

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 520 **Thursday, September 28, 2023**

Harvest Moon event to close Main Street

Posted by City of Willits

Dear Willits community: We're excited to share some important news about an upcoming event that's set to light up our beloved Main Street! The City of Willits, in collaboration with the Little Lake Fire Department and our local merchants, proudly presents the Chamber of Commerce's Harvest Moon Celebration.

The Harvest Moon event is set for Saturday, September 30, from 2 to 7 pm in downtown Willits. Main Street will be temporarily closed from noon to 9 pm, between Wood Street and Commercial Street during this event.

Detour route: Don't worry, we've got your detour covered! Follow the clearly marked signs guiding you onto East Valley Street, which will then lead to Madden Lane. This route is designed to accommodate all types of vehicles, including large trucks, trailers, and commercial fleet vehicles.

Local traffic access: While the closure may cause a little inconvenience, we've made sure to keep the section of Main Street between East Valley Street and Wood Street accessible

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Public Health advises on RSV season

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

September 26 – Now that we have made it through the summer heat, it is time to think of this fall's seasonal respiratory diseases. We used to call it "the flu season," and it still is. But we know many other germs cause respiratory symptoms. Most are mild. But some may be more severe and, for some, even life-threatening.

What is happening now?

Many people are reporting increased COVID-19 cases in the last few weeks. There have been more COVID-19 related hospitalizations. Wastewater surveillance shows an increase in COVID-19 detections around the state. This increase was predicted and is now confirmed. This is not an emergency because of the increase in immunity from vaccines and prior illness. We have the tools to care for ourselves with vaccines and medicines.

Some uncertainty about the future still exists. New variants are circulating. We have not seen any significant spikes in

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Above: Water collects on thirsty produce and foliage Monday afternoon when the rains started to fall, including the leaves of a lupine, left, and a lilac, right, and a still-green tomato, center. Below: A few chocolate cherry tomatoes received a sprinkle of rain, washing off their dust, exposing their lovely red hue. At bottom: One of the neatest things about lupine plants is how the droplets of water collect into the center, and onto the tiny hairs of their star-shaped leaves.



Wonderful Wet Weather

Willits receives first official fall sprinkle Monday, September 25 to the delight of grateful plants, humans and animals alike



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Done with Deliveries

USPS's Tim Porter retires from carrying mail after 26 years

Tim Porter was a familiar face to those on Willits City Route 1 who experienced firsthand Porter's dedication to the job, efficient processes, and dependable deliveries bringing packages and letters to his customers through his job at the United States Post Office's Willits branch.

Of his 26 years with the USPS, Porter spent 22 of them working in Willits, and finally decided it was time to retire in summer of 2023. Porter's retirement was honored at a community party at the Rec Grove Park last Sunday, where family, friends and customers gathered to share stories, food, and memories of the dedicated carrier, wishing him well as he looks to spend more time with family in Nevada in future.

His co-workers and Willits Postmaster Scott Butler wanted to present Porter with a special gift at the party, so the group enlisted the help of Matthew Harbour of Harbour Quality Redwood to create a miniature redwood mailbox complete with an antique glass combination-lock door on the front.

A plaque was also added to the box which reads: "Tim Porter: Over 26 years of exemplary service. Thank you & Happy Retirement, Your USPS Family."

"Tim was absolutely one of a kind," said Butler. "He never missed days or deliveries, he was a robot in the best way, and a poster child for the United States Post Office! I always joked that he should be the one on those job-application fliers, he is everything the position should be! He will be missed, and we wish him well in his retirement!"

– Maureen Jennison

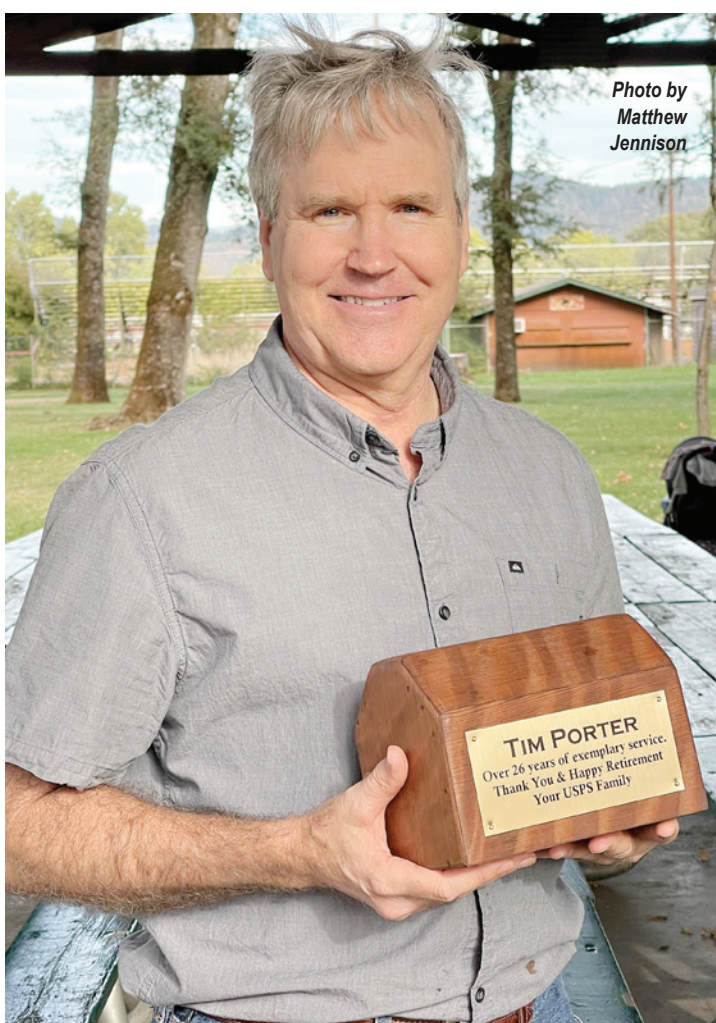


Photo by Matthew Jennison



Above: Tim Porter, a city letter carrier for the United States Post Office's Willits branch, retired this summer after 26 years delivering the mail.

At left: A custom redwood mailbox featuring an antique combination-lock glass door was given to Porter to commemorate his years with the post office and new retirement at the Sunday party.

Council OKs MOU with tribe on water

Jennifer Poole
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The Willits City Council approved a non-binding memorandum of understanding with the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians regarding a possible extension of water service at their September 13 council meeting. The vote was 4 to 1, with Councilmember Larry Stranske voting "no."

Before casting her "yes" vote, Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez stated that she wanted it noted in the resolution that any future water service agreement was to be restricted for use for housing or parks, not for gaming. Councilmember Gerry Gonzalez agreed that he would support a potential water agreement for housing.

The potential extension of service that would be explored under this MOU would provide potable water to a 15- to 20-unit residential development at Mitomkai Way, off Eastside Road in the valley, and also a proposed community center in the vicinity.

Working Tribal Chair Josh Gravier addressed councilmembers at the

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Grants available for farm to school programs

By Madge Strong, for WELL

WELL's Building Community series is hosting an event on Sunday, October 8 with guest speaker Pamela Lee from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Farm to School program. Lee will describe an exciting new \$60 million grant program, with opportunities for schools, farmers, distributors, and the community-at-large to improve kids' health and local food systems in Willits.

Lee will be joined by a panel of folks doing this important work locally, representing local schools, distributors, and farmers.

For everyone who cares about good food, a healthy future for kids, and our community, please come to learn more and participate: Sunday, October 8, at 4 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Come early at 3 pm for a Cooking Demonstration led by Blue Zones Project and CalFresh Healthy Living Program

The state of California

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