

## CAL FIRE to suspend burn permits June 30

Posted by CAL FIRE MEU

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit is suspending residential outdoor burn permits in Mendocino County. This suspension will take effect on Monday, June 30, 2025, at 8 am and suspends all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves.

Since January 1, 2025, CAL FIRE and firefighters across the state have already responded to over 2,678 wildfires. While outdoor burning of landscape debris by homeowners is no longer allowed, CAL FIRE is asking residents to take that extra time to ensure that they are prepared for wildfires by maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of Defensible Space around every home and buildings on their property and being prepared to evacuate if the time comes.

- Here are some tips to help prepare homes and property:
- Clear all dead and or dying vegetation 100 feet from around all structures.
  - Landscape with fire

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

## Local ham radio operators to join national event this weekend

Submitted by Tim Hanna

Ham radio operators throughout Mendocino County will be participating in a national amateur radio exercise on Saturday, June 28 and Sunday, June 29. The event is "ARRL Field Day" ([www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day)), an annual amateur radio activity organized since 1933 by ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio in the United States.

Hams from across North America ordinarily participate in Field Day by establishing temporary ham radio stations in public locations to demonstrate their skill and service. Their use of radio signals, which reach beyond borders, brings people together while providing essential communication in the service of communities. Field Day highlights ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent, wireless communications network.

The event is part picnic,  
Read the rest of **Radio**  
Over on Page 13



Above, from left: 2025 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Contestants, Kristen Helms, left, and Lisa Arkelian, right, compete in the horsemanship portion of the judging contests during Sunday's WFD Horse show. Frankie Lavine represents his hometown with a City of Willits hat, shirt and mug at the Hometown Celebration. Eva Pinon rides on Ethel in the horse show. Below: Downtown Willits hosted the annual Willits Frontier Days Hometown Celebration on Friday, June 20 and a view from the antique Little Lake Fire Department's truck showed how the streets were filled with booths and attendees during the afternoon and evening event.



## Frontier Days Begins

### Willits Frontier Days celebrations start with Hometown and Horse show; more events June 27 - July 5

The community is already starting to feel the festivity as the first few events of the 2025 season of Willits Frontier Days celebrations took place last week including the Hometown Celebration, Sweetheart Judging and Horse show.

But there's many more events to come over the next week and weekend including the truck pulls, CCPRA rodeos, the parade, barbecue, junior rodeo and more. See an expanded, and quick-reference schedule of the upcoming events on page 6.

Also, stay connected to Willits Frontier Days online at [www.WillitsFrontierDays.com](http://www.WillitsFrontierDays.com) and on Facebook and Instagram.

— Maureen Jennison

At left, top: The mechanical bull was a popular stop for event attendees to try to stay on the spinning "animal." At left: Willits Community Services and Food Bank's Executive Director Christy Murat, left, Warehouse Manager Debi Menesini, and Executive Specialist Wendy Copperfield, right, sell raffle tickets at Hometown.



Above: Willits Frontier Days past Sweetheart and one of the judges for this year's contest, Olivia Grupp, left, smiles with her mom, Kathy. Below, left: The bounce area at Hometown was a big hit for the kids. Below, right: Willits Senior Center Board Member Dorothy Roediger sells final tickets for the center's FUND-ing Raffle.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



## City of Willits is in financial crisis

B.B. Kamoroff  
Reporter  
[willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

The city of Willits is in a severe financial crisis. The city's general fund dropped from \$4 million a year ago to only \$32,000 now. Until the June 11 city council meeting, Willits Finance Director Manuel Orozco gave no warning that anything was seriously wrong with the city's finances.

As recently as the April 23 city council meeting, Orozco, who was hired in January 2022, discussed the city's finances. The city has no completed financial statements since the 2021-2022 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2022, three years ago. Orozco said that he was finally completing the financial report for the year ending June 30, 2023, and that the city's finances were "still healthy, we have healthy balances."

Suddenly, seven weeks later, the city is a long way from healthy. Orozco blamed a long list of reasons why he had no indication that the city's general fund was bankrupt: A lack of reliable financial records due to an outdated software system that Orozco has been struggling to replace, and a period when

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

## Judge in Cubbison civil case denies county's change of venue bid

By Mike Geniella,  
[mendofever.com](http://mendofever.com)

June 21 – Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman rejected a bid for a change of venue by attorneys for the County of Mendocino, who argued Friday that intense local news coverage of Auditor Chamise Cubbison's contentious civil lawsuit against the Board of Supervisors prejudices an outcome.

Moorman brushed aside criticism in court filings made by a San Francisco law firm about local public scrutiny, including county lawyers raising questions about her own impartiality and that of other local judges.

"My fellow judges in this county and I decide outcome of cases based on the records developed during court proceedings," declared Moorman. A judicial canon of ethics that demands judges stay "immune from public influence" is the bedrock of her judicial practices, said Moorman.

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



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Willits, are you aware of AB 413?

To the Editor:

A recent notice on my windshield from the Willits Police Department stated: "California Assembly Bill 413, also known as 'Daylighting,' went into effect statewide on January 1, 2025. This new law prohibits stopping or parking your car within 20 feet of a marked or unmarked crosswalk."

I was not aware of this new law. Will the City of Willits be repainting red curbs to reflect this change?

By restricting parking in certain areas, this bill would impose a state-mandated program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

Bob Wilkinson, Willits

## Thank you to community

To the Editor:

I wanted to thank those generous people who helped to create the successful Dance Hall event on June 6 at the Willits Methodist Church Social Hall. The event was a dance with music from the 1940s through the '80s provided and donated by DJ extraordinaire Mikey D Mike Tobin.

Prizes for best dancers were given by Scoops, The Book Juggler, JD Redhouse, and the Loose Caboose. Silent auction items were donated by the Food Bank and by an anonymous donor. Food and beverages were donated by Denise and David Jessie.

We had a blast dancing to many great oldies!

Mark your calendars for the next Dance Hall event on October 3.

This event was a benefit for the Willits Food Bank and the Willits Shelter Action Group.

Please donate to these vital causes. Please bring canned food to the Food Bank at 344 Railroad Avenue in Willits, open Wednesdays and Fridays. With gratitude,

Ruthanne Volz, board member, Shelter Action Group

## Singing on Streetcorners Choir, July 2

**Submitted by SOS Choir**

Calling all joyful noise makers: Lift every voice, Willits!

The Singing on Streetcorners Choir" will gather on Wednesday, July 2 at 5 pm, under the big sequoias at Bud Snider Park on East Commercial Street, then bring musical delight to the streetcorners of Willits.

With simple, joyful songs of peace and connection, the choir spreads harmony and smiles, singing through town. No experience needed – song sheets are provided, and all voices are welcome.

## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor 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.

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. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

# Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Volume 13, Number 598  
3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

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## WILLITS, ARE YOU AWARE OF A.B. 413?

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 413, ALSO KNOWN AS "DAYLIGHTING", WENT INTO EFFECT STATEWIDE ON JAN. 1ST, 2025. THIS NEW LAW PROHIBITS STOPPING OR PARKING YOUR CAR WITHIN 20 FEET OF A MARKED OR UNMARKED CROSSWALK.

THIS NEW STATE LAW HELPS INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLES ENTERING A CROSSWALK.

THE WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION AS EDUCATION TO OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

## Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501

**Thursday, June 26:** Spaghetti w/Meat or Vegetarian Sauce

**Friday, June 27:** Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll

**Monday, June 30:** Hot Dogs, Chili, Mac and Cheese

**Tuesday, July 1. Hot Open Faced Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy**

**Wednesday, July 2:** Chili Mac, Corn Bread, Green Salad

**Thursday, July 3:** Cheese Burger, Pickle, Chips

**Friday, July 4:** Center Closed. Happy 4th of July!

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

**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.

## State announces \$135 million in new grant funds to help communities prepare for wildfire

**Submitted by CAL FIRE, Sacramento**

June 25, 2025 – As part of California's Wildfire Resilience Strategy, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is announcing the availability of up to \$135 million through CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. Grant applications are open now and completed applications are due no later than 3 pm on August 6, 2025.

CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program funds local projects that focus on increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities. Activities include hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education.

"We're making millions more available to fund projects that are proven to keep communities safe," said Governor Gavin Newsom in a news release distributed earlier today.

CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants are effective. Local projects like proactive vegetation management, defensible space creation, and structure hardening helped preserve historical structures and homes in Los Angeles County in 2025.

In 2024 in Sonoma County, over 300 acres of shaded fuel breaks, created by clearing brush and small trees along roads, helped reduce flammable vegetation and slowed a fire's spread. Residents were able to evacuate safely, and firefighters were able to stop the spread of fire quickly.

These examples demonstrate how grant funds are effectively helping to improve wildfire resilience in California communities through thoughtful planning and preventative work funded through CAL FIRE grants, said Chief Daniel Berlant, California State Fire Marshal. "Over the last five years, over \$500 million has been awarded to over 490 projects across the state."

A virtual public workshop to explain the grant process and requirements will be held on July 1, 2025, 11 am to 12 pm. The Wildfire Prevention Grants Program will also be hosting a series of "office hours" to assist with various steps in the Wildfire Prevention grants process, including addressing questions.

Please check the Wildfire Prevention Grants webpage [www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants](http://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants) for exact dates, times, and locations for each office hour event. Recordings of the events will be made available on the website.

The following entities are eligible: State Agencies, Native American Tribes, Fire Protection Districts, Community Services Districts, Water Districts, Resource Conservation Districts, City, County, or City and County agencies, Fire Safe Councils with a 501(c)(3) designation, other qualified non-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation, and Joint Powers Authorities if the entities involved are eligible applicants.

Grant applications are reviewed and scored based on their ability to reduce the threat of wildfires to the greatest number of habitable structures in the State Responsibility Area and surrounding communities. Projects that benefit or focus on assisting those with disadvantaged and low income, disabled, or elderly populations will receive additional priority. Those that demonstrate carbon benefits by reducing carbon emissions during the implementation of the project will also be prioritized.

Wildfire Prevention grant projects support the goals and objectives of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, as well as the Strategic Fire Plan for California. FY 2025/2026 Funding for Wildfire Prevention grants are allocated through California Climate Investments Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Climate Bond).

For more information about CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants and to learn how you can apply, please visit CAL FIRE Grants [www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants](http://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants)

Above, from left: Mozzarella sticks come with a choice of sauces. Grilled cheese sandwiches can be ordered off the kids menu. Some of the sandwiches come as wraps, like this chicken with romaine, tomato, and onion with a choice of sauces.

At far left: Taylor Buzzard takes orders on the patio. At left: The father-daughter team of Darrell and Taylor Buzzard are enjoying working together at the restaurant at the site of the old Buster's restaurant. Below: There are plenty of screens for the sports-minded diners.

Photos by Mathew Caine

## Buzzard's Roost

### Burgers, beer and sports at new family business in old Buster's location

When Buster's Burgers & Brew closed, it left a huge void in the landscape of Main Street. It was an informal, friendly place to have a sit-down burger, some fries, and a beer, with multiple screens showing the current sports games. Willits let out a collective gasp when they heard it was to no longer exist.

Willitsonians can now take heart. The restaurant / sports bar is being resurrected by a father-daughter team of Darrell and Taylor Buzzard, who are lending their name to the new enterprise, in the guise of Buzzard's Roost, a family-run joyful business with brothers and mothers and others lending their time and energy to creating a unique atmosphere with many of the beloved attributes of Buster's.

Recently, Buzzard's Roost had a soft opening that was so successful that they decided they did not really need a grand opening, which may still happen down the line.

"What an unforgettable weekend! We're incredibly grateful for the outpouring of love and support during our soft opening. Seeing so many of you come through our doors, share meals, and celebrate this new beginning with us means the world," wrote Taylor on the Buzzard's Roost Facebook page.

"I don't know if we'd call it grand, but it was pretty busy," said Darrell. "We had our soft opening last weekend. We just did 12 to 8 pm, eight hours. We were still trying to secure a couple more employees. Now, we've got the two cooks so we're ready to roll. We're still looking for more little spots here and there.

"We're going to start with Buzzard's Roost being open from Thursday to Sunday, 11 am to 9 pm, and see what we can nail down and eventually, down the road, we might expand to another day or two, but we'll see," Darrell explained. "It already takes up quite a bit of time. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are not really off days for us. The doors are just not open. I actually have another job." His other job, for which he wakes up each morning at 4 am is in the construction field.

Each time Willits Weekly visited the establishment, there were multiple diners at the bar, at the inside tables and on the patio, enjoying well-prepared American food. In addition to the basic burgers and fries, there are smash burgers, veggie burgers, chicken and beef wraps, salads, chicken strips, a pioneer dog, tater tots, onion rings, fries and sweet potato fries, wings, fried pickles, mozzarella sticks, and much more. There is also a good and ever-growing selection of brews. The kids menu offers grilled cheese, hot dogs, cheeseburgers, corn dogs, and chicken strips.

"Neither of us have a lot of experience in the food service industry," said the senior Buzzard.

"Although, I used to do the barbecue every Fourth of July for 10 or more

Read the rest of Buzzard's

Over on page 11

## NOYO Theater

Willits, CA.

57 East Commercial Street - Willits  
707-459-6660  
[www.noyothrater.com](http://www.noyothrater.com)

Mid week promotions: Wednesday - Matinee prices to all shows all day.

**SPECIAL EARLY RELEASE:**  
**JURASSIC WORLD: DOMINION**

(PG13) 2hr 13min  
Wed-Thur: 12:45, 3:45, 6:45

**HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON**

(PG) 2hr 5min  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:30, 4:15, 7:00  
Wed-Thur: 1:30, 4:15, 7:00  
(July 2 moves to Theater #1)

**ELIO**

(PG13) 1hr 39min  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:00, 5:15, 7:30  
Wed-Thur: 3:00, 5:15, 7:30

**28 YEARS LATER**

(R) 1hr 55min  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 2:15, 4:45, 7:15  
Wed-Thur: How to Train Your Dragon: 4:14, 7:00

## SPARETIME -GARDEN CENTER- SUMMER SALE

50% OFF

DON'T FORGET REVELRY COOLERS

REVELRY ALL STOCK

(707) 459-6791  
208 E. San Francisco Ave.  
sparetimegardencenter.com

STORE HOURS  
Mon - Sat 8 am - 6 pm  
Sunday 9 am - 5 pm

## WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Is looking for people to volunteer to teach Art History to young students.

Inspire the next generation— share your passion for art and culture for the next generation

For more information: gtm1950@gmail.com or 707-972-3326

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NC Financial Group 2022 awarded Gold in Corporate Accounting Firm, Financial Advisor year prior in 2020, and Top Prep. The Best of Lake and Mendocino awarded by Mendocino Weekly is a service-based award for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County CA, and Mendocino County CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are featured and ranked as the "Best of Lake and Mendocino" award. The award is given to the business that has the most nominations. Winners are allowed to promote without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per company per 24-hour period is allowed. Listing in the publication and/or award is not a guarantee of future investment success. This recognition should not be construed as an endorsement of the services by any client. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the recipient for participation in or connection with obtaining or using the Best of Lake and/or award.

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Pg. 2 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | June 26, 2025 Willits Weekly | June 26, 2025 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 3



Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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1	5			7			3
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Level: Intermediate

SUMMER LIVING WORD SEARCH

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ARCADE	CARNIVAL	INGROUND	SUMMER
BACKYARD	COOL DOWN	OCEAN	SUNGLASSES
BARBECUE	CRUISING	PARTIES	SURFING
BASEBALL	DEHYDRATION	PROTECTION	SWIMMING
BEACH	DIVING	RECREATION	SWIMSUIT
BICYCLE	FIREFLIES	RELAXATION	TAFFY
BOARDWALK	FISHING	ROAD TRIP	ULTRAVIOLET
BONFIRE	GRADUATE	SAILBOAT	VOLLEYBALL
CAMPSITE	HEAT	SPF	WATER

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59					60				61			
62					63				64			

CLUES ACROSS

- Computer manufacturer
- Noted space station
- Kurt Russell film 'Captain'
- Automaton
- Everyone has one
- Incline from the vertical
- Fights
- Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
- Finishes off
- Places to store things
- Dutch painter Gerard \_\_\_\_
- Smaller quantity
- There's a North, South and Central of these
- In an early way
- More spacious
- Short-term memory
- One who possesses
- Sesame
- Forbid
- A way to explain
- Not around
- Evoke or suggest
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Dekameter

- Fencing sword
- 'Luther' actor Idris
- Affirmative (slang)
- Afflicted
- One point north of northeast
- Born of
- Arabic name
- Hong Kong food stall: \_\_\_\_ pai dong
- Not the start
- Post

CLUES DOWN

- Creative expression
- Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
- City in ancient Syria
- College army
- More disturbed
- Pays no attention to
- Restored
- Competitions
- Lyric poems
- Tributary of a Jewish congregation
- Famed American lawman
- Expression of disappointment
- Scars
- Satisfy

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!

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE LOG

June 9 to June 15  
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

June 9

6:12 pm: GOFORTH, William Roylee (57) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance with two or more prior convictions, and on misdemeanor charges of carrying a concealed dirk or dagger, possession of a controlled substance, disorderly conduct (loitering), and contempt of court (disorderly behavior).

6:52 pm: PATEREAU, Matthew Len (41) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Baechtel Road. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation, and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol), and violation of probation.

June 10

3:49 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

June 11

10:41 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 700 block of South Main Street.

11:07 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Van Lane and issued a citation.

1:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Baechtel Road and issued a citation.

7:01 pm: HARRIS, Alanna Rio (36) of

Willits was contacted near the intersection of Boscabelle Avenue and East San Francisco Avenue. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

11:32 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

June 12

12:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:37 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

June 13

10:21 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue.

12:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of a hazard in the 800 block of South Main Street.

9:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Gregory Lane and issued a warning.

June 14

10:27 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Oak Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of a hazard near the intersection of McKinley Street and West San Francisco Avenue.

June 15

1:44 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Madden Lane.

6:18 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

The rest of Permits From page 1

resistant plants and non-flammable ground cover.

- Find alternative ways to dispose of landscape debris like chipping or hauling it to a biomass energy or green waste facility.

The department may issue restricted temporary burning permits if there is an essential reason due to public health and safety.

Agriculture, land management, fire training, and other industrial type burning

County advances key initiatives in grant management, wildfire prevention, and hazard abatement

Submitted by Mendocino County Executive Office

June 24, 2025 – Mendocino County is making notable progress on key initiatives focused on government efficiency, wildfire prevention, and hazard abatement.

Amplifund implementation recognized nationally

The County's Grants Unit and IT have been working closely with County departments to implement Amplifund, a centralized grants management system to enhance transparency, compliance, and efficiency across departments.

In June, Trey Henson of the IT Department presented Mendocino's story at the national Amplifund Government Affinity Group meeting, where the County showcased its collaborative approach and staff training efforts

The presentation resonated with jurisdictions nationwide, leading to our nomination for the Euna Advocate Award by Euna Solutions, which honors organizations that champion innovation. Winners will be announced at the EunaVerse Conference this September, and the County will be considered alongside national peers.

\$10 million Wildfire Mitigation Project in Brooktrails moves forward

On June 17, CalOES approved Mendocino County's Notice of Interest to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, inviting the County to submit a full application for a proposed \$10 million fuels reduction project in Brooktrails. The project aims to clear overgrown vegetation near homes, roadways, and evacuation routes to reduce wildfire risk.

Hazard Abatement Planning Contract Finalized

After over a year of collaboration with the Department of Housing and Community Development, Mendocino County has finalized a contract to combine two grants into a single Fuel Abatement Ordinance and Enforcement Planning project. Executed on June 17, the

\$295,000, three-year project will develop a plan to identify the best practices and enforcement tools to strengthen hazard abatement efforts in rural communities.

Mendocino County remains committed to securing funding, protecting residents, and building long-term resilience.

Have something to say?

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com



Above, from left: Ranch High Point winner Nicol Kunka; Ranch reserve high point winner Danielle Barry; 18 and over reserve high point winner Emily Pendergrass; 13 - 17 high point winner Kaydance Lopez; 13 to 17 reserve high point winner Madison Lawrence; and Showmanship Local 17 and Under perpetual trophy winner Ellie Ruiz. At left: Western Pleasure, Local 17 and Under perpetual; trophy winner Kaydance Lopez. At left, below: 12 and under reserve high point winner Caroline Pinon. Photos by Mattie Owen. Below, left: Riders line up after their rail class and await the judging results. Below, right: Cora Brummer and Gideon ride in the ring and received the 12 and under high point award that day for their efforts. At bottom: Eva Pinon's horse Ethel looks over to say "Hello" during their rail class.



Horse show

Equestrians compete in English and Western classes to earn age-group awards

Horses and riders came to showcase their abilities on Sunday, June 22 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds annual horse show.

Riders were broken into age groups; 12 and under, 13 to 17 and 18 and over and competed in several classes to demonstrate different skills including classes like

Maureen Jennison Graphics & Photography willitsweekly@gmail.com

Showmanship where the rider is not in saddle, but on the ground, and maneuvering the horse using ground commands; Equitation where the judge focuses on the motions and correctness of the actions of the rider; and Pleasure, where the judge focuses on the motions and correctness of the actions of the horse.

There are also headline classes, where the tiniest of riders are led on horseback by an adult controlling the horse on foot, and also local perpetual trophies for riders from the area, under the age of 17 competing to have their name alongside years of others' on silver bowls and plaques.

Riders with the highest cumulative score wins the high-point title and awards, and the second-highest scorer received the reserve high point title and awards.

This year's winners included:

12 and under, high point winner: Cora Brummer, and reserve high point winner: Caroline Pinon.

13 to 17, high point winner: Kaydance Lopez, and reserve high point winner: Madison Lawrence.

18 and over, high point winner: Danielle Barry, and reserve high point winner: Emily Pendergrass.

Ranch classes, high point winner: Nicol Kunka, and reserve high point winner: Danielle Barry.

A full listing of results from the 2025 show, provided by show manager, Mattie Owen:

Model Horse, 2 and Under: First place went to Emily Pendergrass and She Berry Dreamy; second to Madison Lawrence and Sizzlin In The Sun; and third to Danielle Barry and Storman Norman.

Model Horse, 3 and Over, sponsored by the R Horse Ranch: First place went to Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds; second to Eva Pinon and Ethel; third to Samantha Arms and Forever a Conquistador; fourth to Ellie Ruiz and Tazi and fifth to Madison Lawrence and Skipping Frosty Sox.

Leadline, showmanship: Placing riders included Dani Owen on Cookie and Hadley Vogel on Capone.

Showmanship, English/Western, 12 and Under, Sponsored by Round Tree Glass: First place went to Cora Brummer and Gideon; second to Caroline Pinon on Flopsy and third to Eva Pinon on Ethel.

Showmanship, English/Western, 13-17: First place went to Kaydance Lopez and My Type of Jazz; second to Madison Lawrence and Skipping Frosty Sox; third to Ellie

Ruiz and Tazi; fourth to Talla-Jett Paradini on Pixie and fifth to Rosalia Mendoza on Regals Gazal.

Showmanship, English/Western, 18 and Over, sponsored by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County: First place went to Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds; second to Danielle Barry and Whiskey; third to Nicol Kunka and Gideon and fourth to Samantha Arms and Forever a Conquistador.

Showmanship, Local 17 and Under, perpetual trophy sponsored by Chris Neary in Memory of Barbara Hamilton: First place went to Ellie Ruiz on Tazi; second to Cora Brummer on Gideon; third to Rosalia Mendoza on Regals Gazal; fourth to Talla-Jett Paradini on Pixie; and fifth to Kristen Helms on Thumbtack.

Leadline, sponsored by Flowers by Annette: Placing riders included Hadley Vogel on Capone; Dani Owen on Cookie; and Russell Pendergrass on West Side Diamonds.

Walk/Trot English, Open, sponsored by Mariposa Market: First place went to Payton Shull on Ruger; second to Ellie Ruiz on Tazi; third to Caroline Pinon on Flopsy and fourth to Eva Pinon on Ethel.

English Pleasure, 12 and under, sponsored by Laura McBride: First place went to Cora Brummer on Gideon; second to Caroline Pinon on Flopsy; third to Payton Shull on Ruger; and fourth to Eva Pinon on Ethel.

English Pleasure, 13-17, sponsored by Round Tree Glass: First place went to Kaydance Lopez on My Type of Jazz; second to Ellie Ruiz on Tazi; and third to Madison Lawrence on Skipping Frosty Sox.

English Pleasure, 18 and over, sponsored by Chris Neary: first place went to Danielle Barry on Whiskey.

English Equitation, 12 and under, sponsored by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County: First place went to Caroline Pinon on Flopsy; second to Cora Brummer on Gideon; third to Payton Shull on Ruger; and fourth to Eva Pinon on Ethel.

English equitation, 13-17, sponsored by Mariposa Market: First place went to Kaydance Lopez on My Type of Jazz; second to Ellie Ruiz on Tazi; and third to Madison Lawrence on Skipping Frosty Sox.

English Equitation, 18 and Over, sponsored by Round Tree Glass: first place went to Danielle Barry and Whiskey. English Equitation, local 17 and under perpetual trophy sponsored by the Kunka Family: first place went to Kaydance Lopez on My Type of Jazz; second to Cora Brummer on Gideon; fourth to Payton Shull on Ruger; and fifth to Caroline Pinon on Flopsy.

Leadline, trail, sponsored by Flowers By Annette: Placing riders included Dani Owen on Cookie; Russell Pendergrass on West Side Diamonds and Hadley Vogel on Capone.



Above: Riders showcased their skills, including Madison Lawrence on Skipping Frosty Sox, left, and Danielle Barry and Whiskey. Below: Caroline Pinon on Flopsy the pony and Payton Shull and Ruger ride down the rail in one of the morning's English classes.





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Willits Frontier Days

Honorees for 2025

Grand Marshal:

Paul & Bonnie Riley

Paul and Bonnie Riley have managed the Willits Frontier Days front gates for over two decades, demonstrating unwavering support for various local organizations. Their commitment extends to Willits volunteer fire department, youth organizations, such as FFA and 4-H, as well as sports showcasing their dedication to fostering community spirit and engagement. They also are local business owners including currently running Paul Riley Drywall and previously running House Doctor Paints for many years. We would like to thank them for their continued support of the Willits community.



Heritage Award:

Jeff Cook

Jeff Cook has dedicated 24 years to Willits Frontier Day, where he has made significant contributions, including designing and constructing the announcer's booth. He put many hours into maintenance and painting around the grounds, demonstrating his commitment to even the smallest tasks. For the past 15 years, he has taken on the new role of leading the parade and distributing thousands of flags as well as addressing the city of Willits during the proclamation, further enhancing the community spirit of this cherished event.

Top Hand:

Steven Hoyle

This year's Top Hand Award goes to Steven Hoyle. Steven has given countless hours of his time to help at all the Willits Frontier Days grounds for the past several years. He has taken on various tasks such as weeding, welding, operating equipment, helping to set-up events as well as serving beer. Without volunteers like Steven, Willits Frontier Days would not continue. We are truly grateful to have Steven as part of our team.



Willits Frontier Days – 2025 Events				
Date	Time	Event	Location	Admission
Sat, June 14	10:00 am	<b>Sweetheart Judging</b> <i>Poise and Personality</i>	Willits Frontier Days Office Area	Free
Fri, June 20	5:00 pm	<b>Hometown Celebration</b>	Main Street Willits	Free
Sun, June 22	8:00 am	<b>Horse Show</b> <i>Sweetheart Horsemanship Judging during show</i>	Jack Tharp Arena	Free
Fri, June 27	6:00 pm	<b>Truck Pulls</b>	Jack Tharp Arena	\$25 - Adults \$15 - Child (12 and under) Free - Child (2 and under)
	9:00 pm	<b>Street Dance</b> <i>Featuring Joe Peters Band</i>	Tennis Courts	Free
		<b>Carnival Opens today!</b>	Old Ball Field	
Sun, June 29	6:00 pm	<b>Sweetheart Crowned</b>	Rodeo Grounds	\$25 - Adult (limited tickets)
Thurs, July 3	7:00 pm	<b>CCPRA Rodeo</b> <i>Rockin' M Rodeo With the Diablo Ladies</i>	Jack Tharp Arena	\$30 - Box Seats \$25 - Adult \$15 - Child (12 and under) Free - Child (2 and under)
	9:00 pm	<b>Western Dance</b> <i>Featuring Nick Tyrell</i>	Tennis Courts	Free
Fri, July 4	10:00 am	<b>Horseshoe Competition</b>	Rec Grove	\$75 Entry Fee Free to watch
	11:00 am	<b>Main Street Parade</b> <i>"Traveling Through Generations"</i>	North Main Street	Free
	12:00 pm	<b>Country Music Rodeola</b>	Recreation Grove	Free
		<b>Western BBQ</b>	Recreation Grove	\$25 - Adult \$15 - Child (3 & up)
	4:00 pm	<b>Water fights</b>	Fire House	FREE
	7:00 pm	<b>CCPRA Rodeo</b> <i>Rockin' M Rodeo With the Diablo Ladies</i>	Jack Tharp Arena	\$30 - Box Seats \$25 Adult \$15 - Child (12 and under) Free - Child (2 and under)
Sat, July 5	7:00 am	<b>Lions Club Cowboy Breakfast</b>	Recreation Grove	\$15 - Adults \$10 - Child (12 and under)
	8:00 am	<b>Jr. Rodeo</b>	Jack Tharp Arena	\$10 - Adult
	7:00 pm	<b>Bulls and Broncs</b>	Jack Tharp Arena	\$15 - Adult \$10 - Child (12 and under)

Willits Frontier Days

Upcoming Events:

Friday, June 27:

**Willits Frontier Days Truck and Tractor Pulls:** Come down to the Willits Rodeo Grounds starting at 6 pm on Friday, June 27, to watch locals and professionals try their hand at pulling a weighted sled 300 feet across the arena. Tickets are available for sale at the gate; \$25 for adults, \$15 for children 12; and children 2 and under are free.

**Willits Frontier Days Street Dance:** Join friends and community members after the Truck Pulls on Friday, June 27 for the free-to-attend annual Street Dance event at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds tennis courts. The Joe Peters Band will be singing live starting around 9 pm.

**Willits Frontier Days Carnival opening day:** The fairway opens today, Friday, July 27, for the annual Willits Frontier Days carnival located at the old ball fields next to the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. Wristbands are available at JD Redhouse for the presale only price of \$35 each until 12 noon. Reminder: The tickets are Non-refundable, and can not be replaced if lost or stolen. After that, they will be available only at the carnival's ticket booth at the Rodeo grounds, and will cost \$45 each. Hours will vary by day based on weather and attendance. Questions about the carnival? Contact the carnival's manager, Gordon, directly at (916) 761-1722.

Sunday, June 29:

**Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Crowned:** The winner of the 2025 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart will be announced at the annual dinner starting at 6 pm on Sunday, June 29 and limited tickets are available for \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids. Contestants this year include Lisa Arkelian and Kristen Helms. The two have competed in poise and personality, modeling, have given speeches and demonstrated their on-saddle skills and equestrian knowledge during the horsemanship judging as well. The winner will receive a portion of her ticket sales, a silver tiara, silver spurs, a saddle, a sash, flowers and more, and join the roster of almost 100 other women who have been named Sweetheart over the years.

Thursday, July 3:

**Willits Frontier Days CCPRA Rodeo:** The first half of the 2025 California Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association Rodeo kicks off at 7 pm on Thursday, July 3 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. Come watch professional (and a few locals in the Locals classes!) compete in traditional events like bull and bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing and more. Tickets are \$30 for box seats; \$25 for adults; \$15 for children 12 and under, and children under the age of 2 are free to attend. The center act, the trick-riding Diablo Ladies and Lefty the Rodeo Clown, will entertain guests during the event as well. All-Around titles, including cash prizes, a silver belt buckle and a custom saddle, will be awarded to the cowboy and cowgirl with the best scores gained from multiple events, and individual event winners will also be awarded with cash and silver buckles.

**Willits Frontier Days Western Dance:** On Thursday, July 3, the Western Dance will take place at the stage in the old tennis courts at the Willits Rodeo Grounds. This event is free to attend and will start around 9 pm.

Friday, July 4:

**Willits Frontier Days Horseshoe Competition:** Watch teams try to toss horseshoes across the pits with the best accuracy at the Rec Grove Park starting at 10 am on Friday, July 4. The event is free to attend.

**Willits Frontier Days Main Street Parade:** Get your spot early so you have the best view for the annual Willits Frontier Days Main Street Parade starting at 11 am on Friday, July 4. As usual, the parade will start heading west down Commercial Street, head south on Main Street, and then back east on East Valley Street. The public is welcome to watch anywhere along the parade route and cheer on the floats, groups and individuals who will showcase their entries for this well-loved annual free event. This year's theme is "Traveling through Generations."

**Willits Frontier Days Rodeola and Western BBQ:** After the parade and starting around noon, the Rec Grove will become the center of Willits Frontier Days activity on Friday, July 4, when it will be time to relax with a plate of BBQ and live entertainment. The free-to-attend Rodeola will take place on the stage and feature several bands and live entertainment to enjoy during the early afternoon. The BBQ will offer up the perfect lunch to enjoy in the shade, usually including meat, salad, beans, bread and dessert. Tickets are required for the BBQ and cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for children aged three and up.

**BACK THIS YEAR! Willits Frontier Days and Little Lake Fire Department Water Fights:** After several years off, the Waterfights, a soaking, splashing fun and free-to-attend event will return once again to the Humboldt Street block between the Little Lake Fire Department and the City Park starting at 4 pm on Friday, July 4. Firefighters will battle with the hoses to push a metal barrel across a line using the stream of high-pressure water. Bring your splash-zone parka, or get soggy as you watch the wet and wild action from the sidewalk and sidelines.

**Willits Frontier Days CCPRA Rodeo:** The second half of the 2025 California Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association Rodeo kicks off at 7 pm on Friday, July 4 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. This event used to be at 4 pm, but has been moved back to 7 pm – note the new time! Come watch professional (and a few locals in the Locals classes!) compete in traditional events like bull and bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing and more. Tickets are \$30 for box seats; \$25 for adults; \$15 for children 12 and under, and children under the age of 2 are free to attend. The center act, the trick-riding Diablo Ladies and Lefty the Rodeo Clown, will entertain guests during the event as well. All-Around titles, including cash prizes, a silver belt buckle and a custom saddle, will be awarded to the cowboy and cowgirl with the best scores gained from multiple events, and individual event winners will also be awarded with cash and silver buckles.

Read the rest of  
Schedule Over on page 7



At left: Memorabilia is set up in Cari Stiles' honor for people to stop by to see. Above: Katie Williams and Holli Woodhouse pose in front of Cari Stiles' sign. At right: Katie Williams, with her husband and two young sons, poses in front of the Cari Stiles sign posted right under the scoreboard.



Photos by Ava Dockins-Kline

Cari Stiles Dedication

WHS softball field named after coach and athletic director of 30 years who passed last year

There has been a definitive void at Willits High School and in the community since the beloved Cari Stiles passed unexpectedly in January of 2024. Stiles began her career of coaching at WHS in 1992, and created a lasting impression through her 30-year commitment to athletics and motivating our youth. Stiles served as an athletic director for WHS after building a very successful softball program that made a positive impact on every player she coached.

Stiles was very active in mentoring youth, outlining their strengths, inspiring them to stay involved in athletics and extracurricular activities, while keeping a smile on their face with her uplifting attitude. She noticed, and was there for so many students in a very encouraging way. She genuinely cared. She was admired for her strength, infectious laughter, support, and unique outlook on life.

Stiles' passion for softball was well known. She created

an unstoppable dynamic amidst her players. They were always so full of great energy and were fun to watch. She took her 2001-2002 season all the way to win the championships! This was a super-memorable occasion as the scene of her players pouring a jug of water over her head was captured in an amazing photo to cherish for years to come.

She generously dedicated her time to the team, players and field throughout the years. Her legacy was felt through softball, and in the lives of many youth, leading to the undeniable choice as the most honorable person for whom to dedicate the Willits High School softball field.

On Saturday June 21, the Williams and Woodhouse families and friends orchestrated a beautiful tribute to unveil the Cari Stiles Field while fundraising for our current WHS softball program. "Cari Stiles played a huge role in my life as a longtime family friend, and my high school softball coach," shared Holli Woodhouse. "She had a huge



Read the rest of  
Dedication Over on page 13

At left: Cari Stiles' alumni players pose for a photo in front of the sign in her memory. Below: Alumnus Michelle Marshall makes contact with the ball in the pickup game.



The rest of  
Schedule From page 6

Saturday, July 5:

**Willits Frontier Days and Lions Club Pancake Breakfast:** Get your pancake fix handled at the Willits Lions Club Pancake Breakfast starting at 7 am on Saturday, July 5 at the Rec Grove. The crew will be cooking up a delicious meal of eggs, pancakes, meats and more. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under.

**Willits Frontier Days Junior Rodeo:** Come see the next generation of cowboys and cowgirls compete in a host of events at the Junior Rodeo, starting at 8 am on Saturday, July 5 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. Contestants are 18 and under for the junior events, but compete in several of the same competitions as their adult

counterparts including barrel racing, team roping, bronc and bull riding and more. There are some fun junior-only events, too: goat tying, sheep riding and the mystery scramble, to name a few. Tickets are \$10 for adults.

**Willits Frontier Days Bulls and Broncs:** If you just want the heart-pounding action of bull and bronc riding, then come by the Bulls and Broncs event starting at 7 pm on Saturday, July 5 to see a whole bunch of that, and a little more sheep riding, and some breakaway roping, too. This event is brought to you by Clayton Cooley and Kevin Rountree and tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

More information can be found online at [www.WillitsFrontierDays.com](http://www.WillitsFrontierDays.com) or email [willitsfrontierdays@gmail.com](mailto:willitsfrontierdays@gmail.com) with questions

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- Desayuno de 08:00 a 09:00
- Almuerzo de 11:00 a. m. a 12:30 p. m.

\*Almuerzo caliente en el lugar o comida fría para llevar\*

**WHS ALL 80'S CLASS REUNION**  
**SATURDAY JULY 5TH, 2025**  
**5 PM TO 9:30 PM**



Join your fellow WHS alumni for an unforgettable gathering filled with stories, laughter, and great company!

- \* Location: The garden patio at Whistlestop Café \* Local wine, beer, and non-alcoholic options included \* Fresh Taco Bar: Because everything's better with tacos! All the fixings, all the fun.
- \* Live Music: Get ready to hit the dance floor as local Willits band Funkacillin plays your favorite tunes! \$85 a person!

Reconnect, reminisce, and make new memories—because the best stories are shared together.

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HOSTED BY WILLITS HIGH CLASS OF 1985



A healthy breakfast and lunch are provided FREE to children 0-18 years old, **enrolled in WUSD or not**, regardless of income. Available Monday-Friday, June 9, 2025, through August 8, 2025, at Brookside Elementary School.

- Breakfast 8:00am-9:00am
- Lunch 11:00am-12:30pm

\*Hot lunch on site or a cold meal to go\*

Questions? Please call the WUSD Food Director at (707)459-7700 ext.1554

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JUNE 27, 2025

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ADULTS: \$25  
KIDS: 3-12: \$15



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Willits Weekly | June 26, 2025 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 7









Above, from left: Pamela Temple is dwarfed by the fast-growing sunflower plant. Feverfew helps in the prevention of migraines. The culinary bed of the Medicine Chest Garden has many edible herbs as well as this group of chives. The original bed of the Medicine Chest Garden contains all the herbs one can make tea from. At left: Claudia Wenning addresses the curious tour group about the different types of herbs and their healing properties. Below, from left: Lemon balm is known for its calming and mood-enhancing properties and may help sleep quality. Calendula has bright flowers that attract pollinators. Some herbs have beautiful flowers that attract the bees for pollination. Echinacea has many healing properties, including the ability to fight off upper respiratory infections. At bottom: The crew spent many hours preparing the garden for planting. Photo courtesy of Medicine Chest Garden



Photos by Mathew Caine

# Medicine Chest Garden

Herbal demonstration garden open for tours and classes at Little Lake Grange

Southern exposure and a small strip of land is all that is needed to create an eclectic garden full of herbs that can heal, comfort, relax, and provide zest to one's food, as demonstrated by the efforts of four women and a group of volunteers at the Medicine Chest Garden, located at the Little Lake Grange. Through the ideation and efforts of Claudia Wenning, Annie Waters, Leslie King and Donna d'Terra, along with volunteers and several generous donations from local businesses, the desire for a luscious and hearty herb garden became a reality in a place where it would not be expected to be found. The small strip of land on the south side of the Little Lake Grange is now a jungle of raised beds with a vast variety of herbs organized into their various uses.

"We decided we were going to do something," said Claudia Wenning of Quantum Level Health. "We started in January. We spread the word that we needed donations, and the donations just came in. This is how it all started. We received a whole load of dirt from Cold Creek Compost in January. Then, we got the lumber donated. We got some labor donated from volunteers. Plants came mostly from Donna d'Terra's Motherland herb garden. She starts a lot of plants by seed. Prana brought some plants, too. We had a great volunteer group. That was the beginning. That was the most work."

In order to familiarize people with herbs, their uses, and how to process them into salves, tinctures, and teas, the Medicine Chest Garden people have been and are running several tours and classes. Last Sunday, there was a tour that

Read the rest of **Garden** | Over on page 11

The rest of **Garden** | From page 10

began at 10 am. People were invited to see, touch, and taste the herbs as well as ask questions. Wenning explained the history of the garden and the various benefits and identities of the herbs. The guests were able to go home with lemon balm starts for a donation.

"There's no better time to demonstrate how herbs can be grown locally and used for food and medicine," said Wenning, explaining her love of herbs. "We have created a demonstration-education garden here, and throughout the season, we will offer tours and workshops to familiarize our community with what can be done with herbs in this area, in one's own backyard, and even on a windowsill. Herbs are an effective way to enhance the foods we consume, and we can create medicinal remedies with them. We're looking forward to sharing everything we know about the use of these herbs; it is our offer to increase sustainability and a sense of self-empowerment. We can nurture our bodies, minds and souls with the incredible gifts that nature so abundantly gives us access to."

Wenning explained the layout of the garden, primarily how the four beds are laid out with the herbs classified by their usage. "This is the original Medicine Chest Garden bed. The whole garden is called 'Medicine Chest Garden' but this is what we started with. We sat down and decided what we wanted: lemon balm, nettles, comfrey, Echinacea, mints, and mullein, motherwort, valerian, St. John's wort, and more. These are the basic herbs we can use medicinally. They really grow well here.

"Then, we just kept going," Wenning said. "We have more space than just one bed. This bed is the one I look after. It's all the herbs you can make teas with. This is called Love-in-the-Mist – it's nigella. There's poppy, yarrow. This is bee balm, which is going to be pretty once it takes off.

"This bed is fascinating. Leslie is looking after it. These are more immune-system related, what we call 'advanced herbals.' Bill Bruneau has promoted seta and bidens. He wrote books about them. They came in late, in May, because they were small but they are going to grow big.

"This is what we call 'the pollinator bed.' It's a sanctuary for pollinators," explained Wenning. "That's why we have the sunflowers. They're not used herably, but the bees love them. We use the clary sage primarily in aromatherapy. You can also use it for tea, but it's an incredible pollinator plant. Then we have plantain yellow. We have borage which the bees love. We have some dandelion.

"This bed is the culinary one. We have sage, cilantro, coriander, tarragon, stevia, dandelion. Look at the chives. The parsley is going to seed on purpose. That is another part of what we want to talk about in a separate class, how you can keep a garden going by saving some seeds and giving seeds to your neighbors."

Wenning explained why she felt it was important to put in the work. "The whole purpose of doing this garden is that we wanted to do something that inspires the community to feel that there are ways that we can live more sustainably. What can we do to feel more safe, to have more food security, medicinal security, how you can provide for yourself and your family. To use nature's gifts, to feel that you can take care of yourself better, foodwise and health wise."

The Medicine Chest Garden can be found on the south side of the Little Lake Grange (located at 291 School Street), along Pine Street. The next tour is scheduled for July 27, at 10 am. A free class – "Making Herbal Sun Tea" – will take place on June 28, at 1 pm. Call 707-371-6103 to reserve your spot or obtain more info.

The rest of **Buzzard's** | From page 3

years. At one point, I was running the whole thing down there. It was fun but then it got to be a bit much. We were going through 2,000 pounds – one ton – of meat each year. You got to figure, that's got to be 8,000 to 10,000 people."

Both Darrell and Taylor are optimistic about the longevity and popularity of the restaurant as people have wanted a good sit-down burger place, a place to meet friends, watch some sports, and eat some well-cooked, basic comfort fare.

"This is a great location," said Darrell. "It's visible and has a nice outdoor area. It's right where everybody is kind of at. You've got the banks nearby, J.D. Redhouse – people go there to shop. El Mex has been here for 30-something years. Monkey Wrench has been next door for quite a while. I've had a lot of people say this place is walking distance from their house. A lot of the town's population is concentrated nearby."

Darrell is looking to further integrate into the town and has worked with youth sports in the past. "I think I'd like to take that back hallway and put up Willits graduates and locals' boot camp pictures on it. Kapilla

Phoenix does that at La Siciliana. It's pretty neat to honor our military.

"Down the road, we'd like to sponsor some of the teams here," said Darrell. "We still need to recover what we've put in and get on our feet. I'd love to, down the road, be a sponsor of Little League teams and football, and whatever else we could help out with. I coached Little League here, starting back in 1995, and coached until around 2010. I did youth football for multiple years, did the high school for a couple years. I would love to give back to local sports."

Look for Buzzard's Roost to be an integral part of the revitalization of downtown Willits. So far, the customers are extremely pleased with the food and atmosphere. "Food is delicious," wrote one pleased patron. "You guys are doing a great job, friendly environment, the new place to relax, chat with friends, and enjoy some food and drinks."

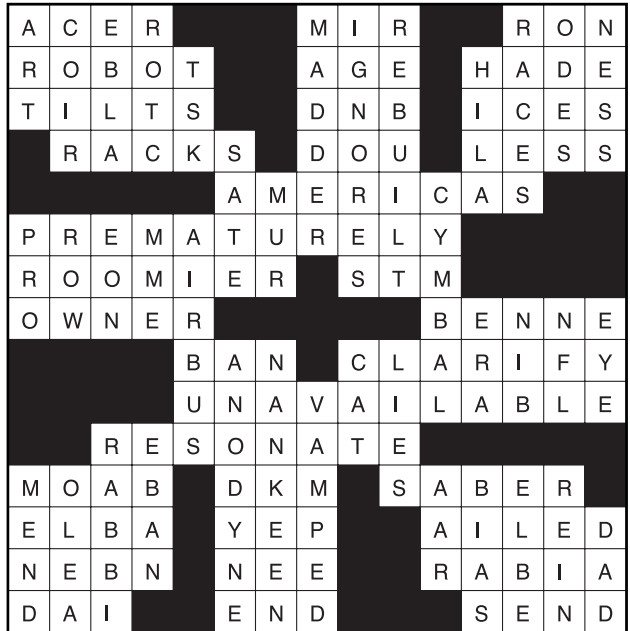
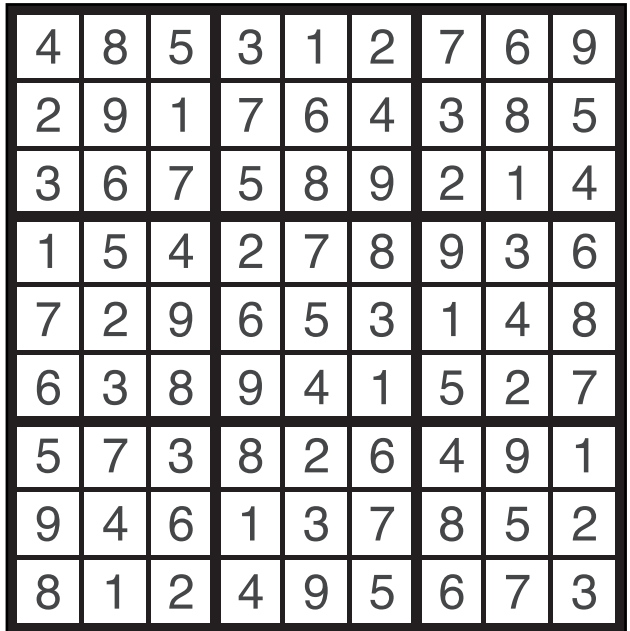
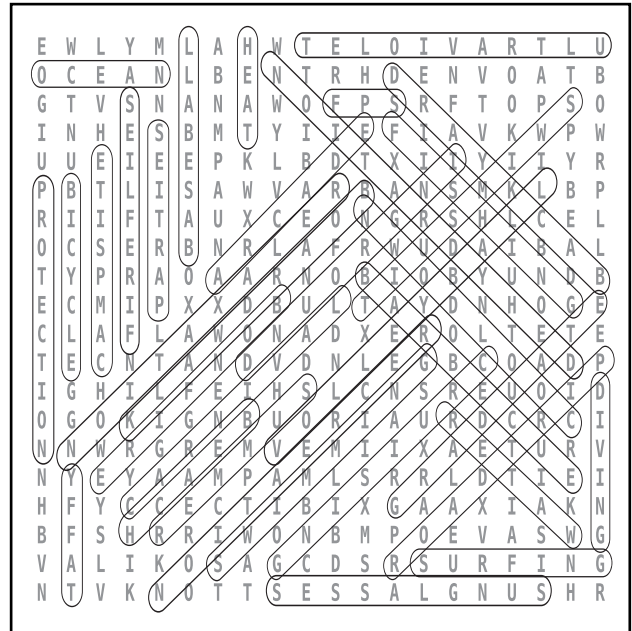
Buzzard's Roost is located at 150 South Main Street and can be reached at 707-513-6213 or Buzzardroost2025@yahoo.com.

Willits Library hosts Story and Playtime, Saturdays at the Rec Grove Submitted by Willits Library

Join the staff of the Willits Branch Library for Story and Playtime every Saturday at the Recreation Grove Park, 11 am to 12 noon, through August 9.

Stories will be read by our librarian, followed by outdoor games. Bring the family and have some fun!

The event will be held across the street from the Willits Branch Library. For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

### Brown Bag Lunch Program

Every Saturday at 1 pm sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations, and families at Bud Snider Park on East Commercial. Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch!

### Free Food for All Pop-Up

Mendocino Food Network presents food pop-ups with free food for all! Due to the impact of federal budget cuts, there will be only one monthly popup in Willits, on 1st Thursdays, from 10 to 11:30 am at 1250 Blosser Lane. In Laytonville, every 4th Thursday, 12 to 1 pm at 300 Canto Drive. In Covelo, every 2nd Thursday, from 12 to 1 pm, at NEW ADDRESS: 24065 Rifle Road. In Leggett: Every 1st Tuesday from 12 to 1 pm at 65100 Drive-Thru Tree Road. Info: Rachelle@mendofood.org; 707-615-6654.

### Room for Rent

For rent master bedroom and bath. Private entrance, no shared space, includes refrigerator, utilities, internet. AC. 1 person 50 or older. \$750 month; rental referral required. 805 259-9155.

### RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers – starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at http://www.oakvine.net/lp

### Tattoo Shop

Tattoo Shop in Downtown Willits! Clean, cute, and private shop with 10 years experience. Love to tattoo botanicals, cute critters, and sceneries! Appointments and bookings: kikitattoos.com

### Do you need food?

Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, new expanded distribution hours: 11 am to 4:30 pm. New Client Choice model where you select your own items. Bring shopping bags. Bring an I.D. Info: (707) 459-3333

### For Rent

Clean Studio Apartment for rent, upstairs unit, close to downtown area, Washer & Dryer facility on hand, garbage paid. \$800 per month & Sec. Dep. Armo 707-354-0048.

### John Ford Ranch Beef

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

### M & M Collectors

Now at Coast Hardware in Willits. A variety of M & M Collectable items ready for a new home. There are holiday decor trains, clocks, jackets and much more. Come take a look.

### Office Space for Rent

This bright and modern 660 sq. ft. office space with a kitchenette & bathroom available for rent in the heart of Willits. Located across the street from the post office. Contact us today to schedule a viewing! 12 W Valley St Willits CA 95490. 707-459-2163.

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two weeks. Email us your ad today to be included!

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW545

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0266

The following person or persons are doing business as 3 Pronged Attack, 3PA, 32 Fort Bragg Road, Willits, CA 95490; 707-731-7562.

Registered owner: Omar Sisemore, 32 Fort Bragg Road, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on December 10, 2020.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on June 4, 2025.

/s/ Omar Sisemore

Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025

WW541

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0261

The following person or persons are doing business as Peridot Electric, 1761 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490. Mailing address: P.O. Box 116, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Nathan Coleman, 1761 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 29, 2025.

/s/ Nathan Coleman

Publication Dates: June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025

### Have something to say?

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor about local issues. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

REMEMBER: Deadline is end of day Monday for each week's Thursday edition.

### HELP WANTED:

## Casino Controller at Sherwood Valley Casino

Benefits, Salary: \$98K - \$110K

The Casino Controller directs the cashing, vault, drop and count areas in a manner that safeguards the assets of the Sherwood Valley Casino, while establishing and maintaining acceptable accounting procedures and internal controls and assures all external and internal regulations are met. Has direct supervision of Cage/Vault, Drop, and Count Supervisors. Exercises management responsibility for all activities of the Accounting/Finance Department. Activities include direct hands-on oversight of audit, accounting, general ledger, reporting, payroll, purchasing, cashing, and count room operations. Responsible for the company's overall operating and capital budgets, internal control policies, insurance and risk management programs, and relationships with financial institutions, casino's compliance with provisions of the State Compact, NIGC, Tribal ordinances, Gaming Commission regulations, cash transactions reporting, and IRS withholding and reporting requirements. Contact the General Manager at mftzgerral@svrcasino.com or 707-459-7350.



FALL 2025

WEEKENDS TO SUCCESS

WORK AND SCHOOL ARE NOW COMPATIBLE!

Take a full-time class load in Willits on weekends only!

FRIDAYS

SATURDAYS

ENGL-C1000 #4355

Academic Reading & Writing

Fri 5:30-8:20 pm/Online (8/29 to 12/12/25)

Late Start Hybrid class with mandatory in-person meetings are on the following Fridays: 8/29, 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/07, 11/21 & 12/12 from 5:30-8:20 pm. The remainder of the course will be completed online.

ENGL-560 #4359

Basic Reading & Writing

(8/29/25 to 12/12/25) - On-ground drop-in lab hours are on the following Fridays: 8/29, 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/07, 11/21, and 12/12 from 4:30-5:20 pm.

Hybrid classes are mostly online with mandatory in-person meetings.

Students who do not attend all the on-ground sessions may be dropped from the course.

All classes are Late Start classes.

WWW.MENDOCINO.EDU/SCHEDULE

CDV-200 #0220 Child Growth and Development

Sat 9:00am-11:50am/Online - (8/30/25 to 12/06/25)

Late Start Hybrid class with mandatory in-person meetings are on the following Saturdays: 9/31, 10/11, 11/08, 12/06 from 9:00-11:50 am. The remainder of the course will be completed online.

ETH-202 #0227 Racial and Ethnic Relations

Sat 12:30-3:20 pm/Online - (8/30/25 to 12/06/25)

Late Start Hybrid class with mandatory in-person meetings are on the following Saturdays: 9/31, 10/11, 11/08, 12/06 from 12:30-3:20 pm. The remainder of the course will be completed online.

PSYC-C1000 #0250 Introductory to Psychology

Sat 9:00am-11:50am/Online - (8/30/25 to 12/06/25)

Late Start Hybrid class with mandatory in-person meetings are on the following Saturdays: 8/30, 9/27, 10/25, 11/22 from 9:00-11:50 am. The remainder of the course will be completed online.

HLH-214 #4298 Foods and Nutrition

Sat 12:30-3:20 pm/Online - (8/30/25 to 12/06/25)

Late Start Hybrid class with mandatory in-person meetings are on the following Saturdays: 8/30, 9/27, 10/25, 11/22 from 12:30-3:20pm. The remainder of the course will be completed online.



Convenient, trusted pharmacy close to home

With more and more pharmacies closing their doors, Howard Pharmacy is here to ensure you experience no interruption in care.



If you know someone whose been impacted by a pharmacy closure, call us at 707-456-3005 and transferring your prescriptions to our pharmacy today.



Howard Pharmacy ready to support community after Rite Aid closure

Submitted by Adventist Health Howard Memorial

With the upcoming closure of Rite Aid, many in the community may be wondering where to turn for their pharmacy needs. Adventist Health Howard Memorial is proud to announce that Howard Pharmacy, located on its campus, is fully prepared to meet those needs with compassionate, convenient, and personalized care.

Howard Pharmacy is staffed by a dedicated team already committed to the health and wellness of our community. Patients can expect the same trusted service in a welcoming and accessible setting, just steps away from the Redwood Medical Clinic.

"We understand that changes like this can be stressful, so we want the community to know they have a reliable and caring pharmacy right here on campus," said Carrie Winter, Pharmacy Director at Howard Pharmacy. "Our team is committed to providing personalized care and ensuring that every patient's needs are met promptly and compassionately."

- Howard Pharmacy offers a wide range of services, including:
- Prescription refills
  - Over-the-counter medications (cough, cold, allergy relief, vitamins, and supplements)
  - Physical and occupational therapy aids (shoulder pulleys, foam rollers, and more)
  - Durable medical equipment
  - Home delivery
  - Safe medication disposal program

Conveniently located on the Adventist Health Howard Memorial campus, Howard Pharmacy is more than just a place to pick up prescriptions – it's a trusted neighborhood resource for whole-person care.

Visit us today or call 707-456-3005 for help getting your prescriptions transferred or set up with our team.

Adventist Health is a faith-based, nonprofit, integrated health system, serving more than 100 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii, with over 440 sites of care, including 27 acute care facilities. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care, and hospice agencies in both rural and urban communities.

Our compassionate and talented team of more than 38,000 includes employees, physicians, medical staff, and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. We are committed to staying true to our heritage by providing patient-centered, quality care. Together, we are transforming the health care experience with an innovative and whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual, and social healing to support community well-being.

Mendocino Community Health Centers partners with Blue Zones Project to advance community wellness

Submitted by MCHC

Mendocino Community Health Centers is proud to announce its official partnership with the Blue Zones Project – Mendocino County, a community-driven initiative focused on helping people live longer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives.

As a long-standing provider of comprehensive, patient-centered care in Mendocino County, MCHC is deeply committed to promoting the well-being of its patients, staff, and the broader community. Through this new partnership, MCHC is integrating evidence-based principles from the Blue Zones Project – such as encouraging daily movement and fostering meaningful social connections – into its workplace culture and patient care strategies.

"MCHC has always been a cornerstone of wellness in our community," said Michelle Hutchins, Organization and Wellbeing Lead for the Blue Zones Project – Mendocino County. "Their commitment to holistic health aligns perfectly with the Blue Zones mission. This partnership not only enhances workplace well-being, it also expands access to wellness tools and resources for the thousands of patients MCHC serves each year."

Joaquin Blanco, MCHC's Director of People and Culture, echoed the sentiment.

"Our collaboration with the Blue Zones Project reflects our belief that true health extends beyond the exam room," he said. "By embracing practices that promote purpose, connection, and balance, we are building a culture of wellness that begins with our team and extends into the communities we serve."

MCHC is now a Blue Zones Project Approved™ Worksite, joining a growing network of local organizations dedicated to improving quality of life across Mendocino County. The partnership supports long-term efforts to reduce chronic disease, enhance community engagement, and create environments that make healthy choices easier for everyone.

For more information about the Blue Zones Project – Mendocino County and how your organization can get involved, visit [www.mendocinocounty.bluezonesproject.com](http://www.mendocinocounty.bluezonesproject.com).

The rest of Crisis

From page 1

there was no finance director and no permanent employees in the finance department, temporary inexperienced help, and intervention by the then city manager – a situation that Orozco described as "too many cooks in the kitchen."

At the June 11 meeting, Orozco gave no specific reasons why the city's funds have dropped so dramatically. Council member Bruce Burton said, "You told me you did not know what we were bringing in, did not know what we were spending." Orozco said that income was recorded in the old software system, and expenditures were in the new software system. Orozco stated that he tried to implement the new system but, "that was denied by administration ... the finance department was left out and administration was handling it." Upon questioning from Burton and Mayor Tom Allman, Orozco said "administration" referred to the city manager.

Trying to determine the city's financial status is complicated by the fact that there are several different funds in addition to the city's now depleted general fund: water, sewer, a transportation fund, the Measure K fund for police and parks, a transient (motel) occupancy fund, a gas tax fund. There is some overlap between funds, a challenging job for a finance department hampered by software problems and a history of an understaffed and unqualified finance department.

Orozco did say that revenues have been dropping by about \$700,000 a year for the last three years, which would be about \$2.1 million total decrease, but he was unable to match income with expenses to determine how much money the city actually had. However, last year the city spent over \$1 million on consultants, an amount that Allman said "has now been reduced by 95% at least." Allman stated, "If you look at the amount of money we paid for consultants and you look at the amount of money we are talking about in the deficit, there's an equal amount there."

Exacerbating the financial problem is an ongoing multi-million-dollar solar project that will be partly reimbursed

by a federal grant. But the grant terms require that the city complete and pay for the project before any reimbursement. And that's hoping that the grant, from former president Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, is not cancelled by President Trump. Former mayor Larry Stranske, when asked that question the last time the solar project was before the council, replied that he was assured that the federal money would get here, eventually. City Planner Dusty Duley said that federal and state grant reimbursements have taken up to 10 weeks after project completion.

A major concern is if the city has enough money to meet the city's payroll. In October of 2024, the city had to transfer funds from an investment account to the general fund to meet payroll. Allman, however, stated strongly: "I want to assure the employees of Willits you're still going to get your paychecks. We're still going to keep the city running."

Mayor Allman was quick to add that there is no indication of theft of funds, embezzlement. But councilman Burton commented, "There's something going on here that has got me very concerned." Former council member and mayor Greta Kanne, in a letter to Willits Weekly was also troubled: "To quote from Shakespeare's Hamlet, Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

Interim city manager Rodney Wilburn is also troubled about the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, starting July 1, that it has "several glaring substantial omissions, no fund balances provided other than Measure K, no staffing allocations."

Allman concluded the discussion stating: "Over the last several years, there has been more money going out than maybe the council was aware of. Tonight is the first step addressing it as a council. The next few fiscal years are going to be lean, but we've learned several lessons."

"We want to make a budget that everybody can understand, that audits will not be two and three years in arrears. Every meeting you're going to hear our finance director tell us where we are in these numbers. And hopefully we're going to see an improvement."

The rest of Dedication

From page 7

presence in Willits athletics over the past few decades. When we lost her last year, I felt compelled to honor her memory in the place she was known for best: the WHS softball field. The dedication ceremony turned out to be a successful and super-fun day of celebrating Cari while raising funds for the current WHS softball program in her name. I was touched at the number of former players who showed up (some even from out of state!) and I'm thrilled that we were able to donate about \$2,000 to the softball team. Timing could not have been better after this year's WHS softball team made their way to the championships. Thank you to everyone who was involved with making this happen!"

Many alumni, family and friends gathered as Stiles' daughter, Katie Williams, and longtime family friend, Holli Woodhouse, shared heartfelt memories and spoke of the year-long process for the tribute. There was food and beverages, and many copies of Stiles' bomb cookies recipe handed out for all to share. There were pictures and memorabilia of games past, and a classic plaque hung on the fence for all to see. After the ladies spoke, alumni, family and friends grabbed their mitts and hustled out to start a game. There were alumni from as far back as the early '90s to our current softball players from the 2025 season at WHS.

"Being able to be at the high school with Cari when I was was a great experience for me," said current graduate Ava Dockins-Kline. "She always made it known from the day I met her that she would be someone I could talk to and she always had interest in what was going on in my life, while inspiring me to reach my goals in my sports. Getting to play on her field with having such a great season in softball this year was a huge honor."

Stiles' son-in-law took to the mound to pitch while her grandsons

hit some stunners. The game was full of laughter and fond memories. It was really interesting to see, although some had not played for the upper part of 20 years, how fast it all came flooding back.

Stiles' spirit and passion for the game was felt throughout all ages, and the stories told of her impact on each individual life were monumentally profound. You could see the pride in her daughter's eyes, and you could see Stiles every time she smiled.

"Saturday was a day that comforted my heart in more ways than one," said Williams. "The field is more than just a place for games; it is a symbol of my mother's spirit, the lessons she taught, the memories created, and the joy she brought to those around her. I'm beyond thankful for the WHS softball program, the Willits community, and Holli Woodhouse, to honor my mom in this way. I couldn't be more proud to have been raised in the Willits community where everyone is so loyal and supportive of each other. My mother's everlasting impact on the community, school district, and young athletes was most definitely felt as friends, family, former players, and colleagues all came together to honor her life and legacy."

A temporary banner was hung for the dedication. Once our awesome maintenance team replaces the roof, a magnificent sign will be permanently placed on the roof of the building, underneath the scoreboard, facing the iconic softball field that will read Cari Stiles Field. The benefits of Stiles' influence from her passion for softball and steering the youth in a positive direction throughout her life will be carried on through generations to come on this field.

A beautiful tribute, an unforgettable day, for an unforgettable human. She will be missed, and carried in the heart and spirit of the Willits community, always.

The rest of Cubbison

From page 1

For now, the Cubbison civil case will continue in Moorman's court. Moorman after denying the venue change, scheduled more legal briefings for August. She then put attorneys on notice that she wants to bring the case to a close by fall.

"I expect to hear oral arguments to be made by then," said Moorman. The Cubbison civil case has dragged on since December 2023.

Cubbison in February resumed her duties as Auditor after District Attorney David Eyster filed felony criminal charges against she and the county's former Payroll Manager Paula June Kennedy. The charges focused on \$68,000 in extra pay for Kennedy. Moorman tossed the case at the end of a lengthy preliminary hearing.

Cubbison's attention then shifted to her efforts to win 17 months of back pay and benefits from the county, and for damages to her professional reputation. So far, the county has spent more than a quarter of a million dollars resisting her claims.

The latest strategy was making a bid to move the Cubbison civil case to Marin County, creating more costly delays. County attorney Morin Jacob of the law firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore did not respond to a written request Friday for comment on Moorman's denial of the change of venue.

However, Jacob claimed in court filings on June 12 that a change of venue "is appropriate because of the extensive community and unfolding judicial bias against the County related to this matter."

Jacob contended that the "overwhelming and slanted nature of the media coverage – regurgitating allegations of County misconduct without balance or scrutiny – has created a hostile environment that continues to intensify."

"As this drumbeat of prejudicial reporting grows louder and more persistent, the risk to the integrity of this proceeding will only increase, making immediate transfer the only path forward to safeguard the County's right to a truly impartial forum," argued Jacob.

Cubbison lawyer Therese Cannata of San Francisco argued against the venue change, calling it in a formal court filing "blatant forum shopping." "It is driven by procedural gamesmanship and seeks to manipulate the legal system for strategic advantage," said Cannata.

Cannata noted that a change of venue should be brought at the earlier possible time in a legal proceeding, instead of the County waiting 17 months.

Also, Cannata argued that "even if the County could demonstrate anything more than local

news reports about events affecting a local elected official, the County cannot point to facts or legal authority to support transfer (of a civil writ proceeding) that will be decided by a judge, not a jury."

Lastly, Cubbison's lawyer ripped the County claim news coverage and a judicial bias was creating public prejudice. "The County appears to be claiming without a shred of evidence, that the judge hearing this civil writ proceeding has been influenced by local press coverage or community opinion," said Cannata.

An irony is that Cubbison "was and is subject to the same, if not more public attention and potential bias." Cannata said the fact of the matter is that Cubbison was "scrutinized and her reputation smeared when she was suddenly suspended from her elected position and criminally charged with mismanaging public funds."

County attorney Jacob in her most recent court filings wants the civil litigation to focus only on the narrow interpretation of a disputed county statute surrounding whether a "county treasurer" can be suspended if criminally charged. Jacob, who advised county Supervisors in October 2023 that they could immediately suspend Cubbison without pay after she was criminally charged, seeks a "straightforward statutory analysis."

Cubbison lawyer Cannata, however, contends the disputed state statute does not authorize a suspension without pay. It also does not, Cannata argues in her formal response, "authorize the County CEO and District Attorney to withhold evidence that would have made the suspension illegal in all respects."

Cannata said the Board of Supervisors' hasty decision to order Cubbison immediately suspended without a duly noticed public hearing was wrong. It "created a symphony of unlawful conduct for which the County now must be held to account," Cannata concludes.

Moorman scoffed at the County's complaints that comments she made in dismissing criminal charges against Cubbison, and the brief appearance of two judges in the courtroom at separate times during the preliminary hearing, somehow constituted the entire court bench was biased against the Board of Supervisors.

Moorman said she personally doesn't read local media accounts surrounding civil and criminal cases, and that she strictly adheres to the judicial canon of ethics.

Moorman is a widely respected attorney with experience in civil litigation and criminal cases in state and federal courts. She was elected in 2010 to the Mendocino County Superior Court and has been re-elected unopposed twice.

The rest of Horse show

From page 5

**Trail, open, sponsored by Mariposa Market:** First place went to Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds; second to Madison Lawrence and Skipping Frosty Sox; third to Kaydance Lopez and My Type of Jazz; fourth to Kristen Helms and Thumbtack and fifth to Cora Brummer and Gideon.

**Ranch Trail, sponsored by Chris Neary:** first place went to Nicol Kunka and Gideon; second to Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds; third to Samantha Arms and Forever a Conquistador; fourth to Madison Lawrence and Hanks Image; and fifth to Danielle Barry and Whiskey.

**Walk/Jog, Western open, sponsored by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County:** first place went to Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds; second to Kristen Helms and Thumbtack; third to Madison Lawrence and Sizzlin In The Sun; and fourth to Eva Pinon and Ethel.

**Western Pleasure, 12 and under, sponsored by Mariposa Market:** first place went to Caroline Pinon and Flopsy; second to Eva Pinon and Ethel; and third to Cora Brummer and Gideon.

**Western Pleasure, 13-17, sponsored by Round Tree Glass:** First place went to Kaydance Lopez and My Type of Jazz; second to Madison Lawrence and Skipping Frosty Sox; and third to Kristen Helms and Thumbtack.

**Western Pleasure, 18 and over, sponsored by Chris Neary:** first place went to Danielle Barry and Whiskey; second to Samantha Arms and Forever a Conquistador; and third to Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds.

**Western Pleasure, local 17 and under, perpetual trophy sponsored by the Goss Family:** first place went to Kaydance Lopez and My Type of Jazz; second to Madison Lawrence and Skipping Frosty Sox; third to Kristen Helms and Thumbtack; fourth to Cora Brummer and Gideon; and fifth to Eva Pinon and Ethel.

**Western Equitation, 12 and under, sponsored by Laura McBride:** first place went to Eva Pinon

The rest of Radio

From page 1

campout, practice for emergencies, informal contest, and most of all, fun! ARRL Field Day is the most popular ham radio activity held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend in June each year, more than 31,000 hams get together with their radio clubs, schools, or friends to operate from temporary locations.

Locally, members of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be setting up their stations in the grove, along the east side of the Baechtel Grove Middle School campus, 1150 Magnolia Street, in Willits. The event will be open to the public on

and Ethel; second to Cora Brummer and Gideon; and third to Caroline Pinon and Flopsy.

**Western Equitation, 13-17, sponsored by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County:** first place went to Madison Lawrence and Skipping Frosty Sox and second to Kaydance Lopez and My Type of Jazz.

**Western Equitation, 18 and over, sponsored by Mariposa Market:** first place went to Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds; second to Danielle Barry and Whiskey; and third to Samantha Arms and Forever a Conquistador.

**Western Equitation, local 17 and under, sponsored by Sue Clark in memory of Randy Clark:** First place went to Kaydance Lopez and My Type of Jazz; second to Madison Lawrence and Skipping Frosty Sox; third to Cora Brummer and Gideon; fourth to Eva Pinon and Ethel and fifth to Caroline Pinon and Flopsy.

**Ranch Pleasure, sponsored by Round Tree Glass:** first place went to Danielle Barry and Whiskey; second to Madison Lawrence and Hanks Image; third to Nicol Kunka and Gideon; fourth to Samantha Arms and Forever a Conquistador and fifth to Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds.

**Ranch Reining, sponsored by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County:** first place went to Danielle Barry and Whiskey; second to Nicol Kunka and Gideon; third to Samantha Arms and Forever a Conquistador; fourth to Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds and fifth to Madison Lawrence and Hanks Image.

**Ranch Riding, sponsored by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County:** first place went to Nicol Kunka and Gideon; second to Danielle Barry and Whiskey; third to Emily Pendergrass and West Side Diamonds; fourth to Samantha Arms and Forever a Conquistador and fifth to Madison Lawrence and Hanks Image.

Saturday from noon until 7 pm..

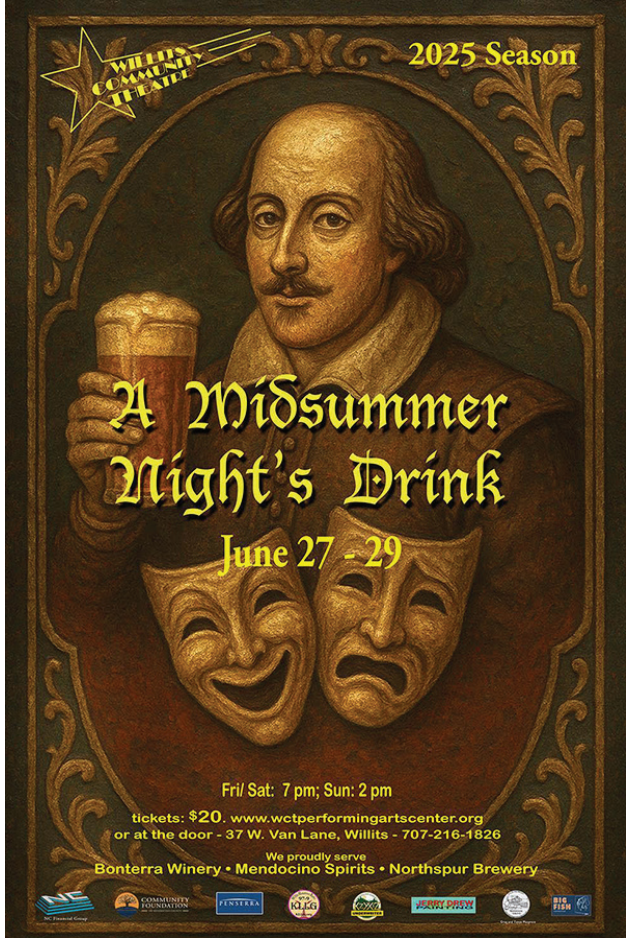
Everyone is invited to come by the grove on Saturday and witness firsthand how their neighbors are preparing to support our community during a communications emergency. Families can learn more about a century-old hobby that continues to inspire the next generation of technical leaders by providing a hands-on sandbox where students gain experience in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, aka STEM. Look for the Field Day 2025 signs to find the site.



Willits Community Theatre invites all to a Shakespearean Pub Party, June 27 - 29

Submitted by WCT

"A Midsummer Night's Drink," playing June 27 to 29 at Willits Community Theatre, is a chance for an atypical summer romance. It's a silly and well-sauced celebration of Shakespeare and community. Guests are encouraged to don their finest Ren Faire garb (or just come as you are), grab a tumbler of wine, a mug of Puck's Punch or one of Northspur's finest ales, and settle in for an evening where the party rolls on, with pauses only occasionally for some truly unforgettable theatre.



**Celebrating Judi Montalvo**

A celebration of life for Judi Montalvo will be held at The Munchery Restaurant on Sunday, June 29 from noon until 4 pm. Please RSVP. Contact Jim Montalvo by phone during the day at 707-459-3039 and in the evening at 707-459-0551.

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**SUNDAY HISTORY AND WAFFLE CLUB**

LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH 2-3 PM

**Richard Everett, will share his experience preserving and interpreting West Coast Maritime History.**

Richard is the former Curator of Exhibits for the San Francisco Maritime Museum National Historical Park.

**Highlights will include:**

- Richard's unique experience collaborating on research and exhibit design of *Frolic* Shipwreck projects.
- Lessor known letters penned by the *Frolic* cargo procurement agent John Everett. (Yes there is a family connection!)
- Memories of collaborations with *Journey of the Frolic* members including Mendocino County Museum, Grace Hudson Museum, and Kelley House Museum staff and local divers.

Sunday June 29, 2-4 p.m. Join Us for Waffles and History!

MENDOCINO COUNTY Museum "Telling Our Story"

400 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490 | (707) 234-6365 museum@mendocinocounty.gov www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum Wednesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12-4 p.m.



**OBITUARY | Susan Hardin**

Susan Lynn Hardin, age 71, was taken by cancer Thursday June 12, 2025. She is survived by all of her older siblings Laura, Darrell, Edward and Nancy, her three children Melanie, Stephanie and William, and four grandchildren Dakota, Angelo, Shylo and Ruan.

She worked at Coast to Coast Hardware for a number of years in which she made many long lasting friendships. She also owned a cleaning business, Green Clean, caring for people and making many more friends. She will be laid to rest next to her mother and father in Oregon. She was truly loved and will be sorely missed.



**OBITUARY | Gary Mann**

In Loving Memory of Gary E. Mann.

With heavy hearts, we share that Gary E. Mann passed away on June 5, 2025, at the age of 82, following a courageous battle with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF).

Gary is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Diana, and their beloved daughter, Jennifer. He was preceded in death by their cherished daughter, Heather J. Mann (May 17, 1977).

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, August 2 at 2 pm, at the Willits Senior Center. Friends, family, and all who knew Gary are warmly invited to join us in sharing memories and honoring the life of this long-time Willits resident.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Gary's memory to either the Little Lake Fire District or the Willits Senior Center, where Gary proudly served as a past board member and passionate supporter.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to UCSF Medical Center, Adventist Health Redwood Medical Clinic, and Hospice for their exceptional care and compassion.

**Adopt A Young Artist**

"He felt the emotions of his pain captured by people everywhere." — Nick Oliveri, Becoming the Conjuror Author and Musician

Page: Be the Antidote Group: Be the Antidote - Willits

**FARMERS INSURANCE**

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## Prepare for the Fair

Exhibitor deadline for entries coming soon, all mailed entries must be postmarked by July 5

### Submitted by Redwood Empire Fair

There is nothing more iconic than visiting the exhibits booths at the Fair, and this year, Redwood Empire Fair CEO Jennifer Seward is urging the public to keep this time-honored tradition alive and thriving. "We have such an abundance of talent in our community," says Seward. "Fair time is a wonderful way to celebrate the collective skills of our food producers, artists, crafters, cooks, collectors and kids."

This year's Fair will be held from July 31 to August 3. The Fair theme is "Magic is Reel." Think about magical movies and celebrating everything about Fair time- from the thrills of the carnival and the Speedway, to the transformative growth displayed by hardworking Future Farmers of America and 4-H members.

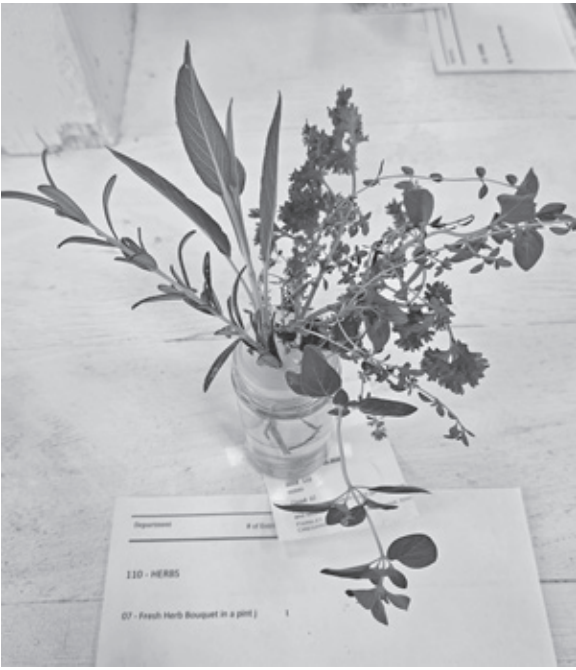
"There is an exhibit category available for everyone," Seward shares. "It's amazing to see the creativity of our community all displayed at one location. Our building superintendents work nearly year-round to create beautiful displays in our buildings, coordinate the judging, and make sure that the public has great spaces to cool off during the Fair while enjoying seeing the hundreds of winning ribbons. Cash prizes are given to the winners, but most entrants find that it's simply the fun of participating that makes the time spent worthwhile."

The Agriculture/Horticulture Division is led by supervisor Frances Henry. Division categories available to entrants include herbs, vegetables, leafy and stem vegetables, root, bulb and tuber vegetables, vine crops, dried vegetables, fruits, nuts, dried fruits and more. "One of our fun categories is called 'Nature's Unique or Odd,'" says Seward. "Entries can be an unusual or odd size, shape or colored fruit or vegetable." Another fun category for families is "Produce Characters" in which entrants create animals, people, flowers or fair-themed characters using produce and toothpicks or popsicle sticks. "Entries are only limited by their imagination." The Agriculture Division includes submissions for grape wines, non-grape wines, and organic wines.

The Floriculture Department is also supervised by Frances Henry. It includes entries for potted plants, succulents, cacti, container gardens, window boxes, and all types of arrangements. "In addition to our 'Magic is Reel' Theme, we're offering master arrangements with a 'Last Tango in Paris' Theme using pink and purple flowers and a 'Wild About You' Theme using a succulent," says Seward. Novice arrangers may try their skills using the Fair Theme, "Fried Green Tomatoes" using a green container or "Pail of Enchantment" using a pail as a container. Intermediate arrangers may enter using the Fair Theme, "Magic in Full Bloom" using a floral variety or "You've Got Mail" using a message in the arrangement. Amateurs may enter using the theme, "Midnight in the Garden" using fairy lights or "Secret Garden" utilizing a crystal. "There are also many opportunities for local gardeners to enter their cut flowers which include everything from Dahlias to Zinnias, Roses and Sunflowers," says Seward.

The Margaret Leber Hall Home Arts Department is supervised by Loraine Patton and encompasses everything from clothing, textiles, needlework and crafts, including crossstitch, needlepoint, fiber arts, embroidery and more. "People enter rugs of many kinds, dolls, pillows, holiday items and of course, quilts." One of the most popular categories, "Convalescent Care" is for residents of skilled nursing facilities or other home care. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our seniors to participate in the fair and receive the recognition they deserve for their creative spirits," Seward continues. "Entering a piece in the Home Arts division is a great way to get your craftsmanship evaluated by professional judges who take their responsibilities seriously and really enjoy seeing our Home Arts building filled up with the skilled work of our community members." Youngsters and the young-at-heart enjoy viewing the collections division. "This is an opportunity to see some of the unique items that people love to collect and display," Seward highlights

Also in the Home Arts Division are food entries. "This year we are having a special salsa



Above, from left: Michele Briggs entered this teeny tomato in the Nature's Uniques division of the Agriculture building and won first place at the 2024 Redwood Empire Fair. An amateur jewelry entry by Lyn Blacklock in the Fine Arts building won first place in 2023. Kathy Lundgren's first-place winning plate of blueberry muffins, entered into the Home Arts building at the 2024 fair.

At far left: Katie Kight's watercolor entry won first place and Best of Division in the Fine Arts building in 2023.

At left: A jar of mixed herbs entered into the Agriculture building included rosemary, parsley, sage, thyme and oregano.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

**'Elio'**

**The Story:** Disney/Pixar animated science fiction story is made for kids. It deals with grief, familial love, and friendship. As the tale begins, we learn that both parents of young Elio are recently deceased. Quite understandably, Elio is lonely and distressed. He's acting out in his terrible grief, and he's being bullied by thoughtless older boys.

His Aunt Olga loves and cares for him, but she doesn't know what to do. Elio is running away from everything. In confusion and despair, and because he's a little boy, Elio decides that he needs to be kidnapped by outer-space aliens. And (essential spoiler): That's exactly what happens!

**My Thoughts:** Elio is a great and wholesome and non-stupid movie for kids. This glittering flick also works for us sentimental adults. "Boy Howdy!" it's a winner. Let me gush some more! Those brilliant Pixaristas (creative-types who work at Pixar) have made a heartwarming story that's simple but sophisticated. It's emotionally positive. It tugs at the heart. It's got some real science. All the good guys win. And the moderately bad guys, too.

Elio learns that even after the terrible scariness of his parents' deaths, still quite positive and miraculous things can happen. Our brave but saddened protagonist realizes that there is hope for him, that he is loved by others. And perhaps more profoundly, Elio learns that others really and truly need him: to love them!

**Parents:** Sure, let your kiddings fly with this flick. Ages 10 and up. If they are younger, watch it with them because it's complex. That's my recommendation.

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

**Dan Essman** Columnist

**Willits Branch Library**

Story & Play Time

at Recreation Grove Park!

**Saturday's**

**June 14th - August 9th**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Join us on Saturday's this Summer! We will be at Recreation Grove Park for Story and Play Time! Stories will be read by our Librarian followed by outdoor games!

Photos by Maureen Jennison



**Drawing at 5 pm on July 5th**


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