



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Don't confuse effort for results

To the Editor:

It seems that much effort has gone into the Highway 101 to Main Street project over the years. But what about the results?

Results: elimination of street parking for sports and social events at the Willits High School.

Results: bicycle lanes eliminating the turn lane in the heart of the Willits business district.

It's not how many years of planning or dollars that goes into a project, it's the results that are important. A friend of mine once said: "Your first mistake is always the cheapest!" Elimination of street parking at the high school; Big mistake. Elimination of the turn lane: Big mistake. The need for bicycle lanes through town: Big mistake.

Now we are considering the "Willits Bicycle Safety Enhancement Project" with some of the justifications being there has been a lot of effort put into this project. Consideration and effort should be given to undoing these big mistakes before any more unintended consequences occur.

A closing thought: If you want to slow traffic down through town, have Willits Police Department increase their traffic enforcement effort.

Frank A. Sanderson, Willits

## Thank you from the Lions Club

To the Editor:

On Saturday, September 2, the Willits Lions Club put on our Second Annual Blues and Brews Festival in the Recreation Grove. The event was free to anyone who wished to attend, and the turnout was fantastic!

Four groups performed over the long afternoon. There was so much merriment, good cheer, friendships formed and renewed, dancing, great food, outstanding beer and wine, artists, vendors, and people just enjoying the day in our great community.

Our headliner, local talent "Blue Luke," was everything you could want in a Blues artist. "Dirty Cello" was smoking hot, the "Clay Hawkins Band" put it all out there, and the Gospel Choir started the day off with Soul.

There are so many people, businesses, and organizations to thank for their support, and we at the Lions Club know this event would not have come together without their help. The City of Willits deserves a big "Thank You" also for not only providing the venue, but for a hundred little things done in the background.

A couple of years ago, the Willits Lions Club welcomed a new member, Pooba Freeman, to our club. Pooba had this idea to put on a Blues festival here in the Rec Grove. The Lions Club, with Pooba and Dusty Duley as co-chairmen, set out to create a one- to three-day event bringing in the best Blues performers and best local brew makers and draw people to Willits to enjoy the music and local craft beers.

The idea was, create it, make it fun, provide some great music, and people would attend from all over and spend a little money in our town. Motels renting rooms, restaurants serving meals, additional people shopping in our stores, boosting our economy for a long weekend, and along with that, finding out what a great place Willits and the Little Lake Valley really is.

In 2024, with the help and support of the community and the many sponsors, individuals, and businesses who have been instrumental in making this happen, we hope to turn this into a two-day event.

The Willits Lions Club has had a resurgence in the last couple of years. We have been taking in new members from all backgrounds. We have blue collar workers, city employees, retirees, ranchers, business owners, school teachers, mostly just people who want to do something good for their community. If that sounds like you, and you have a little free time, let us know, come to a meeting and check us out. [willitslions@gmail.com](mailto:willitslions@gmail.com)

Thank you, Willits, for supporting the "Blues and Brews"

Skip Lucier, president, Willits Lions Club

## THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

# September 2023 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

Congratulations to our State Senator Mike McGuire. Senator McGuire was voted to be the next Senate President Pro Tem. This powerful position leading the Senate will help Mendocino County, the North Coast, and the State of California.

Senator McGuire has been a tireless advocate for Mendocino County. He has increased funding and resources for CalFire, housing, and Career and Technical Education programs at Mendocino College, ensured that US Cellular provides appropriate service in Covelo, and provided funding for Type 6 fire engines for the smaller fire departments in northern Mendocino and Southern Humboldt counties. He has always been helpful when needed.

Richard Wilson of Covelo passed away in August. Richard was a real asset to the community, county, and state. As Director of the California Department of Forestry for a decade, he was able to harness his connections with Governor Reagan to stop the damming of Round Valley. Richard was instrumental in stopping bad ideas and making life better in the Covelo area. He tirelessly worked to protect the environment, foster good relations between tribal and non-tribal people, and envision a positive future for the county.

Richard Wilson will certainly be missed, and it will take the efforts of many to continue his legacy.

County staff have decided to postpone a strike as negotiations continue. The State Controller Maia Cohen is performing an audit of the county's finances. The board of supervisors and SEIU 1021 requested this of her office due to frustration at not being able to get timely and accurate financial reports.

The Office of Emergency Services is holding a series of resilience meetings. Community input will be used to determine which resilience projects to pursue for grant funding. In the north County, meetings were held in Willits 9/6, and will be held in Covelo 9/16, and Leggett 9/18.

Talk with the Supervisor is the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10 am at Brickhouse Coffee in Willits, September 14 this month. I am available by email [haschakj@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:haschakj@mendocinocounty.org) or phone 707-972-4214. Best to you.

## Senior Center menu for the week

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

**Thursday, September 7:** Chicken Cilantro Walnut Pesto Sandwich, Pasta Salad

**Friday, September 8:** Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole, Veggies, Garlic Bread

**Monday, September 11:** BBQ Chicken w/Corn, Baked Beans, Corn Bread

**Tuesday, September 12:** Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

**Wednesday, September 13:** Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Roll

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

**Friday, September 15:** Carnitas Tacos, Rice and 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, on September 10 this month, 8 to 11 am. \$10; \$9 center members; \$6 children under 8. Menu choices: 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$10; \$9 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides \$2. 3 slices bacon, 2 sausage links. Breakfast includes Peet's Coffee and orange juice or milk.

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

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

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.

## 2023 Patriot's Day Ceremony, September 11

Submitted by American Legion Post 174

Each year, American Legion Post 174 has conducted a "Remembrance" ceremony honoring local firefighters, law enforcement and first responders, and commemorating the valiant efforts that occurred on 9-11-2001.

This year, this will be a joint effort (Willits High School and the American Legion, Willits Post 174) in that the Post will conduct a brief (15 minutes max) ceremony on Monday, September 11 at 11:30 am in the parking area in front of the main high school building, flag pole location. Ceremony begins at 11:45 am.

Please join us as we pay tribute to those who died and those who gave so much on that "day of infamy" and the following days.

Note: Parking for the public is available at the north end, school parking lot.

Seating is not provided due to the brevity of the ceremony.



Above, from left: The Eagles soccer team from Ukiah came to volunteer and earn money for their team. Kids are always fascinated by live lobsters and want them as pets. Taylor Drev brings a couple of freshly cooked lobsters to his table.

At left: The Spirit of Seabiscuit was ever-present at the event. Below: Erin Holzhauer, director of the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center, tells the attendees about the progress of the organization and their needs.

The lobsters were flown in fresh and live from Maine.

Auctioneer Rachel Britten works the crowd for some great donations amidst a great amount of fun.

At bottom, left: This gentleman from the Philanthropic Educational Organization happily distributes lobsters to those in line. At bottom, right: METALfx crafted this clever fireplace in the shape of a guitar.

Photos by Mathew Caine



# Claws for a Cause

## Annual Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center dinner raises \$73K for a new barn roof

The annual Claws for a Cause fundraiser for the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center is about fun, dinner, friends, and most importantly, the excellent work that the riding center has been doing for the last 30 years. Under the directorship of Erin Holzhauer and many others who have donated their time and energy, the center has been dedicated to helping developmentally challenged youth find a way to realize their potential as functioning and happy members of society.

This year, an estimated \$73,000 was netted for the organization, \$65,000 after meeting certain obligations. The money, along with helping to fund the operations of the center, will go to building a new roof for the barn where the hay for the horses is stored. Last winter, much of the hay was lost due to leakage and the new roof will go a long way to negating that problem and reducing operating costs.

Above everything, the underlying worth of the program can be summed up by a story of instant success from Holzhauer about a recent visit from a prospective client: "Last week, I saw a student for the first time. He is 4 years old. He is really sweet. This was an introductory meeting, a chance for him to meet me, see the facility, meet the horses.

"When he came, his dad explained that he was non-verbal. He didn't talk, although he would say one-syllable words on occasion. He said 'hi' to Dan and Muffin who nuzzled him and he was really engaged with each of the horses.

"Towards the end of our visit," said Holzhauer, "we ended up over by Raspberry and Ira. Raspberry is one of our largest equines and she's been an amazing horse for our program. At the gate, the youngster was visiting with the horses and Raspberry was blowing her nose on his hand. He looked at her and he said, 'Do you want out now?' and so it was a group of words that he put together.

"His dad looked at me, stunned and quiet, and he said that it was the very first time that he ever heard the child say a full sentence. That is the impact of a horse," Holzhauer told the crowd.

In the past, the Claws for a Cause fundraisers have bought a half-cover for the arena so the school can operate in heat and rain, an office building used for paperwork and intake, and the purchase of an "equicizer," which simulates the movement of horses for those clients who are not quite ready to interface with the actual animals.

Many volunteers and organizations and sponsors were instrumental in producing this very successful dinner and auction. The Willits Rotary Club, which in the past has been the producing entity, has recently ceded those duties to the

Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center's board of directors, but is still intimately involved in the set up and operations.

Adam Celaya was responsible, as he has been for several years, in the preparation of appetizers and the filet mignon. Three hundred and fifty lobsters were cooked efficiently by a team, led by Kyle Brandon, who also acted as an interface between the riding center and Rotary. Much of the serving duties were efficiently handled by sports teams, the Philanthropic Educational Organization, and several members of the Willits Rotary Club.

The silent auction offered many eclectic types of prizes, from lamps and other home accessories, to wine and tchotchkes. The live auction was spirited and very profitable, due to the generosity of several local companies such as Sparetime Supply, NC Financial Group, METALfx who also created an outdoor fireplace in the shape of a guitar, 101 Trailer and RV Supply, Adventist Health, and others, who bid, not to find a deal, but to help out the riding center, and have fun doing it.

As in the past, auctioneers Rachel Britten and Tom Allman brought high-energy fun (and some dad jokes) as they loosened up checkbooks and convinced the attendees to find their generosity. In addition to great auction items such as two nights in a cottage near Benbow (worth \$1,800), an Ice Box gelato party for 100 people (two were sold at \$3,200 each), a small but powerful statue of Seabiscuit by artist Barbara Phelps (two sold at \$5,500 each), paintings, a monthly lunch from Loose Caboose, a stay in the new Seabiscuit carriage house B&B, flowers, Kemmy's Pies, compost, and other valuable prizes.

Britten also ran what she calls "the Cascade of Giving" or "Fund a Need," which is a descending donation by the attendees for a specific purpose, which this year is the barn roof. Beginning with a \$2,500 donation, Britten asked people if they wished to donate at the various levels down to \$50. The generous attendees pledged a total of \$19,500 against the \$25,000 cost of a new roof.

"When we talk about horses, people say, 'wouldn't it be nice if horses could talk?' In fact, they don't stop talking," said Holzhauer. "They're always using their non-verbal communication to reach us, to bridge a gap. These horses that we have in our program, that are specially chosen and trained, are important members of our community.

"As we look to the future," Holzhauer said, "we have many goals, many programs that we want to help create, expansions so we can serve more and more people, one of which is to make sure that the roof of our barn is fixed so that we have hay to feed our horses throughout the year. We have a plan to make sure this program is here beyond me, beyond all of us, so that it will continue to serve our community."



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.

**Announcement**

The City of Willits' phone system will be undergoing an equipment upgrade on **Friday, Sept. 8th, 2023 from 9:00am - 1:00pm.** The upgrade will impact the Police Department's business line (707-459-6122) and the emergency line (707-459-4611). **During the upgrade, residents must call 707-456-9589 to contact the Police Department. 911 will not be impacted during this time and should be reserved for emergencies only.**

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**Willits Weekly**

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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**GOT FRUIT?**

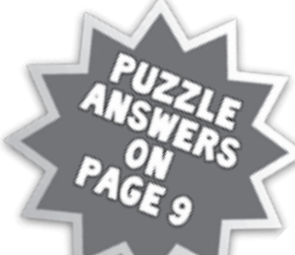
The Grateful Gleners can help harvest your home orchard!

Gleener volunteers will bring ladders & smiles to your backyard, harvest your fruit trees, then distribute the bounty to local organizations including Nuestra Alianza, Willits Daily Bread, The Caring Kitchen, Willits' Senior Center, Food Bank, Kids Clubs, and more!

**CONTACT THE Grateful Gleners:**  
**707-367-7391**  
[GratefulGlenersofWillits@gmail.com](mailto:GratefulGlenersofWillits@gmail.com)

# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



6	4				2			
8				4	3	5	1	
			2			3	9	
7								
		4		2				
9				5			6	7
1	6			5		2		
	8							
			8			5		

Level: Intermediate

## HOW TO SUDOKU

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

## MEN'S HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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

- |           |            |           |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| ANNUAL    | DOCTOR     | PROSTATE  |
| ASSIST    | FUNdraiser | RESEARCH  |
| AWARENESS | HEALTH     | RISK      |
| CANCER    | MENTAL     | SCREENING |
| CAUSE     | MOUSTACHE  | SYMPTOMS  |
| DIAGNOSE  | NOVEMBER   | TESTING   |
| DIAGNOSIS | PHYSICAL   | THERAPY   |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17				18									
19				20					21				
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29	30								31		32	33	
34					35	36					37		
38				39							40		
	41		42						43	44			
			45						46				
	47	48							49		50	51	52
53						54				55	56		
57										58			
59					60					61			

## CLUES ACROSS

- Type of cat
- Weaponry
- Western Christian Church service
- Significant eruption of pustules
- Baltic nation
- Start of American holiday season
- Unhappy
- Maintains possession of
- Metrical foot of one long and three short syllables
- Mountain pass
- Vestments
- Type of dish
- Escaped quickly
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Wings
- Political action committee
- Touches lightly
- Stood back from
- Philippine Island
- Popular winter activity
- Type of amine
- Small freshwater duck
- Filled with love
- Without (French)

## CLUES DOWN

- Body art
- Middle East military title
- Actor Pitt
- Container
- Speak incessantly
- Relating to algae
- Jacob \_\_\_, journalist
- Rock TV channel
- Boat's cargo
- Most wise
- Within
- Chinese industrial city
- Scotland's longest river
- Not capable
- Footwear
- Savings account

- Vetch
- Swiss river
- Describes a sound
- Sign language
- Hair product
- Have surgery
- Quality of being imaginary
- Far-right German party
- Drove
- Former French coin of low value
- Hard, durable timbers
- Capable
- Vaccine developer
- Tax collector
- Fencing swords
- Native religion in China
- Promotional materials
- A shot in a film production
- Afflict in mind or body
- A passage with access only at one end
- Breathing devices
- Employ for wages
- Kids TV channel (abbr.)
- Popular Boston song
- Made amends
- Selling at specially reduced prices
- Atomic #18
- With fireplace residue
- Unleavened combread
- Draw out
- Southwestern Alaska island
- Where the Pyramids are
- People of Nigeria
- Smaller quantity
- Destroy the inside of
- City
- Chivalrous figure (abbr.)
- No (Scottish)

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **54 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

### Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

#### August 14

1:58 am: **ROBBINS Jr., Lloyd** Thomas was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11377 HS (Possession of Methamphetamine) and on misdemeanor charges of petty theft with priors.

8:37 pm: **HEIMSNESS, Daryl Gene** (77) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol level of 0.08 percent or higher, and driving without a license.

#### August 15

7:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street  
10:14 pm: **JORDAN, Dustin Lee** (44) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 459 PC on felony charges of criminal conspiracy and violation of parole, and on misdemeanor charges of shoplifting with intent, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

#### August 16

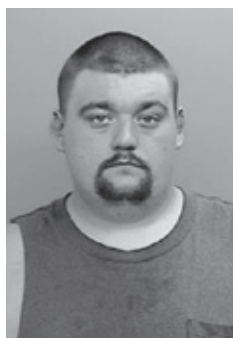
7:41 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject near the intersection of South Main Street and Highway 20.

2:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of Sherwood Road and issued a warning.

4:15 pm: **MACLEAN, Shyann Rose** (21) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of East Valley Street. She was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery).

6:14 pm: **COLBERG Jr., Kenton Michael** (35) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 594 PC (Vandalism), 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 148 PC (Resisting Arrest), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (drugs and alcohol).

7:46 pm: **JONES, Ryan Donald** (25) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of stalking and threatening a bodily injury and on misdemeanor charges of fighting, driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher, driving with a suspended license revoked for DUI, and unlawful operation of a vehicle.



Tristan Thornton of Willits.



Alexander Foucault of Redwood Valley.

7:46 pm: **THORNTON, Tristan Wayne** (27) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of threatening bodily injury and on misdemeanor charges of fighting.

7:46 pm: **FOUCAULT, Alexander Michael** (29) of Redwood Valley was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon and on misdemeanor charges of fighting.

#### August 17

11:41 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1100 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

12:46 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

1:11 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of East Valley Street.

5:03 pm: **FREY, Thomas Dale** (34) of Redwood Valley was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

8:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

#### August 18

12:49 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Wood Street and issued a warning.

1:13 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:13 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

4:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:56 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

#### August 19

No incidents to report.

#### August 20

7:40 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:33 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

3:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of School Street.

4:57 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Highway 20 and Coast Street and issued a warning.



Ryan Jones of Willits.

watchduty.org is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that alerts you to nearby - or far away - wildfires and firefighting efforts in real-time. Use it on your web browser, or download the app. Watch Duty is free, but users can become members at \$25 per year.

Sign up for emergency Nixie or Everbridge alerts from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office at <https://mendoready.org/> or [Mendo](https://mendoready.org/)

Ready is Mendocino County's one-stop source for disaster preparedness and emergency information. Visit [MendoReady.org](https://mendoready.org/) to make a plan, see what items should be in your emergency kit, sign up for emergency alerts, and get to know your evacuation zone.  
September is National Preparedness Month. After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Include several days' worth of first-aid supplies, nonperishable food items and water. Also, ensure firearms are secured in a safe place during and after an emergency. Follow along with FEMA as they provide safety and disaster preparedness advice at [www.ready.gov/september](https://www.ready.gov/september).

**Looking for something to celebrate?**  
Learn more about these, or see a list of other days at <https://www.listofnationaldays.com/>

- September 7:** National Beer Lover's Day, National Neither Snow Nor Rain Day, National Grandma Moses Day, National Acorn Squash Day, National Salami Day
- September 8:** National Ampersand Day, National Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses Day
- September 9:** National Teddy Bear Day, Care Bears Share Your Care Day, National Wiener Schnitzel Day
- September 10:** National Swap Ideas Day, National Tv Dinner Day, World Suicide Prevention Day
- September 11:** National Day Of Service And Remembrance, National Make Your Bed Day, National Hot Cross Bun Day
- September 12:** National Video Games Day, National Chocolate Milkshake Day, National Day Of Encouragement
- September 13:** National Kids Take Over The Kitchen Day, National Peanut Day, Uncle Sam Day

## Free guided nature walks through Willits bypass mitigation lands on September 9 and October 21

Join Marisela De Santa Anna for a free nature walk in the Willits bypass mitigation lands this Saturday, September 9. De Santa Anna is the biologist and project interpreter for the mitigation lands and is an expert on all of the plants and animals within it.

Sights to be seen on the nature

walk include bugling elk, late-blooming wildflowers, migrating birds, as well as wildlife tracks and scat that will give a clue to what other creatures have been roaming in Little Lake Valley.

Those interested should meet at 8:30 am at the Mendocino County Museum.

Below, from left: A male elk makes his presence known while surrounded by the females of his herd. An accipiter watches intently for prey from the branch of a tree in the mitigation lands. Asters bloom abundantly in Little Lake Valley. Perched high in a tree, a bald eagle waits for its next meal.



## 41st annual Roots of Motive Power Steam Festival, September 9 and 10

### Posted by Roots of Motive Power

Come join us for our 41st annual Steam Festival. We will be debuting Roots' newest asset, the Keystone well driller with its water cart powered from its own boiler this year.

We will also have all the regular exhibits like the Bucyrus-Erie 50B. The antique tractors back in the pit, the Bluestone Mining and Smelting #1 Heisler steam locomotive, the Port of Olympia #2 BLW steam locomotive, steam rollers, and more.

There will be steam roller printing services in the park both days from 11 am to 3 pm. One of our Buffalo Springfield steam rollers will be making linoleum prints with the help of talented artists from around the state. You can try your hand at print-making and say you did it with an antique steam roller!

The annual BBQ, raffle, and auction happens Saturday starting at 4 pm. The Sober Grad Committee will be serving hot dogs, chips, and sodas both days.

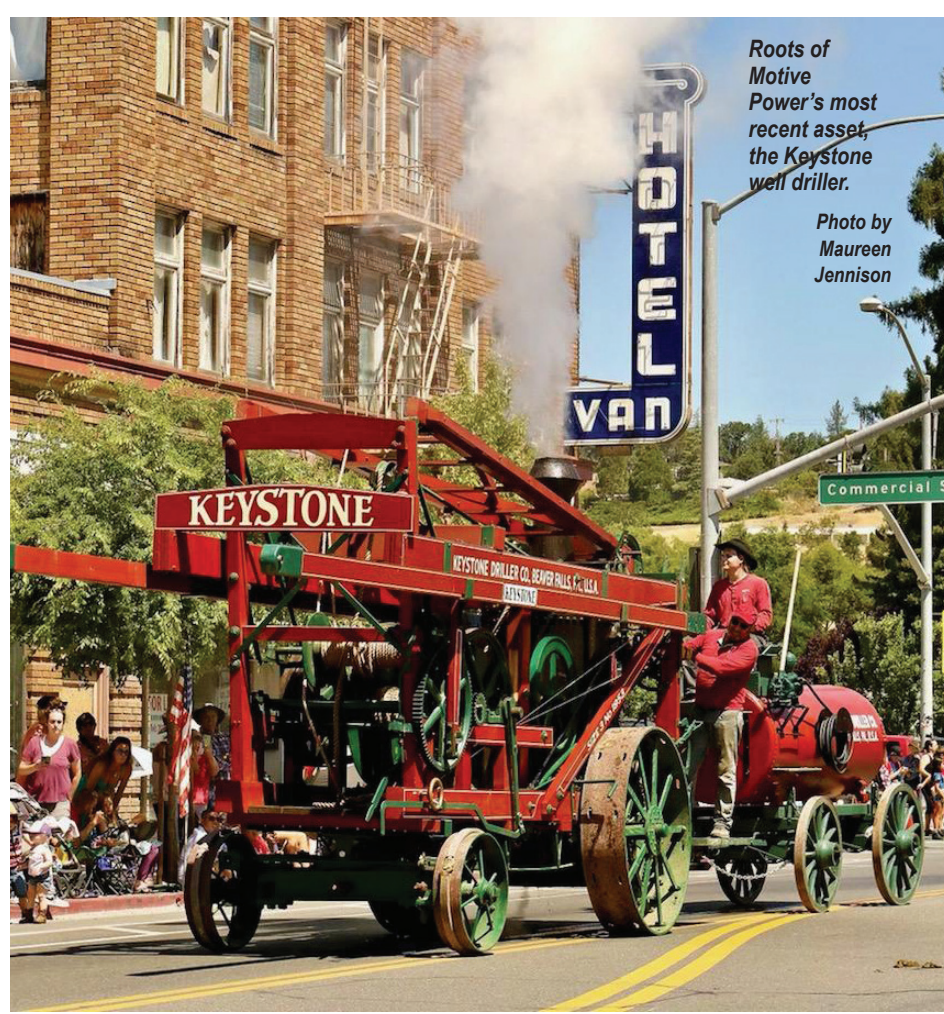
Sugar Mama's shaved ice and Carson

Knives will be back again this year. Cover Apple Farm will also be back this year presing cider on Saturday only.

Let's talk about the auction. Many of you know that during the Steam Festival we have the annual member appreciation BBQ and auction. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. This year Kim Hinerman donated the family's 1950 Cat D-6 Dozer. The BBQ and Auction only happens on Saturday - BBQ starts at 4 and the auction will follow. Support this great cause and help us pay for our operating expenses and restoration costs throughout the year!

Come join us for a couple days of steam, whistles, tractors, and train rides. It all happens at our yard, 420 East Commercial Street here in Willits, Saturday, September 9 and Sunday, September 10.

Thank you to this year's major sponsors Adams Tire, Super 8 Hotel Willits, GlenMark Storage, Brown's Corner, North Coast Resource Management, Moon Lady/Moon Man, Wylatti Resource Management Inc., and Northern Aggregates Inc.



Roots of Motive Power's most recent asset, the Keystone well driller.

Photo by Maureen Jennison

## TOURNAMENTS OF MOOLAH

ALL CASH WINNERS EVERY SATURDAY

Buy in to compete for the 3 highest scores to win CASH!  
Three tournaments each Saturday.

	1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE	2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE	3 <sup>RD</sup> PRIZE
<b>1PM - 2PM</b>	Buy in for \$10 Cash	\$50 Cash	\$30 Cash
<b>5PM - 6PM</b>	Buy in for \$15 Cash	\$80 Cash	\$60 Cash
<b>9PM - 10PM</b>	Buy in for \$20 Cash	\$125 Cash	\$75 Cash

BONUS: Reach Top 3 in two tournaments: **Get double the prize.**  
Reach Top 3 in three tournaments: **Get triple the prize.**  
PER TOURNAMENT DAY

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For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

## MENDOCINO COUNTY FAIR & APPLE SHOW

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

OPEN 9 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY!

FRIDAY, 9/22:

Free admission for children under 12  
Admission is \$6 for seniors 65 and over

5 pm: **Apple Bowl - Football**

8 pm: **Dance - Scott Forbes Band**

SATURDAY, 9/23:

8 pm: **CCPRA Rodeo**

9:30 pm: **Dance - Dean Titus & the Coyote Cowboys**

SUNDAY, 9/24:

10 am: **Sheep Dog Trials**

10 am: **Classic Car Show**

Noon: **Parade**

2 pm: **CCPRA Rodeo**

6 pm: **Dance - Los Elegidos de Oaxaca & Imperio SN**

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

Apple Tasting | Livestock | Wool & Fiber Show | Exhibits

BOONVILLE FAIRGROUNDS

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

Official Calendar Sponsor

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299 East Commercial Street  
Willits, California 95490

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

(707) 459-7910

# What's Happening Around Town

## Thursday, September 7

**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.

**Brooks Forsyth at Shanachie:** Musician and songwriter from Boone, North Carolina Americana: folk, country blues, bluegrass, and roots-rock; along with components of Jazz and Contemporary Rock. Thursday, September 7 at 7 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

## Friday, September 8

**So You Want to Go to College:** First of a series of classes offered by the Willits Library to all high school students and their parents that will "help high school age people understand the terminology and process of applying for college... and make informed decisions regarding their future education." Willits Branch Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial Street, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm; September 8, October 13, and November 10. Light refreshments will be served. Info: 707-459-5908

**Art Talk at WCA:** this month's Willits Center for the Arts Art Talk features "The Middle Ages." Friday, September 8 at 6:30 pm, upstairs at the Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street. Free admission. Info: [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org) or 707-459-1726.

**Eric McFadden at Shanachie:** Guitar virtuoso/songwriter/vocalist Eric McFadden performs with Tom Freund and Steven Bates, Friday, September 8, at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street

## Saturday, September 9

**Little Lake Valley Nature Walk:** Biologist Marisela De Santa Anna leads a free nature walk in the Willits bypass mitigation lands, Saturday, September 9. Meet at 8:30 am at the Mendocino County Museum for a gentle walk of a couple miles at most, ending around 12:30 pm. See bugling elk, late-blooming wildflowers, migrating birds, as well as wildlife tracks and scat of other wildlife. Please RSVP at 707-841-1712 or at [madsa1955@gmail.com](mailto:madsa1955@gmail.com).

**Roots of Motive Power's 41st Annual Steam Festival:** Come join us for a couple days of steam, whistles, tractors, and free train rides. at Roots' 41st Annual Steam Festival, Saturday, September 9 and Sunday, September 10 at the Roots yard, 420 East Commercial Street. Debuting Roots' newest asset, the Keystone Well Driller, with its water cart powered from

its own boiler. All regular exhibits like the Bucyrus-Erie 50B; the antique tractors back in the pit; the Bluestone Mining And Smelting #1 Heislter steam locomotive; the Port of Olympia #2 BLW steam locomotive; and steam roller printing services at the Rec Grove 11 am to 3 pm both days. Annual BBQ, raffle, and auction happens Saturday starting at 4 pm. Sober Grad committee will be serving hot dogs, chips and sodas both days, plus Sugar Mama's shaved ice and Carson Knives. Cover Apple Farm will also be back this year pressing cider on Saturday only.

**Jen Howard at Shanachie:** Singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, born in Prestonsburg, Kentucky - a mix of Folk, Roots, Reggae and Sophisti-Pop. Saturday, September 9 at 8 pm

## Sunday, September 10

**Senior Center Pancake Breakfast:** Every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am; September pancake breakfast is set for Sunday, September 10 at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Menu choices: 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$10; \$9 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides \$2: 3 slices bacon, 2 sausage links. Breakfast includes Peel's Coffee and orange juice or milk.

**Roots of Motive Power's 41st Annual Steam Festival:** Steam, whistles, tractors, and free train rides continue on Sunday at Roots' 41st annual Steam Festival, September 10 at the Roots yard, 420 East Commercial Street. Debuting Roots' newest asset, the Keystone Well Driller, with its water cart powered from its own boiler. All regular exhibits like the Bucyrus-Erie 50B; the antique tractors

back in the pit; the Bluestone Mining And Smelting #1 Heislter steam locomotive; the Port of Olympia #2 BLW steam locomotive; and steam roller printing services at the Rec Grove 11 am to 3 pm both days. Sober Grad committee will be serving hot dogs, chips and sodas both days, plus Sugar Mama's shaved ice and Carson Knives.

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

## Monday, September 11

**Patriot's Day Remembrance Ceremony:** the American Legion Post 174 conducts a brief Remembrance Ceremony honoring local firefighters, law enforcement and first responders, and commemorating the valiant efforts that occurred on 9-11-2001. Monday, September 11 at 11:30 am (ceremony begins at 11:45 am) in the parking area in front of Willits High School. Note:

Parking for the public is available at the north end, school parking lot. Seating is not provided due to the brevity of the ceremony, 15 minutes max.

## Wednesday, September 13

**'Gems and their Healing Properties':** part of the Paranormal Discussions series, second Wednesdays at the Willits Library, Wednesday, September 13, 5:30 to 6:45 pm. A presentation by Misty Sutton of George's Geodes and Gems (a Crystal Healing Practitioner). Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-5908.

## Thursday, September 14

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

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

## Friday, September 15

**'The Odd Couple' (female version) at WCT:** written by Neil Simon and directed by Maria Monti, opens Friday, September 15 for nine shows at Willits Community Theatre through October 1. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2 pm. Tickets, \$20, at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org/](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org/) or at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

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

## Saturday, September 16

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

**'The Odd Couple' (female version) at WCT:** by Neil Simon and directed by Maria Monti; at Willits Community Theatre through October 1. Saturday, September 16 at 7:30 pm. Tickets, \$20, at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org/](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org/) or at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

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

## Sunday, September 17

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

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

**Story Time:** Tuesday through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children's area of the library."

**Penny University Coffee Klatch:** Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. "We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a cup of joe."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Lap swim has returned!

The Willits City Pool is now open for lap swim only, Monday through Thursday from 6 to 8 am. Lap Swim will continue until October 1, 2023. City Pool is located at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street.

- Posted by City of Willits

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

## 'Equalizer 3'

**The Story:** A small town on the coast in beautiful Sicily. Mafia thugs bully and brutalize the locals. They strut around like the punks that they are. They strong-arm shopkeepers. Plant bombs in cars. Only one man can stop them, Denzel Washington! He's manly. He's a grown-up. He's the Equalizer and revenge is guaranteed.



Dan Essman  
Columnist

First, he's quiet. Then he smiles his puzzling Denzel smile. Then he kills the bad guys. Hand guns. Silencers. Garrotes. Short commando knives. Assault rifles. He doesn't make a lot of noise, or cause a commotion. Bad guys sent off to sleep with the fishes. No big deal. It's quite gratifying.

**My Thoughts:** Revenge dramas have been pleasing audiences for centuries, and cheesy physical violence is an essential driver of the story. The grosser, the better. "Kill all the bad guys!" It feels good. It sells tickets. And now that I've revealed myself as a cinema psychopath, my only defense is that most folks in the audience have a wee bit of the psycho, too. On the big screen we get satisfying Death Imagery, at the same time knowing: No one is actually dying. And then, we enjoy the quiet and quite holy notion that for a moment or two: Evil has been Banished from The World.

What do we mean when we say "justice"? It means we want all the bad bullying bastards (the "b-b-b's") to get what they deserve." This is an Equalizer movie. It's motion-picture fast food that feeds our deep-seated hunger for a sense that real justice exists in the world. Though it's only a movie, I believe the visualized violence is nourishing. It's sublimation. It's psychologically useful. Shout out! to director Antoine Fuqua. This is a well-made, well-paced, well-acted, crowd-pleasing first-rate action flick. Sure, it's brain candy, but not empty calories.

**Parents:** Too much killing for little ones. It's death made easy. This is for adults who know the difference between what's on screen and real life.

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

## Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WCT's 'The Odd Couple' (female version) opens September 15

The Willits Community Theatre production of "The Odd Couple" (female version) by popular playwright Neil Simon and directed by Maria Monti, opens for nine shows, beginning September 15 and running through October 1. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2 pm.

The play stars Sarah France, Meg Gardner, Gretchen Anderson, Tiffany Leight-Logan, Lisa Wilcox, Blare Elliott, Jeff Shipp, and Bhavvy Ducharme. Oliver and Madison are at it again! Florence Unger and Unger Madison, that is, in Neil Simon's hilarious contemporary comic classic: the female version of "The Odd Couple."

Instead of the poker party that begins the original version, Ms. Madison has invited the girls over for an evening of Trivial Pursuit. The Pidgeon sisters have been replaced by the two Constanzuela brothers. But the hilarity remains the same. Tickets, \$20, at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org/](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org/) or at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

the Chamber of Commerce & local merchants present...

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SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2023

2-7PM DOWNTOWN WILLITS, CA

Live music 5-6 PM

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**AERIAL SILKS!**

KIDS ZONE & BOUNCE HOUSE

CURATED VENDOR BOOTHS

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food court featuring...

SHAVE ICE & GELATO

STREET FOOD TRUCKS

TACOS & BBQ BOOTHS

AND MANY MORE!

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57 East Commercial Street - Willits  
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[www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com)

Starts Friday, Sept. 15:  
**THE NUN 2**

**MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 3**

(PG13) 1 hr 31 mins

Fri.: 5:45 & 8:00pm

Sat.: 1:15, 3:30 & 5:45 & 8:00pm

Sun.: 4:45 & 7:00pm

Mon.-Thurs.: 7:00pm

Movie Times for Sept. 8 thru Sept. 14

**BLUE BEETLE**

(PG13) 2 hrs 7 mins

Fri.: 4:40 & 7:30pm

Sat.: 1:45, 4:40 & 7:30pm

Sun.: 3:40 & 6:30pm

Mon.-Thurs.: 6:30pm

**THE EQUALIZER 3**

(R) 1 hr 49 mins

Fri.: 5:00 & 7:45pm

Sat.: 2:15, 5:00 & 7:45pm

Sun.: 4:00 & 6:45pm

Mon.-Thurs.: 6:45pm

**OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners**

Tightwad Tuesday Title for Sept. 12 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!

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with Sandy Oppenheimer

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CREATE A WILD OR TAME ANIMAL WITH PAPER COLLAGE!

SHARE SANDY'S AMAZING DECORATIVE PAPERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

September 22-23, 2023 10am-4pm

\$280 includes materials

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scholarships available

Register online at [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org)

**Willits Mini Storage**

261 Franklin Ave.

**Willits Giant Yard Sale**

261 Franklin Ave.

Bring a wagon to carry all the treasure you will find! Multiple units participating.

Sept. 30, 2023 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## 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.agapebilechurch.com](http://www.agapebilechurch.com)

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

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

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

**Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom**  
•Sound of Soul events  
•Membership Discourses  
•Spiritual Discussions  
•ECK Light & Sound Services  
More information?  
Call 504-224-8703  
[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 appointments call:  
(707) 459-3106

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Anton Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday-5:30 p.m.  
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English  
10:30 a.m. - Spanish  
Confessions on Saturday  
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.  
Or by appointment at  
707-459-2252  
<https://stanthonywillits.org/>  
[saintanthonywillits@gmail.com](mailto:saintanthonywillits@gmail.com)  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

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

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

**Willits 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  
[wumc@willitsonline.com](mailto:wumc@willitsonline.com)  
[www.willitsumc.org](http://www.willitsumc.org)  
Facebook: facebook willits umc

If you want to be included in this column please call:  
**April Tweddell**  
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Photos by Jamie Chevalier

Above, from left: Mullein, used for lung ailments in winter, makes a decorative rosette of leaves the first year. California poppies need good drainage, so if your soil is heavy, plant on a little mound of sand or gravel. Cima di rapa is an Italian specialty that resembles broccolini, but is actually a turnip relative that is extremely fast-growing in moist soil (for recipes, see the Quail Seeds website). Napa cabbage, which is hard to grow in spring, but easy now, is so juicy and mild it can be used like lettuce. Now is a great time to plant perpetual spinach, which is a perennial chard that is adaptable and drought-tolerant.

At left, from top: Fennel is easy to grow in fall, and the juicy stalks are a great substitute for celery. Save the seeds of tomatoes by squeezing out the juice and seeds into a jar and leaving them in a warm place; then after five days of fermentation, you can rinse them in a strainer, dry, and store. Columbine are one of the many perennials that need to be sown in fall. Yerba mansa is another native wildflower that is useful and easy to grow. It likes wet conditions and is happy under a faucet or in a pot with slow drainage. Indian Warrior is a native wildflower that thrives in clay soil and has medicinal uses.

At right, from top: To have poppies in spring, scatter seed generously in fall. For the longest bloom, mix different kinds. Don't forget milkweed for the monarch butterflies! Sow in fall for blooms next spring. Nasturtiums love fall weather and make a spicy addition to salads; the buds can be substituted for capers. Grindelia's bright flowers contain a medicinal resin and are an easy-to-grow perennial wildflower. A second-year mullein plant, growing in gravel next to our chicken house, makes a tall flower stalk with yellow flowers all summer.

It's also time to plant seeds for the many herbs and flowers that prefer fall sowing, like poppies, lavender, cornflowers, bee balm, echinacea, marshmallow, and most wildflowers.

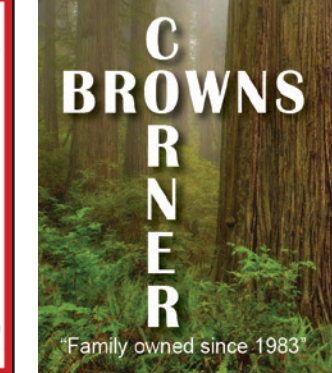
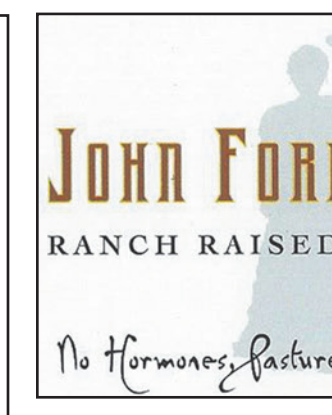
Herbs and flowers are a great place to start localizing your garden. There are so many options. Vegetables need a fairly narrow set of conditions, but herbs and flowers run the gamut from swamp to desert, seacoast to mountaintop.

Why not start finding those that love your soil and microclimate? True permaculture isn't building swales and hugel beds everywhere, it's finding ways to create plant communities that sustain themselves like those in the wild.

Many people don't realize that the grasses we see on the hills here are mostly invasive annuals with shallow roots that deplete surface water without actually holding the soil on slopes. Native perennial grasses have roots up to 50-feet deep that anchor the soil and bring up water and minerals from deep down. They burn slowly and act as nurse plants for oak seedlings, wildflowers, and edible bulbs. Try planting a few such native perennials. Wildflowers, trees, and beneficial wildlife often follow.

Not long ago, a friend from another part of Willits was walking around my garden and noticed the huge mullein plants that self-sow here. She asked what I did to keep them alive, when hers die before blooming. I didn't have an answer then, but I've thought about it a lot, and I think I do now.

What's the difference



COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

## September: Localize your garden

We've reached a turning point in the year, and the recent cloudy weather has emphasized it. Longer, colder nights mean that the soil is cooler and moister than it was a month ago.

Mosquitos are getting fewer, but small sap-sucking pests like aphids, mites, and thrips are increasing. Keep them in check with foliar sprays of compost tea or garden enzymes. Add flowers to attract beneficial insects. A couple of six-packs of alyssum, dill, basil, or cilantro now will help keep beneficials on site and working for you. Be sure to leave your bolting cilantro, parsley, arugula, and other vegetables. Their flowers are powerful attractors of insect predators.

In addition to the usual cool-weather vegetables, now's the time for fall specialties like fennel, endive, escarole, puntarelle, cima di rapa, and Napa cabbage. Winter peas for shoots rather than pods are another fall specialty. Cilantro, parsley, and arugula planted now will be productive all winter. Lots of perennials, including some perennial vegetables, can be sown now, giving you productive plants early next season.

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What's the difference

between my friend's hilltop and my riverbank? I believe it's mainly soil texture and moisture retention. Mullein requires good drainage, and thrives on gravel. It blooms in its second year, after wintering as a rosette of silver leaves. On clay, it does OK the first season, but when the winter rains come, poor drainage often leads to root rot and death.

California poppies have the same needs. They'll grow bigger and lusher if they get more water or richer soil. But good drainage they must have, even if they have to live on gravel to get it.

This episode made me think about a micro-local medicine kit. While there are thousands of effective botanicals worldwide, any given family needs only a few. Identifying a well-rounded medicine kit – or year-round palette of flowers – for each of our local microclimates is one way to reduce costs, environmental impact, and labor.

Why not start experimenting? What a contribution it would be to have nectary flowers, butterfly habitat, or culinary and medicinal herbs year-round with no outside inputs.

I don't plant mullein, vervain, rose campion, grindelia, dock, motherwort, or California poppies. But they pop up along paths, next to the woodshed, among rocks, around the foundations of buildings, and in all kinds of random spots.

Some are truly wild, some are feral, all are at home enough in my fast-draining silt that they can mature seed and reproduce on their own. If I had clay, a different set of plants would appear – perhaps marshmallow, mint, catnip, self-heal, asters, Indian Warrior, and mariposa lily. Roses (and tomatoes) prefer clay, too.

We gardeners are willing to take pains to create the right conditions for special, high-value plants by adding water and amendments. But the weeds, the wildflowers, and the plants that naturalize around your place don't get that special treatment.

The ones that survive are the ones adapted to your conditions. If those naturalized volunteers are things you want and use, think of how much more at home you can be. There will be less work. You can use fewer inputs. And your garden will have that look of rightness, of being at home, that only comes from fitting into local conditions. Terror, if you will.

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in both Alaska and California, as well as teaching, homesteading, and working with several national seed organizations. She started Quail Seeds in 2018 as a locally focused seed company. Her website [quailseeds.com](http://quailseeds.com) offers over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive how-to information.

The rest of Brews | From page 8

in supporting the show," Pooba said. "The hotels and motels have gotten involved, as have the downtown businesses. J.D. Redhouse, Pete Swanton from Flying Dog Pizza have all given donations."

In addition to the music, local artist, Jazz-Minh Moore created a progressive community-participation painting of a nautilus shell, to which anyone could add color from her array of materials. The finished piece is going to be auctioned off online and by other means, in order to raise money to buy art supplies for children in Moore's classes.

Three food vendors kept everyone well-fed. Big Earl's BBQ from Ukiah supplied pulled pork and other tasty meat treats. Tasha Jarshaw brought her popular Turtle Island Taco truck to offer her delicious fry bread tacos as well as some eclectic drinks, i.e., pickle lemonade.

Kristy Ross set up her Tasty Treats desserts to supply the concert-goers with some sweets. Northspur Brewing Co. and Hare in the Forest Brewing supplied the beer, and wine was also available.

As the crowds slowly, but steadily, sauntered into Recreation Grove Park and Cynthia Dearman and her Brothers and Sisters in Christ began their session, people began to set up their chairs, enjoy the company of old friends, and dance. The concrete area in front of the stage was utilized throughout the day, especially when the music began to rock with Clay Hawkins.

Dirty Cello, with their high-energy take on many of the classic rock standards, really got people off their chairs and onto the dance floor. Headliner Blue Luke closed the show with his hard-driving blues.

"We're grateful to have the community's support again to bring in some great music here," said Dusty Duley, co-chair of the concert committee for the Lions Club and community development director for the City of Willits. "We're doing this to bring a good time to Willits and hopefully it attracts some folks from out of town to come hang out in our community, do some shopping, and some eating, and hopefully spend the night."

"We're really looking forward to making this something special for the community moving forward," said Duley. "We've basically been working on this since we got done last year. This year we have the help of the Laytonville Lions Club. They came down and helped us get the festival going this year."

"It's exciting to have free music in our park," opined Michelle Hutchins, past superintendent of Mendocino County schools. "I think this is an opportunity for a community event that's quite unique for Willits in the sense that we can all gather, listen to some great music, and support all of our local vendors."

Pooba is planning on a two-day festival next year with even more groups, people and vendors to bring people out to enjoy their community and attract others from around the county.

The rest of Assault | From page 1

his unsubstantiated belief that a long-time Washington State friend, former next-door neighbor, and black market marijuana associate may have "possibly" stolen an amount of their shared marijuana, an accusation that the victim adamantly denied from the very beginning.

When the defendant confronted the victim with his suspicions last November, the victim's denial angered the defendant, and he initiated methods to attempt to force the victim to recant and tell "the truth" that the defendant wanted to hear.

All the while calling out for help, the victim was falsely imprisoned in the defendant's Lovell Street house, hog-tied, beat with a Japanese bokken (wooden sword), and had his cell phone stolen and driven away in order to prevent the victim from calling for help.

The victim suffered significant bruising from the beating, had to walk with a cane for two weeks after the attack, and now suffers from PTSD. Now living out-of-state, the victim reported that he still experiences almost daily flashbacks to that day that cause him sleep, stress, and anxiety issues.

By all accounts, the defendant's ongoing relationship with marijuana has been problematic, causing him significant legal problems over the years ... with those legal problems now culminating in this commitment to state prison.

In 2004, when he was 22 years of age, the defendant was convicted of felony distribution of marijuana for sale in Snohomish County, Washington.

In 2006, when he was 23 years of age, the defendant was convicted of misdemeanor possession of more than an ounce of marijuana in Humboldt County, a conviction that violated the defendant's Washington probation.

In 2010, the defendant was discovered cultivating marijuana while unlawfully armed with a shotgun at his then-Potter Valley residence. He was ultimately convicted in that case when he was 28 years of age of being a convicted felon in unlawful possession of a firearm, a felony.

In 2011, when he was 29 years of age, the defendant's 2010 probation was violated for, among other things, again being in possession of marijuana.

In 2016, when he was 34 years of age, the defendant was convicted in Lake County of driving a motor vehicle under the influence of both alcohol and marijuana.

When asked by the Probation Department in the current case about his employment history, defendant Rogers affirmed that one of his jobs -- in addition to being a self-employed baker and self-employed glass artist -- was as a self-employed "cannabis cultivation consultant" from 2014 to present in the Covelo area, a claim indirectly corroborated by the victim who reported that the defendant has been growing illegal marijuana "for over a decade."

The defendant's long-term marijuana involvement is also confirmed by the facts of an earlier murder prosecution wherein defendant Rogers admitted he was a marijuana "consultant" for a Covelo property owner operating an illegal marijuana farm. In 2016, another criminal defendant, Joshua Richard Ruoff, committed and was later convicted by a jury of the brutal murder of one of that farm's occasional workers.

Finally, the sentencing recommendation submitted for the August 26 hearing made the following observations, observations that should provide food for thought for Rogers and, perhaps, others:

"Probation wonders when the defendant will recognize that his involvement with marijuana keeps getting him into trouble with the law. All this considered, it appears Mr. Rogers prioritizes marijuana over everything else; especially the safety of his own friends (the victim)."

Following his eventual release on community supervision from state prison in about two years, should defendant Rogers continue on his latest path of violence or other misconduct that leads to another felony conviction, this most current conviction is characterized as a serious felony by the Legislature and thus will be charged in any future felony prosecution of this defendant as a Strike conviction, within the meaning of California's voter-modified Three Strikes laws.

The rest of Auditing | From page 1

unless the county completes its now-delinquent annual financial statements.

In response to the county officials' statements concerning the fiscal uncertainty and instability of the county, Controller Cohen said: "My office will review the county's internal controls. The failure to deliver timely financial reports as mandated by law could place the county at a competitive disadvantage and may drive up the interest rate beyond what the county would typically pay for such issuance."

The audit has commenced and is underway.

As the chief fiscal officer of California, Controller Cohen is responsible for accountability and disbursement of the state's financial resources. The controller has independent auditing authority over government agencies that spend state funds. Cohen is a member of numerous financing authorities, and fiscal and financial oversight entities including the Franchise Tax Board. She also serves on the boards for the nation's two largest public pension funds.

The rest of Arson | From page 1

approximately 10 acres on July 29, 2021 near the Walker Lake subdivision off Black Bart Road south of Willits.

In regards to the one victim who appeared Tuesday to testify as to her losses, the fire consumed two small outbuildings and their contents, which included inventory and supplies for that victim's home-based pottery business.

The defendant was ordered at the conclusion of the restitution hearing to pay the testifying victim and her insurance company \$248,890.06, at the legal rate of interest -- 10 percent per annum uncompounded -- on any unpaid balance.

Additional restitution was reserved as to two additional victims who were not present, as well as CAL FIRE for the state's expenses associated with the fire suppression efforts, which are expected to be significant.

The law enforcement agencies that investigated this crime were the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and CAL FIRE.

The prosecutor who obtained the arson conviction and represented the People at Tuesday's sentencing and restitution hearings was Assistant District Attorney Dale P. Trigg.

The judicial officer who presided over this case was Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder.

The rest of McGuire | From page 1

Caucus is unified in its decision to name Senator Mike McGuire as the pro tem designee. I am confident that Senator McGuire will continue to guide the Senate and California down a path of success.

"Senator McGuire has been a key member of my leadership team, a trusted confidant, and time after time, the convener who sets the table to get things done. The Senate and the people of California will be in good hands with Senator McGuire as their future leader of the Senate," Atkins concluded.

Senator McGuire, who was elected to the Senate in 2014, has served as majority leader since 2022, and has been integral to several legislative victories, including the 2022 climate package and the infrastructure-streamlining package negotiated alongside this year's state

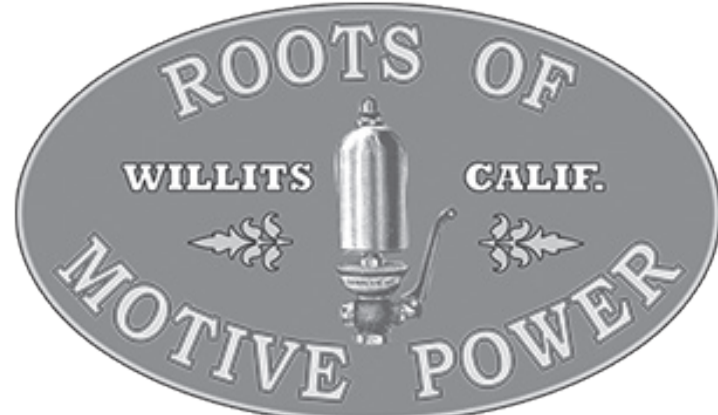


Amy Holland of Willits.

budget.

"Pro Tem Atkins is one of the most effective and thoughtful leaders of our time," McGuire said. "She's a California trailblazer, a role model for millions, and a dear friend. We will work hand-in-glove to finish out the important work that we have all fought so hard for all year -- and to ensure a seamless transition into the next chapter of this great institution."

"Words are not enough to express the extent of my gratitude, honor, and humility for being chosen by our united caucus to lead the California Senate," said McGuire. "Together, we will meet the challenges ahead with grace, courage and determination. We will never stop fighting to make the promise of the Golden State real for every Californian."



### September 9 & 10 - Schedule of Events

- Saturday, September 9:**
- 6:30 am:** Firing operations begin on: Port of Olympia #2, Bucyrus Erie 50B, Ohio Locomotive Crane, Willamette Loader
  - 8:00 am:** Roots Festival Job Briefing -- In front of Maintenance Building
  - 8:30 am:** Firing Operations begin on: Bluestone Mining Heisler #1, Kelly Springfield steam roller, Buffalo Springfield steam roller, Mountain Quarries 202, Keystone Drill
  - 9 am:** Passenger Operations begin on main track -- Port of Olympia #2, Bucyrus Erie 50 B steam shovel operations at the pit, Kelly Springfield steam roller, Park Set-Up, tables, etc.
  - 10 am:** Ohio Locomotive Crane, Bucyrus Erie 22B at shovel pit, Willamette Loader Operation, Buffalo Springfield steam roller heads to park for Street Printing
  - 11 am:** Willamette exercises Washington Duplex Loader, Tractor group demonstration, all day. Bucyrus Erie 50B Steam Shovel Demonstration begins at pit at rear of property, Street Printing begins in Park with Buffalo Springfield until 3 pm, Kelly Springfield Steam Roller, Keystone Drill demonstration
  - 12 pm:** Bluestone Heisler Takes Over Passenger Operation until 4 pm, Estep Diesel start and run at Loading Spur, Willamette exercises Skinner engine & Erie Engine
  - 1 pm:** Ohio Locomotive Crane Operation, Kelly Springfield Steam Roller, Bucyrus Erie 22B Demonstration at Pit, Mountain Quarries #202 on the Main 180 degrees behind B M&S #1.
  - 2 pm:** Willamette exercises Eureka horizontal spool donkey, Keystone Drill demonstration
  - 3 pm:** Bucyrus Erie 50B Steam Shovel demonstration at pit, Ohio Locomotive steam crane demonstration, Kelly Springfield steam roller at Engine House, Hinerman D-6 Auction Cat start and run -- Eddie Kimball
  - 3:30 pm:** Estep Diesel start and run at Loading Spur; Willamette, Bucyrus Erie
  - 50B, Ohio, Kelly steam down**
  - 4 pm:** Railroad operations conclude. Leave consist of NP117504 and NWP Caboose 13 for MQ 202 in am.
  - 4 pm:** BBQ begins in park, Auction and raffle
- Sunday, September 10**
- 7 am:** Mountain Quarries 202 Begins Firing, Bucyrus Erie 50B Begins Firing, Keystone Drill begins firing
  - 8 am:** Job Briefing -- In front of Maintenance Building
  - 8:30 am:** Willamette Loader Begins Firing, Buffalo Springfield Steam Roller begins firing
  - 9 am:** Bluestone Heisler Begins Firing, Kelly Springfield steam roller begins firing
  - 10 am:** Mountain Quarries 202 Begins Passenger Operations on Main, Willamette and stationary engines for rest of day. Keystone Drill Demonstration, Bucyrus Erie 50 B and Bucyrus Erie 22B shovels in pit, Engine House Tours begin, Until 3 pm.
  - 10:30 am:** Buffalo Springfield moves to Park for Street Printing
  - 11 am:** Estep yarder start and run at Loading Spur, Tractor Group Demonstration -- to 3 pm. Earth moving after 50B departs pit. Street Printing begins in Park Until 3 pm, Kelly Springfield steam roller demonstration
  - 12 pm:** Willamette steam donkey demonstration, Ranch Car Open 12 -- 1 pm, Bucyrus Erie 22B Demonstration at Pit,
  - 12:30 pm:** Bluestone Heisler Takes Over Passenger Operations on Main until 3 pm
  - 1 pm:** Bucyrus Erie 50B shovel begins move back to shop and parks, Willamette exercises Washington Duplex Loader, Kelly Springfield steam roller demonstration
  - 2 pm:** Estep Yarder start and run at Loading Spur, Keystone Drill demonstration
  - 3 pm:** Begin to shut down all steam equipment, Railroad operations begin final switching operations, Street Printing Ends in City Park, Buffalo Springfield roller returns to shop.
  - 4 pm:** End of Roots Festival 2022

This year's move from the previous location of Paul Dolan's Dark Horse Ranch to Anna Beuselink and Gary Breen's Campovida in Hopland coincided with another change for 2023: the stewardship transition of Anya Jindrich as the new executive director of the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County.

Jindrich will continue the work of the CRCMC, which has been operating for 28 years. During those years, CRCMC has provided critical cancer-support services, free of charge, to anyone facing cancer in Mendocino County. Central to these services are "Patient Navigators" who play a vital role by assisting clients in preparing for medical appointments, offering emotional support, and attending appointments to audio record and make written summaries.

Additionally, CRCMC provides translation for Spanish-speaking clients, help navigating the complex medical system, a resource lending library, a boutique with wigs, scarves, and prosthesis, support groups, and transportation assistance, among other essential services.

This year's testimonial speaker, Claudia Jimenez, shared her personal journey through cancer. Her firsthand account of CRCMC's steadfast support captured the heart of the organization. Jimenez beautifully encapsulated her experience with CRCMC's Patient Navigators when she stated: "They all connect with us in a deep and meaningful way. They try to pick us up when we are down. Their care and love can never be replaced."

This mission of support has been sustained in part by the funds generated by Pure Mendocino over the years.

Pure Mendocino 2023 will be remembered as more than an event; it was a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, the power of collective action, the importance of community, and the celebration of CRCMC's legacy of providing free support to anyone facing cancer in Mendocino County.

CRCMC would like to recognize and thank its major sponsors and donors: Anna Beuselink and Gary Breen /Campovida, Dark Horse Farming Co., Dr. Jim Flaherty, Adventist Health, Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation, Dr. Don and Lynda Coursey, Heath and Robin Dolan, Dan Crofoot, MCHC Health Centers, Solid Waste of Willits, Emerald Sun, the Westport Hotel, Yokayo Ranch, LACO Associates, and Savings Bank of Mendocino County.

If you missed the event, you can still donate by visiting [crcmendocino.org](http://crcmendocino.org) or calling (707) 937-3833.

Learn more about the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County at [crcmendocino.org](http://crcmendocino.org).

## Princess Mirabel

Mirabel was found very pregnant in the Mendocino National Forest. Some kind folks rescued her and her sister after they saw them lingering on the outskirts of their campsite for a few days.

This lucky mama was whisked right into a foster home after her vet check and delivered 10 healthy, adorable puppies! Her shift as mama dog is about to be over and for the very last time! Mirabel has had multiple litters in the past but that won't be on her agenda any longer! This girl deserves to be a loved member of a family!

Mirabel is part princess, part watchdog, part super mama, part lover – this sweet queen is a beauty in every way. Mirabel is an amazing animal who will woo her way into your heart with her over-the-top smarts, her beauty, and her playful demeanor. This girl is special and we want to find her an amazing home!

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).



Daisy May. All three have been in a foster home for the past few weeks, and their foster mom says they are all very sweet, snuggly and outgoing. She also says that Daffodil is the sweetest of the three and even likes to sit on her shoulder.

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 Daffodil 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).

## Clever Dorothy

Dorothy is very sweet, gentle, attentive, lively, and loves everyone! She is doing well on potty training. German shepherds are known to be intelligent dogs that are easy to train and great companions.



She will do best in an active household with experienced pet parents who are ready to train and socialize this highly active pup. With all puppies, it's important that you're home every two to three hours to work on socialization

and training at the critical stage. Are you looking for a faithful companion?

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 Dorothy 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).



## Cuddly Daffodil

Daffodil here came in with her brother, Sweet William, and her sister,



Olan Cox and his kitchen crew smile for a photo before dinner service at Pure Mendocino 2023.

Photo by Maureen Jennison



# A beacon of clean energy on the coast



**POINT ARENA LIGHTHOUSE**  
Sonoma Clean Power 100% renewable customer since 2022