reported July 27. Below: A firefighter wets down the burning ties on the bridge.

Photos courtesy of Mendocino Railway

## Skunk Train thanks agencies for quick response to 15.03 Bridge fire

Submitted by Mendocino Railway

July 28, 2023 - Mendocino Railway, the owner and operator of the California Western Railroad / Skunk Train, a Class III common carrier, would like to extend its gratitude to the swift and coordinated efforts of CAL FIRE's Mendocino Unit and other responding agencies in containing the Camp Three Bridge Fire known as the "Spurs Fire."

The incident was first reported early yesterday (July 27), when it came to our attention that a fire had broken out at Camp Three, affecting Bridge 15.03, about 15 miles east of the Fort Bragg end of the line. At the time of the report, the extent of the fire was unknown, and it was unclear which bridge was affected. However, we can confirm that there were no trains running over this bridge, only railbikes, and nothing since yesterday morning.

CAL FIRE promptly dispatched a helicopter to assess the situation and confirmed the presence of smoke, subsequently initiating water drops to combat the flames. Fortunately, the fire's rapid containment was achieved, and the helicopter returned to base with no other air attacks needed, indicating no further rate of spread.

We would like to emphasize that the safety of our passengers, employees, and the environment is of utmost importance to us. We have been actively collaborating with local, state, and federal authorities to address issues of illegal trespass and arson along the line.

Recently, there was an incident at Camp Noyo where someone was forced off the premises, and we also experienced a couple of small fires along the right of way before, which were promptly investigated in coordination with CAL FIRE and Little Lake Fire.

The Camp Three area, nestled along the picturesque Noyo River, holds a special significance for us, with its scenic S-turn through a narrow gorge and twin bridges. Unfortunately, the bridge's location at 15.03 makes it virtually inaccessible, making firefighting efforts challenging.

As a federally regulated railroad, we are taking all necessary security precautions and have informed the Transportation Security Administration through their Transportation Security Operations Center to potentially enlist additional resources, ensuring the utmost safety and efficiency in handling such incidents.

Mendocino Railway once again expresses heartfelt appreciation to CAL FIRE's Mendocino Unit, the helicopter crew, and all other responding agencies for their dedication and professionalism in managing the fire in such rugged terrain.

No damage was done to the steel support structure of the bridge, and new deck ties have been sourced and are enroute for a timely repair and reopening of the track.

For further updates or inquiries, please visit [www.skunktrain.com](http://www.skunktrain.com) or contact Robert Pinoli at [rpinoli@sierrarailroad.com](mailto:rpinoli@sierrarailroad.com)



Above: Willits exhibitors pose together including, from left: Dayana Estrada, Kayden Paullus, Ivan Estrada, Danielle Estrada, Catie Spackman, Lisa Arkellan Dana Arkellan.

At left: Usually seen around the barn with goats and showing since she was 6 years old, this year is the first time Tess Klee is bringing a hog to fair. She's making sure to take care of "Maple" with a cool towel and fresh water on these warm summer days.

Below: Willits dudes in the pig barn including, from left: Gunner Globe, Tanner Dudley, Brett Rountree, Kaleb Whitehurst, Rex Davidson and Wyatt Klee, in front.



Above, left: Richard Bolton of the Willits 4H with his Reserve Grand Champion and 4-H champion market goat, left, and Danielle Estrada of the Willits FFA, with her Supreme Grand Champion and FFA Grand Champion market goat. Above, right: Brett Rountree of the Willits FFA sweeps up for barn duty at the 2023 Redwood Empire Fair. Below, left: Justin Rountree of the Willits 4-H with his market turkey. Below right: Members of the Willits 4-H smile together by the swine sign in the barns including, from left: Alissa Randrup, Tessa Klee, Tinley Logan, Emma DeFranco, and Ella Randrup.

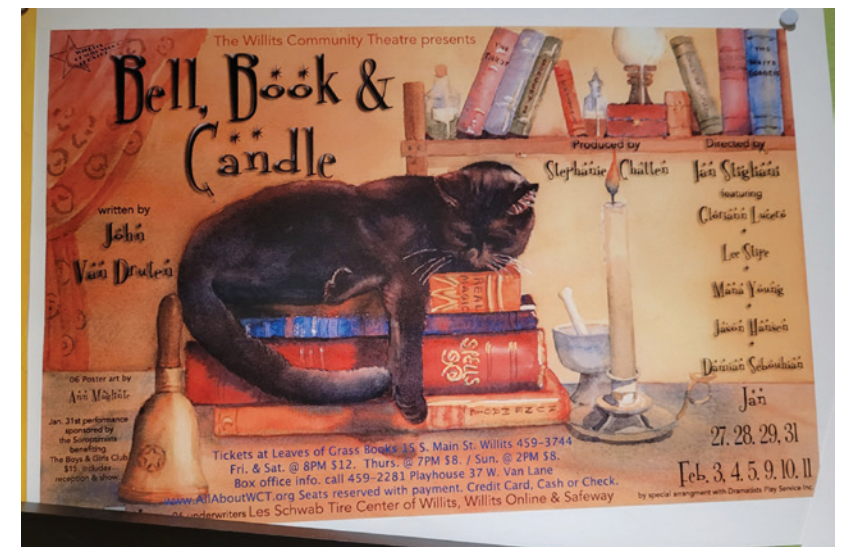


Photos by Tiffany Klee

Below: A welcome sign hangs on the Randrup family trailer in memory of Greg Randrup, Willits FFA advisor and Ag teacher who passed away several years ago. His granddaughters are now showing at the fair, and many of us fondly remember Greg's affectionate greetings from fair days from the distant past.



Photos by Jenn Randrup



At left: "Something's Happening Here" artists gather for a group photo at the opening of the Grace Hudson exhibit. Above: Longtime Willits artist and teacher Ann Maglente created many posters, including this one, for the Willits Community Theatre. Below, left: A cozy tableau greets visitors at the Back to the Land exhibit at the Grace Hudson Museum. Below, right: Willits artist Linda MacDonald created her quilt "Spotted Owl vs. Chainsaw" as part of a logging protest during Redwood Summer of 1990.

# 'Something's Happening Here'

## Artistic reflections on the Back to the Land movement at Grace Hudson Museum

To walk into the Grace Hudson Museum this summer is to take a step back in time. The "Something's Happening Here" exhibit evokes the heady days of the early Back to the Land movement, when rural living beckoned an intrepid generation to a new way of life that would include farming, house building, communal living, and exploring artistic expression.

The exhibit showcases 35 artists from all over Mendocino County. Eight of the artists represented came from Willits, with many more from adjacent North County areas.

The day she graduated from college in 1971, painter Judy Chance Hope and her husband Charles set out to find land. "We began learning all we could about being self-sufficient," said Chance Hope, "growing our own food and building our home. It was hard work and great fun."

After a wildfire destroyed their Sonoma County home, the couple and baby daughter bought raw land outside of Willits and started all over again. "I like to paint water, trees, rocks, sky - things that will hopefully survive human exploitation - and share my reverence for these things"

Chance Hope describes the Back to the Land movement as a noble idea, and a reaction to war, materialism, and environmental exploitation. "I hope some young folks can enjoy what we had. This exhibit gives a glimpse into the diversity of ideas that we all brought ... a bit of chaos with a common thread, the love of nature."

Ann Maglente moved from San Jose to the hills above Willits in 1977, drawing inspiration from the redwoods, the valley fog, the oaks, and the wildflowers surrounding her home. Watercolor is her favorite medium, and she still teaches watercolor at Mendocino College. She spent years designing posters for the Willits Community Theatre, many of which were on display at "Something's Happening Here."

Maglente feels that the exhibit conveys the feeling of that era, and of the people who were part of the Back to the Land movement. "We were looking for a community of like-minded people, and we found it," she shared.

Linda MacDonald and her husband, Bob Comings, left the Bay Area in 1970 to

Read the rest of **Museum** *Over on page 15*



## In the Woods I am Woven

in the woods I am woven between trees, a one man coven, dome of branches, no sky, light projecting from my eyes

patterns resembling my voice trembling, a window, a walkway, a path

yellow light saturated the sacred motion we permeated and the spirit captured bore no wrath like wind over water inner truth is the daughter of an act when the seer is seen

clouds poise in the sky visions are created in the eye and the manscape is presented in myth

in these words I am calling out my dreams, shooting stars falling, splintered images fly by may they reassemble in your eyes

"In the Woods I am Woven," by Dan Roberts.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde











# Richard Johnson

Richard Marvin Johnson was a resilient war veteran, a four-time heart stealer, a public servant, and a man who loved to fly. He was born on June 2, 1932 in Los Angeles. He passed away peacefully on July 21, 2023. He lived a full life characterized by happiness, strength, courage and humor.

A true patriot, Richard served in the Korean War and was honorably discharged for his commendable service. His pursuit of knowledge led him to earn a bachelor's degree in 1973. His interest in community service and justice led him to the California Corrections Department where he served as Parole Agent, earning numerous promotions throughout his career.

After retirement, he moved to Willits, finding a home near the Willits Airport. Mechanically adept, he built an RV-SA airplane while organizing the first EAA Chapter 1027 at the airport. Along with the other EAA members, they improved the airport building and runway lights.



He was a man of deep love and commitment. His first marriage was to Lois Swift in 1954 with whom he shared two children. His second marriage to Jean Shafer lasted 42 years. Together they reared her three children by her first marriage. After Jean's passing in 2014, he found love again with Rose Malmstrom, marrying in 2016. Their time together was tragically cut short when Rose unexpectedly passed later that year. The following year, he met Sharon Wolbach, and they married in 2019. Together, they focused on happiness and enjoying life for as long as possible.

Richard's final resting place will be next to his second wife, Jean Johnson, in the Sacramento National Cemetery in Dixon, California.

This is a setting of immaculately manicured fields where birds fly in the breezes. For a man who loved to fly, this is a perfect place.

Richard leaves behind a legacy of love, friendship and strength. Remember him for his accomplishments, but especially for his unwavering ability to keep his heart open to others. Richard was a blessing to us all.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

## Charming Clarkson

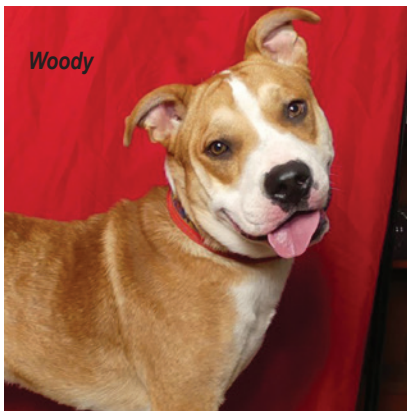
Come meet our handsome boy, Clarkson! He's quite the chatterbox and enjoys plenty of affection. He was living as an outside stray for a while, and he's more than ready to find some comfort inside with you. He's currently looking for a forever home where he can be the only feline resident, but don't worry, with all his charm, you won't need anyone else. If you're ready for endless conversations, cuddle sessions, and a one-on-one connection like no other, Clarkson is the cat for you!



meet any potential canine roommates before going home. This handsome boy is also vocal and would make a great alert dog. We think some basic obedience and socialization would do wonders with Woody! Staff would be more than happy to give information about dog training opportunities in the area.

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 Woody 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).

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



## Lovely Sophie

Sophie may be shy at first, but this girl is anything but once she gets to know her people! Full of playful energy, kisses, and love to give, Sophie is in need of a quiet and patient home willing to work with her to build her confidence and show the world her true self.

To learn more about Sophie 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.



## Sprightly Woody

Woody is a lively boy! He loved playing with toys and romping around our "Meet & Greet" room. When meeting a female dog, it took him a minute to feel comfortable enough to do a few flirty sniffs and play bows, so Woody will need to

### The Invisible Kingdom

August 7-11

### Vacation Bible School

Where is this kingdom?  
Can I be a part of it?  
Crafts, games, stories,  
and snacks provided  
as we explore  
this kingdom.  
Open to kids in  
grades K-8.

**August 7-11, 2023**  
Monday - Friday, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Willits Seventh-day Adventist Church  
399 West Mendocino Ave

Call 707-972-7207 or 707-671-3971 today to reserve a spot for your child!

**Willits  
Weekly**  
Online &  
In Print

## REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIR

AUGUST 3-6, 2023

OPEN: THUR & FRI: 3 P.M.  
SAT & SUN: NOON

### NIGHTLY MOTORIZED SPORTS ACTION

**THURS: 6 P.M.:** Side by Sides, Quads  
Motorcycles and Monster Trucks

**FRI: 6 P.M.:** Mudd Boggs and  
Monster Trucks

**SAT: 6 P.M.:** Truck & Tractor Pulls

**SUN: 6 P.M.:** Boat Races, Jalopies,  
and Junior Mudd Boggs

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### PRE-SALE CARNIVAL WRISTBAND TICKETS

Pre-sale ends Thurs, Aug 3 at 2 p.m. sharp

**AVAILABLE NOW AT:**  
Mendo Mill in Ukiah & Willits & Fort Bragg,  
J.D. Redhouse, Creative Workshop, Raley's,  
Ukiah Taco Bell and Super Chavez Market

**PRE-SALE: \$30/EA | AT CARNIVAL: \$37/EA**  
Unlimited rides for one day

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### FAIR ADMISSION

**ADULTS:** \$9  
**CHILDREN (6-12 YRS):** \$7  
**CHILDREN (5 YRS & UNDER):** FREE  
**SENIORS (65 YRS & OVER):** \$7  
**PARKING:** \$10

[WWW.REDWOODEMPIREFAIR.COM](http://WWW.REDWOODEMPIREFAIR.COM)