

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
 Donations Accepted Edition No. 513 **Thursday, August 10, 2023**

Brown water concerns part of rate increase discussion

Jennifer Poole
 Editor & Reporter
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Part of the discussion at the water and sewer rates hearing at the July 26 city council meeting was about Willits' "brown water" problem.

Residents made public comments about recent and ongoing problems they've had with the water coming from their taps; Utilities Superintendent Scott Herman talked about why the brown water happens; and City Manager Brian Bender said citizens who experience brown water should contact the city for a possible credit to their water accounts.

One woman said she'd been worried recently about the water bowl for her cats. "For the last couple months, when I go to clean it, and I clean it fairly regularly, there's a nasty yellow slimy film at the bottom." She said she understood the city was working on replacing water pipes which should help the problem, "but my question is, until they get replaced, is this water actually safe,

Read the rest of **Water**
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County directs enforcement on illegal cannabis cultivation in Redwood Valley

Submitted by County of Mendocino

During the July 25, 2023, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting, a Redwood alley Cannabis Prohibition District was considered. Although the board denied establishment of the Prohibition District, unanimous direction was provided to the Mendocino County Code Enforcement Division to assign all of its available resources to address illegal cannabis cultivation within the Redwood Valley area.

The purpose of this direction was to address cannabis-related nuisances in the area as demonstrated by numerous constituent complaints of nuisance odor and activities.

As a result of the board's direction, the Code Enforcement Division has proceeded with identifying multiple properties within Redwood Valley as potential non-permitted cultivation sites, including but not limited to the use of aerial imagery.

Read the rest of **Cultivation**
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Blackberry bars are a delicious way to enjoy the summer berry.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

Blackberry Bliss

Even if red and ripe tomatoes are still on the horizon, blackberry bushes are here to save the day, offering tasty berries ready for the picking now!

One of our favorite ways to enjoy the summer berry is with a quick crumble. I know, turn on the oven?! Well, if you get it in and out early, there's still the possibility of a tolerable in-home temperature later in the day.

If you can't stand the idea, why not head up to the 40th annual Blackberry Festival in Covelo and let them do the baking for you? The festival includes music, arts and crafts, wine tasting, food, activities for kids, and of course, all kinds of blackberry delicacies!

The two-day event is held next weekend, Saturday, August 19 from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday, August 20 from 10 am to 5 pm. Saturday evening will feature a square dance and Sunday, the car show. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Round Valley Public Library and more information can be found at www.RoundValleyBlackBerryFestival.com

If you need berries in your life this weekend, I offer you the following loose recipe:

Preheat oven to 375°. Toss together 3 cups fresh blackberries with 1/4 cup cornstarch and sugar to taste (depending on how sweet your berries are, add a light sprinkle up to 1 cup). Pour into lightly greased 9x13 baking dish. Mix together 2 sticks of cold butter cut into small cubes with 1 cup of flour, 1 cup of sugar, a pinch of salt, and dash of cinnamon. You can also add chopped nuts, or rolled oats, too. Cut the mixture with forks, crumble with your fingers, or pulverize in a Cuisinart until it's got a loosely uniform crumble texture that will hold together when you squeeze a pinch with your fingers. Sprinkle over the top of the berries, and bake until top is golden brown and berries bubble. Take it out of the oven and LET IT SIT out until cool, to allow filling to gel and set. Enjoy at room temp or cold out of the fridge. Top with whipped cream, ice cream, or just a drizzle of heavy cream.

— Maureen Jennison



A blackberry awaits its final destiny.



Photos courtesy Caltrans District 1

A mountain of appliances grows during the free Dump Day event.



Vehicles line up outside SWOW, some even brought trailers, too!

Large Item Dump Day Community brings large items to Solid Wastes of Willits during free event

The lines were long, but it was worth the wait for those who took advantage of the free large item Clean CA Dump Day event held at Solid Wastes of Willits last Saturday.

"Almost 500 vehicles brought 2,463 cubic yards for proper disposal," boasts the Caltrans District 1 Facebook page, which posted stats on the day's events including the disposal of 1,025 tires,

Read the rest of **Dump**
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Meeting discusses shoplifting in Willits

Annie Everts
 Reporter
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

The first of what the city hopes will be several community meetings took place on Wednesday, August 2 between local merchants, city officials, and city police. The purpose of the meeting was to allow business owners to gather and discuss their experiences and concerns around shoplifting with law enforcement in an environment facilitated by members of the Willits Chamber of Commerce and Willits City Manager Brian Bender. It was an

Read the rest of **Shoplifting**
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Howard Forest prescribed burn set for August 10

Submitted by CAL FIRE MEU

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Mendocino Unit personnel plan to conduct a prescribed burn of approximately 10 acres, at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit Headquarters, 17501 North Highway 101, in Willits. The burn is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, from approximately 10 am to 3 pm. Smoke and aircraft will be visible in the area.

This burn is to promote natural regeneration, enhance wildlife habitat,

Read the rest of **Burn**
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MCOG to hear rural transportation solutions at August 14 meeting

Submitted by MCOG

The Mendocino Council of Governments is nearing completion of a study of transportation needs and solutions for the communities of Covelo, Laytonville, Brooktrails, Potter Valley and Hopland – five inland rural communities with little or no public transit services. On Monday, August 14, at 1:30 pm, the MCOG Board of Directors will receive a presentation from the project consultant on proposed rural mobility solutions that have emerged from this feasibility study.

This hybrid meeting will be held both in-person

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

4-H sold her 223-pound 4-H Reserve Champion Berkshire Market Hog to Sparetime Supply for \$17 per pound; Khlou Neuroth of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 235-pound 4-H Reserve Champion Spot Market Hog to Gravers Chevron for \$17 per pound; and Kaleb Whitehurst of the Willits FFA sold his FFA Reserve Champion AOB Market Hog to Paul Riley Drywall for \$23 per pound.

Carmen Davila of the Covelo FFA sold her 1153-pound market steer to Round Valley Indian Health for \$14 per pound; Ember Whitcomb sold her 105-pound market lamb to Anderson Logging Inc. for \$25 per pound; Katie Spackman of the Willits FFA sold her 86-pound market goat to Peterson Tractor for \$42 per pound; Johanna Whitcomb of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 118-pound market lamb to Bodensteiner for \$23 per pound; Wiley Williamson of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 229-pound market hog to Roundtree Glass for \$18 per pound; Landon Demarta of the Willits 4-H sold his 259-pound market hog to J.D. Redhouse & Co. for \$20 per pound; Wyatt Klee of the Willits FFA sold his 232-pound market hog to Bouthillier's Construction Inc. for \$23 per pound; Maxwell Henson of the Willits 4-H sold his 228-pound market hog to North State Investments for \$19 per pound; and Kaden Paulus of the Willits FFA sold his 73-pound market goat to Les Schwab of Willits for \$16 per pound.

Hazel Bowes of the Covelo FFA sold her 1,375-pound market steer to Round Valley Indian Tribes TNAP for \$12 per pound; Lisa Arkelian sold her 127-pound market lamb to American Ag Credit for \$18 per pound; Jace Glaum of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 119-pound market lamb to M&M Feed Supply for \$15 per pound; Zeontrey Henson of the Willits FFA sold his 233-pound market hog to Beckstoffer for \$16 per pound; Ivan Estrada of the Willits FFA sold his 111-pound market goat to J.D. Redhouse & Co. for \$20 per pound; Elena Arkelian sold her 134-pound market lamb to Wylatti Resource Management for \$20 per pound; Kylie Neuroth of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 233-pound market hog to Gravers Chevron for \$15 per pound; and Aliciana Davila of the Round Valley 4-H sold her 145-pound market lamb to Keith's IGA for \$18 per pound.

Danielle Barry of the Willits FFA sold her 143-pound market lamb to 101 Trailer & RV Supply for \$30 per pound; Tyler Knight of the Long Valley 4-H sold his 256-pound market swine to Gravers Chevron for \$14 per pound; Kelsey Escobedo of the Willits 4-H sold her 160-pound

market lamb to Les Schwab of Willits for \$24 per pound; Gunner Globe of the Willits FFA sold his 271-pound market hog to Granite Construction for \$12 per pound; Cruz Erickson of the Willits FFA sold his 262-pound market hog to Brown's Corner for \$16 per pound; Grady Cooley of the Willits 4-H sold his 258-pound market hog to Les Schwab of Ukiah for \$20 per pound; Ella Randrup Swinney of the Willits 4-H sold her 241-pound market hog to Healing Herb Farm for \$15 per pound; Tinley Logan of the Willits 4-H sold her 225-pound market hog to the California Deer Association for \$21 per pound; Alejandra Davila of the Covelo FFA sold her 1,177-pound market steer to Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$12 per pound and Dana Arkelian sold her 129-pound market lamb to Factory Pipe for \$15 per pound.

Wyatt Escobedo of the Willits 4-H sold his poultry meat pen to Paul Riley Drywall for \$1,700; Eli Neuroth of the Long Valley 4-H sold his 258-pound market hog to Family Tree for \$11 per pound; Grady Fonsen of the Willits 4-H sold his 246-pound market hog to Harvest Market for \$20 per pound; Dayana Estrada of the Willits FFA sold her 90-pound market goat to Healing Herb Farm for \$16 per pound; Gabriel Bowes of the Covelo FFA sold his 1,235-pound market steer to the Round Valley Indian Housing Authority for \$13 per pound; Wade Hosford of the Willits 4-H sold his 141-pound market lamb to Healing Herb Farm for \$24 per pound; Eliana Martinez of the Covelo FFA sold her 242-pound market hog to Keith's IGA for \$19 per pound; Jay Whipple of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 221-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes TNAP for \$21 per pound; and Wayne Hensley sold his 144-pound market lamb to Odell Ranch for \$20 per pound.

Brett Rountree of the Willits FFA sold his 270-pound market hog to Les Schwab of Willits for \$21 per pound; Chayce Britton of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 1,270-pound market steer to the Round Valley Indian Senior Center for \$13 per pound; Roy O'Ferrall of the Covelo FFA sold his 1,192-pound market steer to Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$14 per pound; Mattea Butler of the Willits FFA sold her 130-pound market lamb to Peterson Tractor for \$14 per pound; Justin Rountree of the Willits 4-H sold his market turkey to Furniture Design Center for \$2,400; Camryn Mitchell of the Covelo FFA sold her 236-pound market hog to the Round Valley Indian Housing Authority for \$20 per pound; Connor Martinez of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 223-pound market hog to the Round Valley Indian Tribes Convenience Stores for \$18 per pound; Tanner Dudley of the Willits FFA sold his 248-pound market hog to Garman Family Land for \$21 per pound; and Matyah Whipple

Eagle of the Round Valley 4-H sold her 144-pound market hog to the Round Valley Indian Tribes Convenience Stores for \$20 per pound.

Arya Allenbrand of the Willits 4-H sold her 263-pound market hog to Cooley Logging for \$19 per pound; Cailin Kelsay of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 127-pound market lamb to Les Schwab of Willits for \$21 per pound; Landyn Martin-Lundgren of the Willits 4-H sold his poultry meat pen to Mendocino Forest Products for \$1,600; Faith Oliver of the Covelo FFA sold her 256-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Health for \$20 per pound; Rex Davidson of the Willits FFA sold his 243-pound market hog to the Round Valley Indian Senior Center for \$22 per pound; Ryan Britton of the Covelo FFA sold his 1,364-pound market steer to the Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$12 per pound; Madison Lawrence of the Willits 4-H sold her 265-pound market hog to Naters for \$20 per pound; and Bella Glenn of the Willits 4-H sold her market turkey to Defate Equipment for \$1,800.

Cole Simpson of the Long Valley 4-H sold his 270-pound market hog to Cooley Logging for \$18 per pound; Bowdy Globe of the Willits 4-H sold his 258-pound market hog to Poor Ranch for \$12 per pound; Emma DeFranco of the Willits 4-H sold her 255-pound market hog to Sparetime Supply for \$20 per pound; Cole Whipple of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 240-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes TNAP for \$23 per pound; Aamia Carrillo of the Round Valley 4-H sold her 242-pound market hog to Hidden Oaks Casino for \$20 per pound; Tessa Simpson of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 267-pound market hog to Wylatti Resource Management for \$20 per pound; Marcus Glenn of the Willits 4-H sold his market turkey to Brown's Corner for \$1,100; and Logan Merrifield of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 273-pound market hog to the Round Valley Indian Senior Center for \$21 per pound.

Waylon Williamson of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 263-pound market hog to Wylatti Resource Management for \$20 per pound; Caeleb Hanover of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 242-pound market hog to the Round Valley Indian Tribes Convenience Stores for \$21 per pound; Isaiah Hoaglen of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 235-pound market hog to the Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$22 per pound; Alissa Randrup Swinney of the Willits 4-H sold her 257-pound market hog to Bouthillier's Construction Inc., for \$13 per pound; and Leibler Firks of the Long Valley 4-H sold his 257-pound market hog to Gravers Chevron for \$15 per pound.

Results provided by Redwood Empire Fair.



Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Chief Planner \$95,846 - \$116,500
Code Enforcement Officer I/II \$55,078 - \$74,006
Community Health Services Specialist I/II \$41,038 - \$52,353
Community Health Worker I/II \$38,542 - \$46,737
Corrections Deputy \$54,184 - \$65,873
Deputy District Attorney I/II/III \$76,419 - \$122,824
Deputy Probation Officer I/II/III \$51,937 - \$76,772
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II \$62,628 - \$87,214
Director Environmental Health \$62,628 - \$87,214
Eligibility Specialist II/III \$47,132 - \$63,232
Environmental Health Specialist I/II \$55,993 - \$75,067
Facility Project Specialist I/II \$67,204 - \$90,001
Juvenile Corrections Officer \$50,710 - \$61,630
Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help \$24.38 - \$28.22 hourly
Mental Health Clinician I/II \$59,737 - \$84,011
Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist \$56,825 - \$69,076
Real Property Appraiser Technician \$51,064 - \$62,067
Senior Program Manager - Family & Children's Services \$102,876 - \$125,049
Sheriff's Services Technician \$37,065 - \$42,889
Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D \$48,942 - \$92,206
Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C \$70,387 - \$99,028
Vocational Assistant \$37,024 - \$38,875

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca

LEGAL NOTICES

City of Willits Services and Facilities Department Notice Inviting Formal Bids. Project No. 2023-06. Rodeo Grounds Bathroom and Concession Stand Repair. Bid opening: Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 2 p.m.



At left: Mattresses pile up in the truck, and beside, that were brought to Solid Wastes of Willits last Saturday. Below: Vehicles, filled with garbage and large items, were lined up outside of Solid Wastes of Willits, ready to dump their garbage for free.

Willits Rotary Club Invites You to Join Us at the 10th Annual Claws for a Cause. Sept. 2nd. A benefit for the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center celebrating 30 years of service. Wine, Lobster, Filet Mignon dinner.

117 mattresses, 210 refrigerators, 50 cubic yards of green waste, 225 cubic yards of metal, and 1,623 cubic yards of garbage. Usually, regular disposal rates at the Willits station include: \$6 to \$100 per tire; \$25 per freon appliance; \$18 per non-freon appliance; \$18 per cubic yard of mixed organic waste; \$18 per cubic yard of wood waste; and \$6.25 per can of refuse or \$26 per cubic yard of refuse.

Wolverines Willits High School Boosters is partnering with Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ. Drive Thru BBQ Dinner. Dinner for 4 includes: A full rack of ribs, 4 pieces of mustard bread, side of macaroni and cheese, Caesar salad and cookies by Simple Desserts. Price \$65.

Notice for Public Hearing. Willits City Council will hold a Public Hearing on August 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Chambers, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, CA to consider and take action on closing out grant, 20-CDBG-CV-2-00249.

Estate Sale. Saturday August 12th & Sunday 13th 8 am - 12 noon. 535 Redwood Ave, Willits, Ca. Tons of tools, building supplies, materials, appliances, antique tools, gardening stuff. Random silly wack for your current garden art project.

Marc Komer Legal Document Assistant. An Affordable Non-Attorney Service. (707) 459-2775. 245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

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

Willits Weekly logo with WW initials.

CLASSIFIEDS

Computer Help, Counseling / Psychotherapy, Firewood for sale, For Rent, For Sale, Therapeutic Massage Therapy, The Fruit Group, Willits Center for the Arts.

Sparetime Supply is hosting a private event for our wholesale customers. Wednesday, August 9th through Friday, August 11th at the Recreation Grove Park. This event is closed to the public and entry to the park will not be permitted without prior authorization.

Word search grid containing letters for a puzzle.



Above, from left: A bounce house is set up for the kiddos to enjoy. This young lad is thrilled to sit in the driver's seat of one of Willits' patrol cars. The well-attended National Night Out event brings together people from around Willits. A colorful array of freebies for the kids to amuse and remind them who to call in an emergency. Below, from left: The probation department provides information and tons of kiddie swag. The Bud Snider City Park is abuzz with townspeople, law enforcement, and first responders. Willits Police Chief Fabian Lizarraga helps one of the kids put on a tactical helmet.



At top: Bounce houses provide fun for the kids for hours. Above: DJ Mike Tobin smiles with Sergeant Ray Brady - Tobin spun everyone's favorite oldies at the event. Below: Engineer Alyssa Alvarez and Battalion Chief Jeff Donaldson are two of the Little Lake Fire volunteers who helped serve the dinner.



T and T TOWING
707-459-9116
277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA
24-HOUR RADIO DISPATCHED TOWING

National Night Out

Fun event to promote positive relationships between community and law enforcement

"We are pleased with the turnout from the community for National Night Out," stated Chief Fabian Lizarraga. "It's the first venture for the Willits PD to do this. Our intention is to keep this going every year and hopefully get more and more people involved, coming out, and enjoying it."

Even though the event at Bud Snider City Park didn't have a lot of advance publicity, there was high visibility, with the police car lights flashing, the Little Lake Fire Department spraying the kids, a bouncy house, cornhole games, and lots of food provided Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ and served by members of the fire department. Loud, familiar music was provided by DJ Mike Tobin. People from Willits all sat together at a long table, creating more community involvement and interaction.

"It's a time for families to come out," explained Dawn Tipton of the probation department. "It's sponsored by law enforcement, Willits Police Department. Probation is joining along. We are just having some food and we're giving away swag and there's a bouncy house. The fire department's here. Everybody is getting outside and enjoying the nice evening. The little kids are all soaking

wet from being sprayed by the fire department. "We have Carlos Visardo playing football over there with the kids," said Tipton. "This is a gathering to have people come out and enjoy the day and meet their law enforcement and get to know who we are and ask questions and not think of us as the bad guys. We want to build a great rapport with the community. This has been going on for about 40 years, but this is the first time that the Willits Police Department has participated."

National Night Out was begun in 1984 through a network of law enforcement agencies, neighborhood watch groups, civic groups, state and regional crime-prevention associations, and volunteers across the nation, to "promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live," per the National Night Out website, <https://natw.org>.

"National Night Out," the website continues, "enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances."



Above, from left: Willits PD Officer Gale of the Willits Police runs the cornhole games. Officer Gale spends some time with his daughter at National Night Out. Junior policeman Arlo grabs a hotdog before heading out on his rounds.

PUT OUR JUNK IN YOUR TRUNK!

YARD SALE

Persico Ranch Yard Sale
8/12/23
23781 Reynolds Hwy
9:00-4:00 MENS AND WOMENS CLOTHING SHOES KITCHENWARE, FURNITURE, AND SO MUCH MORE

CalFresh

Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits.

Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify.
707-459-6826

HARRAH SENIOR CENTER
SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1972

The rest of Shoplifting | From page 1

attempt to begin a conversation on what shop owners describe as consistent and costly theft, with outcomes that seem to have little to no impact on the thieves.

Being the first meeting, the group was relatively small, but of the folks who attended as representatives of their businesses, their points were made very clear. Misty Gonzales of Willits Power put it like this: "My frustration is that there are no consequences for the people shoplifting. I'm not blaming our local law enforcement for that. I understand they can only do so much. I've reached out to our local Congressman Jared Huffman with no response. Calling the cops and showing them the video and sometimes having the person's name doesn't go far. The person just comes back and does it again."

Both Gonzales and David and Karin McKinney of Grocery Outlet say they lose about \$1,000 (that they're aware of) a month to shoplifters - oftentimes to repeat offenders, or someone who's made the rounds to multiple stores in one day. But it's not so simple for merchants and their employees to just dial 911 and stand by while the bad guys are hauled away to jail.

Chief Fabian Lizarraga and WPD Officer Steve Gray attended the meeting on behalf of the Willits Police Department. Lizarraga explained some of the challenges officers face when responding to shoplifting calls. He said, first and foremost, the person who makes the call to authorities needs to be present when police arrive. They need to be able to speak to the person who actually witnessed the crime.

Chief Lizarraga continued that for a shoplifting situation, the crime will generally be a misdemeanor. The threshold for a felony theft is \$900. If the crime isn't committed in the presence of law enforcement, officers can't actually make an arrest. It would need to be what's called "a private person's arrest," aka a citizen's arrest. If no one is willing to sign the paperwork to make a private person's arrest, police can't detain the shoplifter.

According to the California Penal Code Section 837: "A private person may arrest another: (1) For a public

offense committed or attempted in his presence. (2) When the person arrested has committed a felony, although not in his presence. (3) When a felony has been, in fact, committed, and he has reasonable cause for believing the person arrested to have committed it."

Lizarraga lamented that after an arrest is made, private or otherwise, the reality is the person arrested will likely be out of jail in just a few hours. He cited overcrowded cells as one of the main reasons for this, in addition to needing space in the jail for violent crimes and felony crimes.

If a shoplifter is arrested, they're given a citation and a court date before they're released. If there's not enough evidence after paperwork is sent to the District Attorney's Office in Ukiah, the DA won't prosecute, and no charges will be filed. Which essentially means the shoplifter won't see any significant ramifications.

Filing trespassing charges on a shoplifter or a loiterer as a way to remove them from a business is also pretty tricky. The police would first need to warn the person that they aren't welcome at the specific location. The person would then be filed by police as a trespasser.

Only if there's a subsequent event, can authorities officially remove someone for trespassing, after which they would also receive a citation and a court date. If they miss their court date, it results in a warrant being issued, and police can remove a person based on their warrants. Lizarraga describes this process as a "repetitive, frustrating cycle."

Both Chief Lizarraga and Officer Gray said they do see an uptick in shoplifting over the summer months because school is out, and kids are bored. According to Gray, kids tend to mostly steal alcohol, but he says it's not an extreme problem compared to other cities. Gray said transients also tend to steal alcohol and food.

Though Willits Power's Gonzales says she's cautious about profiling folks as shoplifters, but lots of people come to her store off of the mountain. If she does suspect someone is up to no good, she tries to make them as uncomfortable as she can without actually confronting

them. If she's very sure they've stolen something, she'll ask to see inside their bag.

Under California law, Penal Code 490.5: "A merchant may detain a person for a reasonable time for the purpose of investigating reasonably whenever the merchant has probable cause to believe the person to be detained is attempting to unlawfully take or has unlawfully taken merchandise from the merchant's premises."

Although Chief Lizarraga stressed that even if a lot of times it's the same people doing the same types of theft, attempting to detain them could escalate pretty quickly into physical violence. Objects aren't worth one's personal safety.

One of the best ways to make sure shoplifters have a chance at being prosecuted is for local businesses to have a good camera system installed. The McKinneys of Grocery Outlet said their system has been incredibly useful, and good camera systems are relatively inexpensive these days. Officer Gray reiterated that clear video footage is one of the most effective pieces of evidence he can take to the District Attorney's Office. A camera system is also a visible deterrent for shoplifters.

As for what can be done in the immediate future to combat the issue of shoplifting in Willits, Susan Mahoney, coordinator for the Willits Chamber of Commerce, suggested that all folks in business join together on a social media platform for the purpose of exchanging information. She says she'd like to see one, easy place where everyone can go to find things out. It could potentially be hosted on the Chambers website.

Karin McKinney said she'd like to receive something like an email blast as soon as a shoplifting crime occurs, so that the community is instantly informed. A business watch forum was also suggested by Chief Lizarraga that would go out specifically to business owners.

Subsequent community meetings are in the works to further these discussions. A possibility for the next meeting would be to invite a representative from the District Attorney's Office. For more information email info@willits.org.

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at the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 501 Low Gap Road, in Ukiah, and virtually via Zoom/teleconference. Please visit MCOG's website at www.mendocinocog.org for agenda and meeting link information.

The public is encouraged to attend this meeting to hear the study's results, including recommendations for potential life-line transportation services for these unserved rural communities.

For further information, contact project manager Loretta Ellard at lellard@dbcteam.net or 707-234-3434.

MCOG Anuncia Reunión Pública

Presentado por MCOG

El Consejo de Gobiernos de Mendocino está cerca de completar un estudio sobre las necesidades y soluciones de transporte para las comunidades de Covelo, Laytonville, Brooktrails, Potter Valley y Hopland - cinco comunidades rurales del interior con pocos o ningún servicio de transporte público.

El lunes 14 de agosto de 2023, a las 1:30 p.m., la Junta de Directores de MCOG recibirá una presentación del consultor del proyecto sobre las soluciones de movilidad rural propuestas que han surgido de este estudio de factibilidad. Esta reunión híbrida se llevará a cabo tanto en persona en la Cámara de Supervisores del Condado de Mendocino, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, como virtualmente a través de Zoom/teleconferencia. Por favor, visite el sitio web de MCOG en <http://www.mendocinocog.org> para obtener información sobre la agenda y el enlace de la reunión.

Se alienta al público a asistir a esta reunión para escuchar los resultados del estudio, incluyendo recomendaciones para posibles servicios de transporte de línea vital para estas comunidades rurales no atendidas.

Para obtener más información, contacte a la gerente del proyecto Loretta Ellard en lellard@dbcteam.net o al 707-234-3434.

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in which she photographed a single colored leaf she found on the sidewalk in front of the Savings Bank.

Lucy Acero, another member of the photo club, offered two black and white photos of readily recognizable Willits scenes, one of the annual Willits Frontier Days Truck and Tractor Pulls and the other of the firefighters in the July Fourth parade.

"This show is beautiful," said Acero. "There's so much talent. I think it's very important to do a show about Willits. We don't normally get to see the art in the community. This place," she said, motioning to the WCA gallery, "gave us an open door as an artist to show what we can do with a little bit of the beauty in Willits."

Those who came to see the show expressed their delight at the depictions of life in town. "This exhibit is amazing," stated author Jed Diamond. "Everything here is generally incredible but I'm partial to photography. I've always loved the photographic art. I just saw Sandy's beautiful work. There are some others here that I want to delve into more deeply.

"To me," said Diamond, "Willits is not just the place and the scenes that say 'Willits,' but it's the people and their sensibilities. So, even if I don't see something that's in Willits or close by, you can feel the unique sense of community about the people who come here, and the art."

Eric Hart, WCA board member, was impressed by the connection the show brought to Willits. "I love the idea of this show," said Hart. "This show really says 'Willits' to me. I like the interpretations and the people's visions. You can recognize little bits and pieces of the area in the artwork. Even if it's something you don't recognize, it's got the Willits feel to it."

Bonnie Belt, a well-known ceramic artist, sold a small statuette of a Lake Emily otter. "I love this show," said Belt. "It's really fun to see how people have either photographed or painted things that are very familiar around here. I also think it's wonderful to have such a good turnout. These are just really good examples of Willits at its brightest. I think if someone with no knowledge of Willits came to see the show, they would get a good idea of what Willits is."

"This is Willits" runs through August 27. The gallery, located at 71 East Commercial Street, is open Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, call 459-1726, check out their Facebook page, or visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

WILLITS WEEKLY

BACK to SCHOOL

Special Pricing for the Issues of August 17TH for WUSD and August 24TH for Charter Schools

4.94" wide x 10.5" tall color ad for **\$450.00** FOR BOTH ISSUES

4.94" wide x 5" tall color ad for **\$200.00** FOR BOTH ISSUES

3.25" wide x 4" tall color ad for **\$100.00** FOR BOTH ISSUES

DEADLINE: August 11, 2023

Contact **Maureen Jennison**
maureen@willitsweekly.com
(707) 972-7047

Anthony Sasso

Tony Sasso was born on December 4, 1968 in Watsonville, and moved to Mendocino County in 1970, where he grew up. In his lifetime he was a cultivator, equipment operator, and owned a trucking company.

Tony was a natural-born thrill seeker, enjoying adrenaline sports such as skydiving, snowboarding, and anything else that pushed life to the very edge. Tragically we lost Tony in one of his adventures on July 31, 2023. He will be greatly missed. His final words: "Live life and have fun!!"

He is survived by his wife, Yanmie Yan-Sasso; his children, Ayla, John, Shayla, and Imagin; three grandchildren; his brother Paul, sister Debbie, brother Joe and wife, Sharon, sister Sioux, and Sister Lorena. He is also survived by niece Micheline King, nephew Nick King, Kirsy, Joseph, and Taylor Sasso; Tina and Jared; and far too many friends that he considered family to mention.

Services will be held on Saturday, August 12, at Grace Community Church, 25 Hazel Street in Willits. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



Affectionate Pixie

Pixie came in with her sister, Whiskey, when they were surrendered due to no fault of their own. This girl takes a little time to warm up to you, and may even be a little hissy at first. However, once she decides she likes you, she turns into the sweetest, most loving cat. Although she came in with her sister, she seems to only like her and would do best in a home with no other cats.

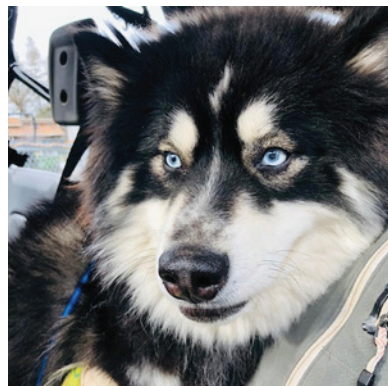


Pixie

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 Pixie or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.

Snuggly Forrest

Forrest is a very friendly dog that loves to cuddle. This 4-year-old Alaskan malamute enjoys car rides and is good with other dogs. Forrest will need to go to a home with no cats.

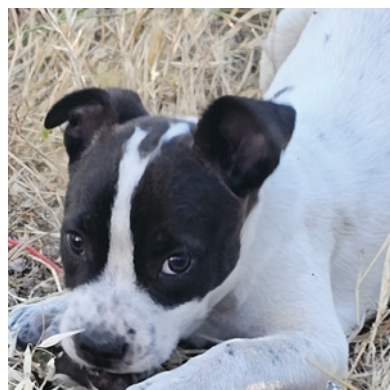


Forrest

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

Loveable Garden Litter

Meet our Garden Litter! These adorable pups were found abandoned in a tub on the side of Covelo Road on a hot day. Thankfully a kind community member stopped to look and saved them from a tragic fate. These puppies were quickly scooped up into foster homes where they grew up and are now ready for adoption. We are excited that they were saved and despite their troubled beginnings, they are the sweetest pups ever! They love people and are getting plenty of socializing and we can't wait for you to meet them!



One of the pups from the Garden Litter

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.mendohumansociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Thank You to all of our Sponsors!

Blues and Brews at the Rec Grove, September 2

The Willits Lions Club and Cosmic Pickle Productions bring you the annual free Blues and Brews concert at the Rec Grove in Willits on Saturday, September 2 from 11 am to 7 pm.

Come early for the amazing Gospel Blues Band/Choir with Minister Cynthia Lewis and Dearman's Brothers and Sisters in Christ, followed by Clay Hawkins. Dance to Dirty Cello and enjoy a big finish with Blue Luke and Co.

Enjoy Big Earl's BBQ, Turtle Island Tacos, and Northspur Brewing Co. and Hare in the Forest brews, along with select wines. Shop the crafts of 30 vendors.

Come on out and top off your summer celebrating community good times with your Willits friends and neighbors!



Cheers to a better future with clean energy.



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