CA firefighters join with UC researchers to

study cancer risk

Submitted by CAL FIRE Sacramento

September 9 - The Governor's Office made the announcement Tuesday of a major new research effort led by the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and Davis (UC Davis), in collaboration with CAL FIRE, that is investigating how occupational exposures may increase cancer risk among California firefighters.

The project, a sub-study of the California Firefighter Cancer Research, is backed by nearly \$9.7 million in funding from CAL FIRE and will include 3,500 firefighters from departments across the state over a two-year period.

The research team is guided by a firefighter advisory board to ensure the study remains grounded in real-world needs and priorities.

"This research underscores CAL FIRE's commitment to protecting firefighter health through science, innovation, and partnership," says CAL FIRE Director, Chief Joe Tyler.

Read the rest of Firefighters

Over on Page 4

MCSO arrests 2 Clearlake men after Covelo traffic stop

By Sergeant Jack Woida for MCSO

On September 5, 2025 at approximately 8:40 pm, a deputy with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office was working patrol in the Covelo area when he observed a vehicle driving on Highway 162 with an inoperable headlight. The deputy initiated a traffic enforcement stop in the 76000 block of Highway 162 in Covelo.

Upon contacting the occupants of the vehicle, the deputy noted Fernando Solorio, 30-year-old from Clearlake, CA, was the driver and Cornelio Solorio, 24-year-old from Clearlake, CA, was seated in the front passenger seat. The deputy also observed an open container of alcohol within the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

A records check revealed Fernando Solorio's driver's license was suspended and he was on DMV probation. Both occupants ultimately exited the vehicle, and deputies located unloaded handgun and a loaded rifle within the passenger compartment of the vehicle. Both firearms

Read the rest of Arrests

Over on Page 4







Above, from left: Jeff's Gas Appliances stocks washers and gas dryers in their showroom. Also available at the showroom are propanepowered 18-cubic-foot freezers that use around 2.5 gallons of propane per week. The showroom has a selection of new gas ranges for in-town or off-grid use. Below: Jason Whitby repairs gas and electric appliances in Willits and the surrounding area.



Below: Jeff's Gas Appliance's main repairman, Jason Whitby, left, talks with mom, Terry, and canine mascot Athena, in the showroom,



Jeff's Gas Appliances now also offers sales and service on most

It's been over 35 years, new services have been added, and a baton has recently been passed, and Jeff's Gas Appliances continues to offer appliance repair, sales and service in the Willits community.

"Jeff Whitby is stepping back after having shared his knowledge of the gas appliances with his son Jason Whitby for the past 20 years," explained Terry Whitby. "Jason is taking over the repairs and sales, and we are expanding into repairing most electric appliances, as well as gas - natural and propane. If your appliances are giving you trouble, give us a call!"

Mobile and in-shop repairs are offered at their Willits shop, and the showroom also displays a variety of new, used, and reconditioned appliances available for sale, including washers, dryers, gas refrigerators, water heaters, .and more.

"This is a good time to think about the heaters you will need this winter, and have them serviced if you haven't had that done for a while," continued Terry, who is in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 am to 4 pm to help get you scheduled. Stop by the shop located at 549 Central Avenue, or call 707-459-5223 for more information.

- Maureen Jennison

Gas & Electric

electric appliances, too

September update from WUSD Superintendent Baker

Get your

Lions Club

Drive-Thru

Chicken

Dinner

delivered

Talk about an easy way

to support our Willits Senior

Center, which provides so

many vital services to area

seniors, not to mention

fellowship, the Thrift Shop,

bingo, and lunch. On

Friday, September 19, take

the night off from cooking,

and enjoy the famous Willits

Lions Club Drive-Thru

BBQ Chicken Dinner for 2

instead, as a fundraiser for

You can even get the delicious dinner for 2

delivered, for a \$5 delivery

Members of the Willits Lions Club donate the food,

their time, and their well-

experienced BBQ skills to

prepare the bagged dinner

for 2, which includes 1/2

Barbecued Chicken cooked

over oak wood; Cole Slaw;

Calico Beans; Rolls; and

Ghirardelli Brownies. Meals

can be picked up between

5 to 6:30 pm at the Senior

Center, 1501 Baechtel

must

Chicken

Over on Page 4

be

Road.

Tickets

Read the rest of

the senior center.

breakfasts.

Jennifer Poole

Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

pancake

By WUSD Superintendent John A. Baker

As Superintendent of Unified School Willits District, I am proud to share that we have had a wonderful start to the 2025-26 school year. The first days of school are always filled with excitement, energy, and possibility, and this year has been no exception. Our classrooms are alive with learning, our students are reconnecting with friends, and our staff is working hard to create positive, supportive environment for every child.

One of the district's highest priorities is, and always will be, the safety of our students and staff. Over the summer, we made a significant investment enhancing campus security by installing new safety cameras across our schools. This project was funded through bond dollars, "well spent tax payers money," allowing us to wisely and responsibly use community-supported resources to strengthen the safety of our school so our students can be "safe." These cameras provide an added layer of protection, ensuring that

Read the rest of

Baker

Over on Page 11

County Fair

101st annual Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show this weekend

It's mid-September and that means it's also time for the annual Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show.

This year, festivities will run from Friday, September 12 through Sunday, September 14 at the Boonville Fairgrounds and include all the favorites including building displays and exhibit entries; junior and senior livestock shows; live concerts; carnival rides, food and games; a soccer game; CCPRA rodeo; a parade; classic car show; sheep dog trials; apple and wine tasting; the annual Wool and Fiber Festival and much more.

A full schedule of events and additional information is available on the fair's website: https:// mendocountyfair.com/



DATES: Friday, September 12 through Sunday, September 14, 2025 LOCATION: Fairgrounds, Boonville, Anderson Valley, Mendocino County, California

9 am to Midnight Daily! ADMISSION: ★ Adults - \$12 ★ Juniors 13 -18 - \$10 ★ Children 7 -12 - \$8 ★ 6 & under - Free

Admission tickets available online at mendocountyfair.com SPECIAL PROMOTIONS

★ Friday - Seniors - 65 and over \$6 - ALL DAY! & ★ Friday - Children 12 and under - FREE!
 ★ Three Day Pass for Seniors - 65 & over - \$25 (Purchase Pre-Fair)

CARNIVAL: * Daily! Pay-One-Price for Unlimited Rides - Valid all day - \$35 Pre-Sale (before Fair opens) - \$45 if purchased during Fair -- Pre-Sale available at the Fair Office, Lemon's Market in Philo, A.V. Elementary School & online at mendocountyfair.com

SPECIAL EVENTS: HORSE SHOW - 4-H, FFA & Open - Friday, beginning at 8 am - Rodeo Arena SOCCER GAME - Friday, 5 PM - Rodeo Arena

C.C.P.R.A. RODEOS ★ Saturday night - 8 pm ★ Sunday afternoon - 2 pm

DANCE - Saturday * 9:30 pm to Midnight in the Rodeo Arena featuring

Dean Titus & The Coyote Cowboys

* Free with Fair Admission!

SHEEP DOG TRIALS FINALS - Sunday - 10 am - Rodeo Arena CLASSIC CAR SHOW JUDGING - Sunday - 10 am - Rodeo Parking Lot PARADE - Sunday at Noon - Highway 128 to Rodeo Arena

DANCE - Sunday * 6 pm to 9:00 pm in the Rodeo Arena featuring Vales Del Rancho & Herenchue Reyes

★ Free with Fair Admission!

ENTERTAINMENT: All Free with Fair Admission - Continuous Family Entertainment, including -Godfrey the Magician — Multiple Shows Daily – Lawn Stage

Scott Forbes - Multiple Shows Daily - Lawn Stage ★ Robin Lara - Strolling Act ★ Bri Crabtree's Silly Circus Show ★ Cutest Show on Earth

▶ Pony Land Petting Zoo, 10 am to 6 pm ★ Freaky Fruit Contest - Sunday APPLE TASTING: Daily! Sample some of Anderson Valley's Finest Varieties!

WINE TASTING: Daily! Sample some of Mendocino County's award winning vintages! SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS: 27TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA WOOL & FIBER FESTIVAL 98TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA NATIONAL WOOL SHOW

Livestock Shows ★ Floral and Garden Displays ★ Feature Booths Apple Displays ★ Arts and Crafts ★ Pony Rides Parade of Champions & Announcement of Apple Jack Contest Winners – Saturday, 7 pm
 ★ Shearing & Skirting Demo – Saturday
 ★ Spinning Contest – Sunday

PLEASE: No Pets WEBSITE: www.mendocountyfair.com DIRECTIONS: Take Highway 101 to Highway 128 West to Boonville MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 458 - Boonville, CA 95415

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 707.895.3011 EMAIL: mcofair@pacific.net

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

Roots of Motive Power's 43rd Festival Raffle & Auction was a HOOT. I'd like to extend my gratitude to all the generous donors and enthusiastic bidders. Please support these businesses and individuals who contributed:

Carson Knives, Subway, El Mex, Reza's Breadery, Rio's, Benbow, Mendocino Magic, Leonard Lake Reserve, Mendocino Botanical Gardens, Mendo Mill, Willits Power, Mariposa Market, Skunk Train, Les Schwab, Loose Caboose, Little Lake NAPA, Kemmy's Pies, Linda MacDonald and Bobbie Yokum, Kathy Grupp, Chris Roediger, Aaren Miller, Joe Smith, Mary James, Ann Alumbaugh, Bill Drew, T&S Walker, Peggy Randrup, Ross Gipson, Baldo/Wilmes Garden, and Alexis England

A huge thank you to the wonderful and cheerful friends who helped with setup and more – you are amazing!

Dorothy Roediger, Willits

Willits Senior Center urgently needs volunteers

To the Editor:

The definition of volunteer: a person who does something for other people or for an organization, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it. Words cannot fully capture how important each and every volunteer is to the Willits Senior Center.

Here are a few words that come to mind: compassionate, empathetic, selfless, caring, reliable and helpful. The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size but by the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the senior center. Last year volunteers donated 9,011 hours of their time, energy and experience. Almost every program and service we provide is supplemented by volunteers.

Our Pancake Breakfast, Bingo, Computer Lab, Section 8 Housing, Meals on Wheels delivery, our Board of Directors, all fundraising planning and all fundraising labor, Front Desk Receptionist, Garden, Life Changes and Physical Challenges support groups, free medical equipment distribution, processing thrift store donations, cutting, splitting, stacking, and distribution of the free firewood are all done by volunteers.

The fact of the matter is we could not maintain our current level of services without growing our volunteer base. Currently the senior center workforce ratio is 80% employees to 20% volunteers. Our goal is to attain a 70% employee to 30% volunteer ratio, which would reduce our yearly payroll by \$60,000.

We need help filling these volunteer positions ASAP: 1) Meals on Wheels drivers in Willits (vehicle provided). 2) Meals on Wheels driver to deliver lunches in Brooktrails (your vehicle, mileage stipend), 3) volunteers for our

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



Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 13, Number 609

3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047

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BB Kamoroff, news reporter

Annie Evarts, reporter / features writer Addison Alvarado, school board reporter

Danya Davis, Police Log

Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter Sheri Dockins, sports reporter

Ava Dockins, sports photographe

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707- 972-2475 / willitsweekly@gmail.com

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com monthly Pancake Breakfast, which is the second Sunday of every month falling on September 14 this month, 4) a couple volunteers for the upcoming Bingo Bash on September 19.

Call me at 707-459-6826 or stop by the senior center, 1501 Baechtel Road. My door is always open. Or email me at wsidirector@willits-seniors.org

I welcome the opportunity to sit down and talk with you about our volunteer needs and how you can

> Richard Baker, executive director, Willits Senior Center

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

September 2025 A tribute to **Jim Shields**

By Supervisor John Haschak

For those who know Laytonville, Jim Shields was behind most all community events. There wasn't an economic incentive, he wasn't angling for another job. Jim just wanted to make government work for the people. He was relentless in advocating for those who needed help, whether it was navigating bureaucracy or guidance on how to get something done.

Jim was the publisher of the Mendocino County Observer. His "Political Type" column was a must read. He always informed the reader of the critical issues of the day and often gave history lessons as background. His knowledge was endless. Jim and I love history. We were both history majors in college. He would often say something to the effect of "Well of course you studied history and remember the such and such act of 1842." My response would be "Jim, could you just remind me a bit about that," and of course he would.

We also shared a love of basketball. We both played in our younger years. I fondly remember eating dinner and watching a Warriors game with Jim in the old Boomers. His mind was so incredibly sharp.

Jim and I were both union guys. Jim was proud of his involvement in the airlines' union and had so many tales to tell. I am sure that he was an incredibly effective advocate for his union. He could tell a story of negotiations relating it to a current issue as if it happened yesterday. Jim's recall was exceptional.

Jim cared deeply about local and county government. He called himself an advocate for good government. For many years, Jim had his Saturday afternoon radio show on KPFN. Once a month he would ask me to be on the show. He was a talking encyclopedia. I had to have my facts straight before going on with Jim. He was opinionated in a positive, constructive, solution-oriented way. Talking with Jim often gave me a new way of looking at an issue.

I talked to Jim the afternoon before his passing. We were working on how to solve a rash of anonymous code enforcement complaints in Laytonville. He had the paper to finish up, yet he still had time to talk. It wasn't self-interest that motivated Jim. He wanted to solve problems for the community. And when we hung up, as often happened we had a coordinated, agreed-upon path forward. I will certainly miss his thoughts, opinions, and guidance on so many issues.

Jim was the emcee for the supervisorial debates and redistricting town halls. He was the chair of the LAMAC [Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Council]. He and his wife founded the North Polar Toy Express in Laytonville to ensure that kids at least got a present. I could go on and on about his contributions to the Laytonville community and to the county. Jim's community-oriented activism will have to inspire us all to do more locally because his are

There will be a Talk with the Supervisor on September 16 at 10 am in Brickhouse Coffee. You can always contact me at haschaki@ mendocinocounty.gov or 707-972-4214.

Mobile Vending committee meeting, September 23

Submitted by City of Willits

The City of Willits invites all community members to attend an Ad Hoc Committee meeting to discuss the development of a mobile vending ordinance. The committee meeting is set for Tuesday, September 23, at 5:30 pm.

This meeting is a chance to:

attend and share their thoughts!

- Learn about the City's efforts to regulate mobile vending
- Ask guestions and share input
- · Help shape policies that support safe and successful vending practices

We encourage all interested community members to

The meeting is set for Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm, at Willits City Hall Council Chambers. 111 East Commercial Street.

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, September 11: Scalloped Potatoes w/Ham,

Friday, September 12: Sloppy Joes, Pasta Salad, Pickle Monday, September 15: Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap,

Tuesday, September 16: Pepperoni Sausage Pizza, Greek

Wednesday, Septembere 17: Hot Open Face Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy

Thursday, September 18: Chili Burger, Mac & Cheese

Friday, September 19: Lasagna w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

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

September Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, on September 14 this month, 8 to 11 am. Menu choices are: 1. All-you-can-eat pancakes with 2 eggs, choice of sausage or bacon, or 2. Biscuits & gravy with side of eggs only. Both include coffee, tea or orange juice. \$13; \$12 Senior Center members; \$8 children under 8. Extra sausage, bacon, eggs and juice for additional cost.

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.

CDFW seeks public input in developing Statewide Deer Conservation and Management Plan

Posted by CDFW

September 5, 2025 - The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking public input in developing a Statewide Deer Conservation and Management Plan.

The public is invited to participate in a virtual workshop to help guide the development of the management plan. The two-hour session will provide an opportunity for members of the public to learn about the development process as well as the background and outline of the plan. Participants will also have the chance to ask questions and share input with CDFW staff.

• Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025

• Time: 6 to 8 pm

Over on page 11















Above, from left: Buster, Holly, Maura, and Matthew Tilly choose to ride on the caboose. Chris Baldo was one of the original creators of Roots of Motive Power and owns many of the machines. Among the silent auction items at the barbecue are these antique car banks. A couple hundred Roots members are treated to a hearty meal. Andrew Hosford once again worked with the meat crew at the barbecue. At left: The Port of Olympia engine puffs out a warning as it runs around the final curve. Below, left: Alan Spivak, in orange, has been running the Eastep engine for 16 years. Below, right: Tenali shows his ticket to ride the train - he brought his dad, David Radford, with him.





Steam Festival

Roots of Motive Power treats families to train rides and hosts dinner and auction for hundreds of members

Mathew Caine

\$55 a year gets you a

NC Financial Group

One man's junk is another man's treasure. Taking piles of seemingly unrelated (to the casual observer) metal parts and forging them into the huge, magnificent steam and diesel-driven monster tools of the past is both a passion and an art. Since 1982, the dedicated volunteers of

Roots of Motive Power have been toiling over steam and diesel engines. trains, shovels, tractors, and more in order to preserve a bit of the past glory of the era when logging and railroads ruled the west.

Every year, Roots opens its gates, on a few occasions, to allow the public, especially the wide-eyed kids, to enter this world of machinery, to touch the iron beasts, to have their photos taken with them, and to ride on the trains around the almost mile-long track which encircles both the Roots yard and the ball fields. They can't help but soak in the flavor of the era and be educated in this world of furnaces and boilers and steam.

Last weekend was the annual Roots of Motive Power Steam Fest, both for the benefit of the public and as a way to honor the several hundred members. In addition to the acres of machinery, Roots maintains a vast library. Bear Kamoroff is the director of the Roots Research Library and Archive. "We have about 5,000 books, publications, letters on railroads and on steam power and on the timber industry," said Kamoroff. "They're mostly for research. The ones we use the most are operator maintenance-repair manuals for the 100-yearold equipment manuals. If we can't find a part, we can make a part by looking at the pictures. It is open to the public.

"They can contact me at the museum or call me at: 707-272-3472. We have generous donors, and we have 450 paid members.

207 W Stephenson St, Ukiah, CA 95482

675 S Main St, Willits, CA 95490

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Roots

Over on page 9





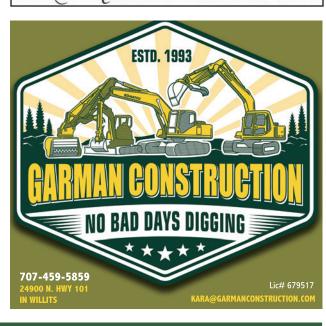


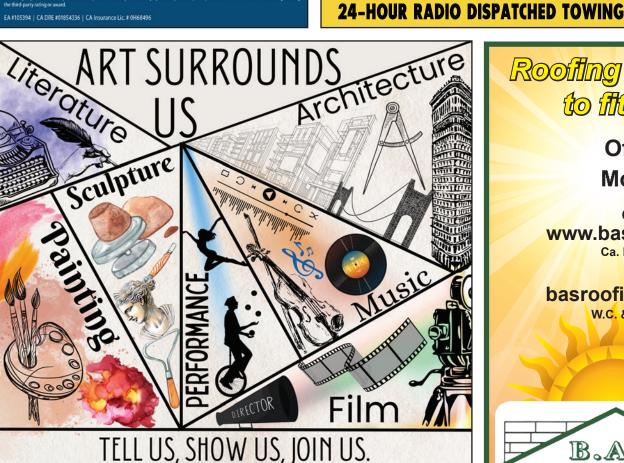
At top, left: Samuel Munderloh decided to make an American flag to be printed using the steam roller. At top, right: A lot of creative folks tried their hands at making prints with he Buffalo Springfield steam roller. Above, left: Chris Baldo confers with auctioneer Tom Allman prior to the auction, Above, right: Roots members dine al fresco at the annual Roots of Motive Power barbecue.

TOWING



RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California



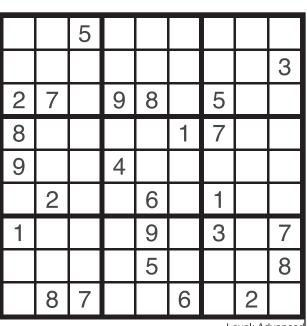


Group: Be the Antidote - Willits
Page: Be the Antidote



Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



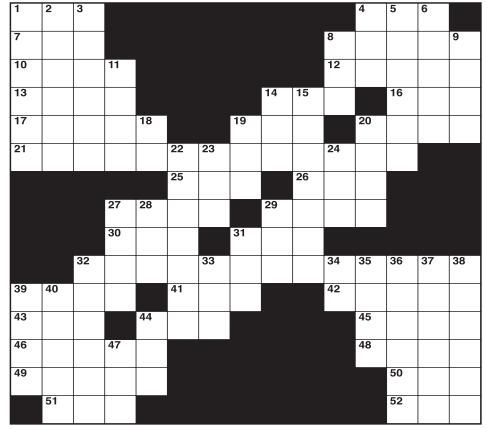
HOW TO SUDOKU

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 row. column and each 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

FUEL WORD SEARCH

DNIWSSEVITANRETLALIS

ALTERNATIVES ELECTRICITY HEAT RESOURCES HYDRO SCARCE APPLIANCE **ENERGY BUDGET ENVIRONMENT** MANUAL SOLAR **BURN** FIRE MINING **SUPPLEMENTAL** COAL **FOSSIL** NATURAL GAS **THERMOSTAT COMFORT FUEL** OIL UTILITY CONSERVATION **GASOLINE** WARMTH **PELLETS POLLUTION** COOLING **GENERATION** WIND **DRILLING GREEN** POWER WOOD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Utilitarian fashion accessory
- 4. Engine additive 7. Macaws
- 8. Listens to
- 10. Self-righteously moralistic person 12. Made of wood
- 13. Chinese lute 14. Beginning military rank
- 16. Indicates near
- 17. Ties the score
- 19. Chum
- 20. Long ago
- 21. Localities 25. Midway between northeast and east 26. Make fun of
- 27. Tennis great Arthur 29. Construction location 30. Cow's noise
- 31. Blue 32. One of the Fab Four
- 39. Formula 1 team 41. Dash

42. Lifting device 43. Basics

surface

network

1. Occur

4. Ocean

8. Ad ___

2. Show up

52. Boxing's GOAT

CLUES DOWN

3. Capital of Taiwan

5. Givers and __

9. Fit of irritation

11. Criminal organization

14. Exclamation that

15. American state

18. Sensor hub

denotes disgust

6. Gets ready

- 44. Keyboard key 45. Old Irish alphabet
- 23. Singular 46. Shaking of the Earth's 24. Type of meal 48. Covered stadium 27. Music awards show
- 49. Sword handles 28. Former French coin of low value 50. Longing or yearning 29. A bag-like structure in 51. Creators' social

19. Before

20. The boundary

22. Witnesses

of a surface

- an animal 31. Schenectady County Airport 32. Calm down
- 33. Partner to cheese 34. Cola brand 35. Stepped on 36. Japanese city
- 37. Type of coating 38. A citizen of Yemen 39. Popular breakfast item corned beef ___
- 40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length 44. First responders 47. Short-term memory

The officers of the Willits Police 7-day period. **Summary of Active Investigations** and Arrests

August 25

6:22 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued

4:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and Casteel Lane and issued a citation.

4:58 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and 5:16 pm: MCCONNELL, Kaya Makena

(27) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of Commercial Street. She was arrested on felony charges of child neglect or abandonment and on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

8:07 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

11:52 pm: MAYER, Corduroy (23) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Holly Street following a disturbance. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

August 26

11:32 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

4:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of

11:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

11:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of South Street and Central Street and issued a warning.

11:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

August 27

12:04 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

12:19 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

The rest of Chicken

purchased in advance; each dinner for 2 is \$40. Pre-sale tickets can be purchased by stopping by the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, or ordered online. Visit www.willitsseniorcenter.com and at the top there's a "Click Here" link which takes you to PayPal where you can pay with any card, vour PavPal account, or Venmo.

The rest of Firefighters

'The study is backed by \$9.7 million in funding from CAL FIRE and will include 3,500 firefighters from departments across California over a two-year

period.

those who did not. Funding partners are CAL FIRE and the University of the President.

This research is part of a broader, multiagency effort to protect the health of those who protect our communities. By better understanding the relationship between biomarkers of exposure such as heavy metals and biomarkers of effect such as epigenetic of inflammation and immune dysfunction, the team hopes to pave the way for new prevention and intervention strategies for firefighters nationwide.

11:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop near Department reported **65 incidents** in this the intersection of South Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue and issued a

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

August 25 to August 31

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

South Main Street

Alder Court.

7:44 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1000 block of Locust

5:33 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

11:21 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of South Lenore Avenue

August 31

Commercial Street and issued a warning.

3:05 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue and issued a citation.

investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

800 block of South Main Street and issued

of vandalism in the 100 block of Franklin

the 300 block of Robert Drive and issued

When ordering / paying online, for drive thru dinners, the Senior Center needs and delivery address are needed.

From page 1

The study will analyze how exposures on the fireground, especially during significant events, may drive changes in the body that contribute to cancer risk over time. A specific area of focus will compare exposures and

biological changes firefighters responded who to the Eaton and Palisades fires in Los Angeles with

California Office of alterations, transcriptomics, and markers on a suspended license).

August 28

1:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of

4:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of

8:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

August 29

6:26 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Walnut

August 30

8:36 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of

2:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of

6:19 pm: Officers initiated a theft

8:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

a citation. 9:58 pm: Officers responded to a report

10:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

"We would like to give a big shout out to the Lions Club of Willits," said Senior Center Director Richard Baker. "They have been buying and grilling the chicken for the last 15 years!" Proceeds raised, Baker said, "will be used to buy food for our Meals on Wheels program."

Those with questions or anyone interested in volunteering to help hand out a name and a phone number, and for or deliver the meals, can call Director Baker delivered dinners, name, phone number at (707) 459-6826 or (707) 354-0614. or email wsidirector@willits-seniors.org

Arrests

were within the immediate area of the occupants. Based on the unique features of the rifle it met the statutory requirements listed in 30515 PC, making it a violation of 30605 PC - Possession of an assault weapon.

Further investigation was conducted by the investigating MCSO deputy which ultimately led to Cornelio Solario being placed under arrest for 25400(A) (1) PC (Possession of a concealed firearm in a vehicle), 25850(A) PC (Carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle), and 30605(A) PC (Possession of an assault weapon).

This investigation also led to Fernando Solario being placed under arrest for 25400(A)(1) PC (Possession of a concealed firearm in a vehicle), 25850(A) PC (Carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle), 30605(A) PC (Possession of an assault weapon), 29180(A) PC (Possession of an un-serialized firearm), 1203.2(A) PC (Violation of probation), and 14601.2 CVC (Driving

Cornelio Solorio and Fernando Solorio were transported to the Mendocino County Jail where they were both to be held in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

















At top, from left: Margi Gome: enjoys creating pottery through sculpture. Leslie Campbell's "Tripod Vessel" of black stoneware. Jason Sanovich's cups show how porcelain and stoneware differ in results in the wood fired kiln. Leslie Campbell's black stoneware pear. Leslie Campbell created this set of mugs and pitcher out of porcelain clay. Black clay was utilized in the creation of this large pinecone by Leslie Campbell. At far left: The artists - Leslie Campbell Jason Sanovich, and Margi Gomez - work together to use the wood-fired kiln. Attendees speak with past WCA Curator

Photos by Mathew Caine

'Painted With Fire'

Three ceramists display their wood-fired pottery at Willits Center for the Arts' September exhibit

chocolates. You never know what you're going to get. But

whatever

Mathew Caine

out of the fire on the eighth day is going to be amazing in its rich, deep patterns and ash-infused coloration. Depending on factors such as the type of clay used, the type of wood that is burned, and where the pottery is placed inside the kiln, the process will create a different array of results every time, even if all the factors are the same.

pottery an experimental and surprising art. At the Willits Center for the Arts, through September 28, three explorers of the art are exhibiting their works, all fired in the same kiln, but with vastly different final products. The artists - Leslie Campbell, Jason Sanovich, and WCA Curator Margi Gomez - have opted to integrate their works on display, rather than compartmentalize

This is what makes the art of wood fired

Wood-fired pottery is like a box of them into their individual areas, so that the viewer can observe the variations in each corner of the two rooms.

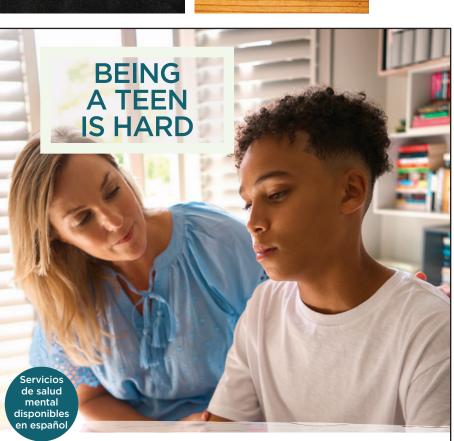
> Leslie Campbell's kiln in the hills above Albion is the scene for the cooperative and socialized ritual of firings, in which the artists place their creations into certain areas of the kiln before it is bricked up and fire is applied underneath for up to eight days in certain prescribed techniques. Then, it takes several days for the pots to cool enough to remove them from the kiln after being subjected to the heat of approximately 2,500 degrees, "as hot as a small volcano," said Campbell.

"Once we have the fire under the grate, we brick it all off and we start to put the wood in through this side door," Campbell explained. "It's a metal door with





At far left: Jason Sanovich enjoys experimenting with different types of clay is made of At left: "Storage Vessel with Lugs and Paddle Marks' by Jason Sanovich.



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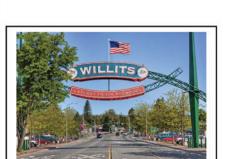
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Merle Edward Bacon

May 4, 1965 - September 6, 2025

Merle Edward Bacon, a beloved husband. father, and grandfather, passed away on September 6, 2025, in Willits, CA, the town he called home for 25 years. He was 60 years old.

Born on May 4, 1965, in Mountain View, CA. to LeRoy Walter and Goldie Elizabeth Bacon, Merle spent his early life on his parents' property in Atherton, CA, growing up alongside his sister, Lea.

Merle married the love of his life, Cynthia, and together they built a beautiful life, sharing 40 years of marriage. They raised a large and loving family, with Merle being the proud father of Kristina, Phillip, LeRoy, Jesse "JJ", Merle Trevor, Preci (Cynthia), Samantha, Alyssa, James, and many other children he welcomed into his heart - Lisa, Joseph, Big Jesse, Pancho (Francisco), Robert, and Colene.

Merle also had the blessing of a close-knit extended family, including daughters-in-law Charlene and Aubrey, sons-in-law Jake and Skyler, as well as the partners of his children: Jeremiah (partner of Samantha) and Jessica (partner of Trevor). Merle's family grew even more with the blessing of 14 grandchildren: Makayla, Victoria, Jayden, Noah, Dominik, Corrina, Samantha, Emry, Calvin, Everitt, Mason, Ezekiel, Indigo, and Ryann, as well as one greatgrandson, Anthony. His nieces DonYelle, Ashley, and Goldie also held a special

Merle worked as a tow manager for 25 years, starting his career in the Bay Area before moving to Sonoma County. In 2000, he and his family settled in Villits, where he later retired.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister, and his son, James.

Merle will be remembered for his infectious quick wit and his ability to make everyone around him laugh. His infamous inappropriate jokes at the dinner table, his warmth, and his larger-than-life personality lit up every room he entered. Merle's love for his family and his joyful spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He leaves behind a legacy of laughter, love, and a heart that

A service to celebrate Merle's life will be held on September 19, 2025, at 11 am at Ankier-Lucier Mortuary. Viewing will be on September 17, 2025, from 1

Agape **Bible Church** 290 S. Lenore Ave.

Willits, CA 95490 Where love is first and the Bible is central. Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. - Worship dult Sunday School 8:30 a.m Info? 707-459-1905 www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church 803 Coast Street

P.O. Box 489, Willits Worship Service - 5:00 p.m. Pastor Kris Strickland EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Church

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

The Church of **Jesus Christ of** Latter-day Saints

7-8:00 p.m.

265 Margie Drive Willits, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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Grace Community Church

Celebrating Life In Christ 25 Hazel Street, Willits **Worship Service** 10 a.m. For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church 61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadam

Mass times: Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. Saturday-5:30 p.m. Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English 10:30 a.m. - Spanish Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Or by appointmet at 707-459-2252 https://stanthonywillits.org/ saintanthonywillits@gmail.com

764-1746.

St. Francis **Episcopal Church** North Main Street, Willits

We welcome All Walks of Faith

707-272-0177 Sunday Service - 10 a.m. In-person and on Zoom Call for information. ALL ARE WELCOME The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

St. John Lutheran Church Sunday Service

10:00 a.m. (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive acebook.com/stjohnswillits ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day **Adventist Church** 707-459-5714

Friendly, open worship Saturdays Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:45 a.m. Zoom Transmission Available. Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m. 399 W. Mendocino Ave. All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church Labyrinth and Peace Garden

A place to find comfort where all are welcome Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild Sunday Worship at 10:30 am 286 School St. (at Pine) 707-459-2855 wumc@outlook.com www.willitsumc.org

Facebook: facebook willits umc

If you want to be included in this column please call: **April Tweddell** (707) 972-2475 april@willitsweekly.com



Thursday, September 11

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at City Park with vendors along State Street for the freshest produce available,

local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food, and tasty treats from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your

Bit and a Bite at the Museum: Join us for light refreshments, history and conversation Thursday, September 11 from 12:30 to 1:30. Museum staff member Mary Pappadakis will recommend her favorite local history books. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial

NCBE and Willits Frontier Days Mixer September: A celebration sponsored by the Northcoast Builders Exchange to highlight the NBCC Bootcamp

Proiect, showcase our students, and recognize sponsors and volunteers. This free event is on September 11, from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds, 423 East Commercial Street.

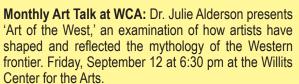
Friday, September 12 True West Opens at WCT: This darkly funny

drama written by Sam Shepard and directed by Joshua Sternberg opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, September 12 for a three-week run with performances o Friday and Saturdays at 7 pm and Sundays at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20, available at the door or online: wctperformingartscenter.org

September 27

This 4th annual community trail running and walking

online at runsignup.com. For more info call Crystal: 916-



Storytime with Ms. McCarthy at the Library: local storvteller Ms. McCarthy.

These stories are for preschool age children, along with their caregivers. September 12, from 11 am to noon in the Children's Library. More info: 707-459-5908.

Kristen Ford at Shanachie: With her latest album, 'Pinto,' this L.A. songwriter blasts way beyond the point of caution and unveils a wild landscape of visceral emotion. Friday, September 12 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

A-Bit-and-A-Bite

""#SAM SHEPARD """#JOSHUA STERNBERG

SEPTEMBER 12 - 28 2025 FILE SIF 7PM SIE 2PM Season

The Celebration of Life Trail Trek Mabon Market at The Munchery

event offers a 5K-ish trail run/walk, a Trail Half Marathon, a magical afternoon of live music by Lindsay Gang from

and Par Course loops on single- and double-track trails 2 to 4 pm, mini photo sessions by SaltyKay Photography

through the Brooktrails area, with the aim of providing a from 1 to 3 pm and a curated selection of local vendors

family-friendly experience in the scenic local environment. offering crafts, vintage treasures, handmade goods,

Event begins at 9 am and attendees may same-day register unique services, and more. We will be serving up specialty

at the Brooktrails Par Course starting at 8 am or preregister cocktails and seasonal small bites to savor while you

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Program

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Saturday, September 13

True West at WCT: True West shows tonight, Saturday, September 13 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. More info see Sept 12 listing.

Inner Earth Tea and The Muse **Block Party:** A community celebration of the healing arts featuring apiary and herbal products, tea and chair massages, along with music, a raffle, activities for the kids and participation in the Rec Grove Mural Project. Saturday, September 13 from noon to 4 pm, 30 East San Francisco

Nor-Cal Shred Fest at Laytonville Skateboard Park: An all-ages hard rock benefit the Laytonville

Skateboard Park njoy six live bands contest, local food beer vendors, wine garden and free eptember 13 from o 10 pm at Laytonville Park, 351 Harwood Road, _aytonville. More info: 07-984-8089.

September 27

event. The Munchery, 1797 South Main Street.

Come to

Irene's Garden

at the

Black Oak Ranch

in Laytonville,

any time of day.

o cents per stem

Bring a bucket & scissors

Join us on Saturday, September 27 from 1 to 5 pm for

Willits Photography Club at WCA: Open to all skill levels and meets the 2nd Saturday of the month with this month's meeting on Saturday, September 13 from 10 am to noon in the classroom at Willits Center for the Arts. 71 East Commercial Street. (Please use back

Stories enhanced with songs and a puppet play by Frankie and the Lost Souls at Shanachie: An indie folk-rock band bringing a nostalgia for a 90s and early 00s pop-rock soundscape. Saturday, September 13 at 8 pm, Shanachie

Sunday, September 14

Brunch, Sip and Paint at WCA: Come have brunch and paint leaf watercolors with Sandy Strong, Sunday, September 14 from 1 to 4 pm. Fee is \$75 and buys materials, brunch and a seasonal

IN THE PARK

alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverage. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Free Zumba Demo at Rec Grove Park: Learn how to Zumba at this free demonstration by Flourish and Flow, Sunday, September 14 from 11 am to 12:30 pm at Rec Grove Park, South Lenore

True West at WCT: Matinee showing of True West, Sunday, September 14 at 2 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. More info see Sept 12 listing.

Tuesday, September 16

Rhythm & Flow for Youth at WCA: This seven-week session for youths aged 8 to 14 focuses on finding the beat, playful cardio, flexibility, balance, strength and mobility in an uplifting environment. Starting

September 16 and continuing every Tuesday from 4 to 5:30 pm through October 28 in the Upstairs Studio at Willits Center for the Arts. \$15 per class or \$84 for the entire session. Register by emailing: mvmntmedicin@ gmail.com.

Thursday, September 18

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at City Park, for the freshest produce

edition of the Willits Weekly and much more. See Sept 11 listing for more details.

Creative Writers Workshop at the Library: Share your fictional works in a supportive environment,

receive constructive feedback and discuss publishing options. This free event is open to ages 13 and up. Paper and pencils provided and Chromebooks available for checkout with library card. September 18 from 4:30 to 6 pm, and every 3rd Thursday of the month thereafter at the Willits Branch Library.

History Makers Printmaking at the Museum: Come create different styles of artistic prints every Wednesday

from 2 to 4:30 pm. This week: Stamp it! Collage. Fun for all ages and free with museum admission. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street.

Friday, September 19

Book Lovers Group Discussion at the Library: This discussion monthly group meets every third

Friday. Come talk about books, authors, and genres this month on September 19 from noon to 1 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

Hog Farm Celebration at Black Oak Ranch: Camping, games and activities with music by Moonalice and Skeleton Crewe Trio, Friday September 19, beginning at 2 pm.

Locally sourced meals and a nightly beer and wine Happy Hour are included in the ticket price. Tickets are limited so please purchase in advance. Black Oak Ranch, 50350 Highway 101, Laytonville. More info and tickets: blackoakranch.com.



The Ramblers Duo at Shanachie: An blend Classic Rock N Roll, Americana Country, and Cosmic Blues, 19 at 8 pm at

available, local meat, tasty treats, crafts, the new True West at WCT: This play shows tonight, Friday, September 19 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. More info see Sept 12 listing.

Saturday, September 20

HISTORY MAKERS!

AT THE MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM

WEDNESDAYS 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.

WCT Annual Gala

September 2/st at

Hearts for the Arts

Blue Luke at Shanachie: The soul of the blues, the groove of funk, the grit of rock & roll and the harmonies of jazz brought into the modern world, Saturday, September 20 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

Dan Essman

'Americana'

to steal a Lakota Sioux Ghost Dance shirt. It's a

sacred object and apparently worth a fortune to

greedy scumbag artifact hunters who have no

right to even touch such objects. Meanwhile Cal, a

young white boy insists that he is the reincarnation

of Indian Chief Sitting Bull. Cal's mother Halsey is

trying to escape her marriage to Dillon, a demanding

ruthless bully (and murderer!). A sensitive coffee

shop waitress with freckles and a stutter (Sydney

Sweeny!) dreams of going to Nashville and being

a singer like her idols Tammy and Dolly, and she

But no more teases from me. All of the above leads

to lots of folks getting abruptly and bloodily sent to

their maker. It's homicidal mayhem among thieves,

and then righteous Indian warriors get involved.

After all, it is their heritage. At the end, judgment for

everyone is delivered and justice is served. And the

My Thoughts: 63% on Rottentomatoes means

(to me) that 37% of those self-important scribblers

were hungover or maybe just have neurological

conditions that make paying attention difficult.

(Having worked in special education, they have

my sympathies.) Ignore the downers. Go see the

What struck me the most about the story is that

characters' unusual choices are coherent and their

actions justified by their backstories. This is a wild

Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality

attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

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September 27

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relief from nightmares and fears and learn simple tools

to help your dreams give you answers to challenges and

goals. This workshop is family-friendly, welcomes all faiths

and will be held at the Willits Community Center, 111 East

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flick. Explosive. Sad. Funny. I loved it.

Parents: This flick is for teens and up.

learns about the upcoming theft.

audience applauds.

The Story: Crime,

chase/killing-spree

flick with a script

that's so tight it

squeaks. A collector

of Indian artifacts hires

a psychopathic thief

True West at WCT: This play tonight, Saturday, September 20 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. For more info see Sept 12 listing.

Hog Farm Celebration at Black Oak Ranch: Event continues on Saturday, September 20 with music by Poor Man's Whiskey, Grassomoxoa, and Moonalice. Black Oak Ranch, Laytonville. More info see Sept 19 listing.

Sunday, September 21

WCT Hearts for the Arts Gala at Whistle Stop Cafe: A fundraiser for Willits Community Theatre featuring dinner catered by the Lions Club, live music from Malakai Schindel and a lively auction. Seating is limited so reserve your ticket at eventbrite. com. Sunday, September 21 at 5 pm in the Courtyard of the Whistle Stop Cafe, 280 East Commercial St.

True West at WCT: Matinee showing of True West, Sunday, September 21 at 2 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. For more info

see September 12 listing.

HSMC & Roots of Motor Power presentation at the Grange: A presentation by Chris Baldo on the Northwestern Redwood Company on September 21 at 1 pm at the Little Lake Grange. Afterward, attendees are invited to the Root of Motive Power facilities for refreshments and a tour of their collection. Cost is \$10. Please RSVP at mendocinocountyhistory.org/event so we can get a rough count.





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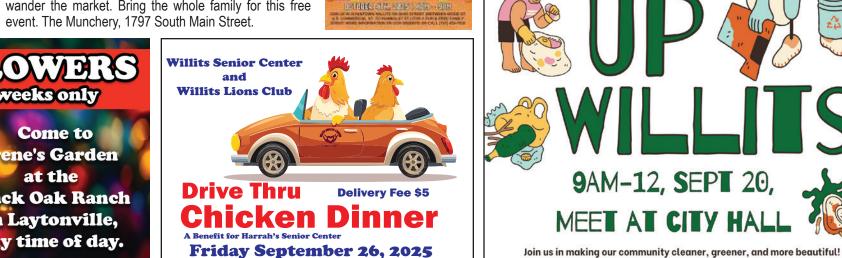
> THE COLUMBIA RIVER **CANOE PROJECT** (NR) 1hr 5min

(R) 2hr 15min Fri - Sat - Sun: 4:00, 7:00 Wed - Thur: 4:00. 7:00

REMINDER!



September 20th, 2025 Anyone with questions contact cstack@cityofwillits.org WILLITS Motive Power \$10 at the door



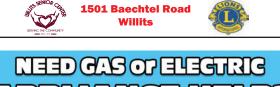
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CARNIVALE

5:00pm - 6:30pm **Pre-Sale Tickets Only**

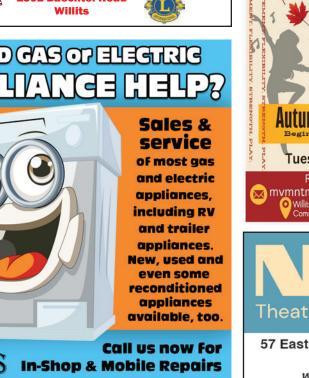
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FOR THE ARTS

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4:30, 7:30 Wed - Thur: 4:30, 7:30 SPECIAL FEATURE) \$8 TICKETS ALL SHOWS/ALL WEEK

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Fri - Sat - Sun:

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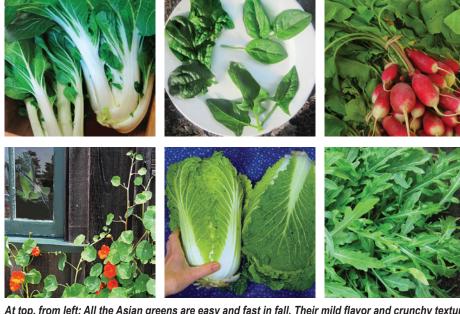
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At top, from left: Fennel is easy to grow now, for harvest in October. It is good raw or cooked, and makes a great substitute for celery. If you want a crop that grows through the winter, enriches the soil, attracts beneficials, and also produces a food crop, try fava beans, or their smaller, hardier cousin, bell beans. Their dramatic black-and-white flowers appear in March or April, followed by edible beans in June. Probably the easiest cover crop for a home garden is purple vetch. After enriching the soil all winter, it's easy to cut and use for mulch. Above, from left: Phacelia "Bee's Friend" is a native California wildflower that protects the soil all winter, then attracts beneficial insects with its lavender blooms. An easy and hardy green for both salad and cooking is Sugarloaf Chicory, a favorite in Italy and France. It's worth looking for lettuces bred for winter conditions, rather than just planting the regular spring varieties. Strains like this "Hungarian Pink Winter" are



At top, from left: All the Asian greens are easy and fast in fall. Their mild flavor and crunchy texture is perfect for stir-fry, soup, or salad. Spinach comes in three leaf types: flat, savoyed (crinkled), and arrowhead. The savoy and arrowhead types are the sweetest-flavored, as well as the most cold-hardy. Radishes are an easy crop now, along with the even sweeter salad turnips. Above, from left: Nasturtiums love cool conditions and don't grow well in hot summer weather. They produce abundant edible leaves and blooms in fall. Chinese cabbage is easy this time of year, but hard to grow in spring. Plant now for juicy, crunchy heads. Arugula is one of the fastest-growing fall







favorites for flavor, as well as resistance to mildew and ability to grow in the dim light of winter.



COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

September: Small jobs, big impact

many perennial flowers are having a cover crops to get roots big enough to hold Jamie Chevalier summer crops are

still in their glory. But as the days get

shorter and busier, it's easy to miss some fall harvests, to lose track of outdoor chores, or to procrastinate your fall planting.

A few years ago, I started doing what I like to call Ninja Gardening. The goal is to have no half-finished projects hanging over my head. I imagine tasks as 10-minute jobs. 20-minute jobs, 30-minute jobs. If I have an hour-long chore looming, I can either make it into two 30-minute jobs or save it for a day when I can enjoy an hour gardening. Those small, unpressured times in the garden pay off in more harvests, fewer problems, and lots more satisfaction.

Here are some big-impact small jobs to

Salads are finally easy again! Plant winter lettuce, spinach, cilantro, greens, radishes, arugula, Chinese cabbage, salad turnips, escarole, endive, Miner's lettuce, mâché, chicory, pea shoots, and other fastgrowing fall crops.

Plants are often short of potassium. which helps them cope with cold nights. Sprinkle kelp meal, seaweed extract, or woodstove ash around your crops for better

Another issue in fall is aphids, which suck the juice out of your plants and make mold more likely. Poison sprays kill ladybugs and other beneficials, letting the aphids multiply even more. Instead, put out ant bait. (Look for the boron-based types.) Ants bring aphids to the plant and protect them from predators. With the ants gone, simple sprays like compost tea plus natural predators can often control the aphids.

Speaking of compost tea, combat powdery mildew with simple fermented sprays. If you don't have compost tea, mix 1 tablespoon yogurt into a gallon of water. Good microbes fight bad ones.

Plant cover crops now! Easy cover crops for home gardens are vetch, winter peas, and crimson clover. If you wait until your

Fall in Willits - tree fruits are ripening, tomatoes are done, there won't be time for second bloom, and the soil and create fertility. Doing one bed at a time keeps it manageable.

> 1. Clear out the things you can – weeds, plants that aren't producing anymore, etc.

2. Rough up the soil with a rake or hand

3. Scatter your cover crop seed, tossing it under and around any existing plants like

4. Rake it in. If you can't cover the seed with soil, use a light layer of mulch or even old potting soil to keep it hidden from birds.

Fall provides the year's biggest bonus for the garden: free fertility in the form of fallen leaves. Before they start to fall, figure out where you'll put them (and how to get more if possible.) They are well-balanced nutrition and the cheapest, easiest mulch of all.

Wood chips have become easy to get in the wake of mandated tree work, and can be a great solution for paths or around perennials. Used in the right ways, they can be a fertility source for the garden too. English garden master Charles Dowding has a new video on YouTube describing the ways he uses them in his highly productive market garden. It's called "Woody Goodies," and I recommend his low-key, hype-free

Set up a compost pile now, so you can add to it as you clear the garden. If your bin or pile is already there, you can add those wormy apples, a handful of weeds, fallen leaves from the driveway, or the dead

Harvesting is especially important as rain enters the picture. Once tomatoes start to turn red, they will often crack, rot, or lose flavor when it rains. Harvest before the rain and ripen indoors for best flavor. (Supermarket tomatoes are harvested totally green; those with red on them can develop full flavor.) Anything that touches the ground – squash, melons, cukes, etc. – is also vulnerable. Harvest quickly, and put

Read the rest of Garden

Over on page 9

ON NOVEMBER 4 **Fair Elections Decided by California Voters**

In response to Trump ordering Texas to break all rules and gerrymander its Congressional seats (disenfranchising millions of Texas voters), California's Prop. 50 will level the playing field, temporarily redrawing California Congressional maps.*

Prop. 50:

- Provides hope for a balanced Congress that will rein in Trump's abuses of power and attempts to suppress
- Is fair & proportional; it complies with Fair Redistricting guidelines, as confirmed by Common Cause (which found Texas redistricting did NOT).
- It gives power to the voters, to affirm or reject (TX did
- not). • It is temporary; CA will revert to the Independent
- Commission to draw boundaries after the 2030 Census. • It commits to fair redistricting nationwide. The GOP opponents hypocritically reject independent commissions.

Don't let Trump pack Congress the way he has packed the Courts. Vote yes on Prop. 50 on Nov. 4th.

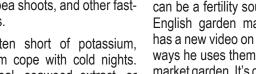
Partial list of local endorsers: Mike McGuire; Chris Rogers; John Haschak; Dr. Monte Lieberfarb; Dr. Angus Matheson; Dr. Mills Matheson; Martin & Saprina Rodriguez; Madge Strong; Kate Marianchild; Norma Hanson; Mary Burns, Linda Grace, Melinda Clarke, Jane McCabe and Robin Goldner.

To volunteer contact mstrong827@outlook.com.

*Footnote re: Common Cause Analysis:

California Meets, Texas Fails to Meet Common Cause's Redistricting





tomato vines as they appear



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- HELP WANTED: -

Casino Controller at Sherwood Valley Casino

The Casino Controller directs the cashiering, 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, cashiering, 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 mfitzgerral@svrcasino.com



LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business

Name Statement

persons are doing business as

Registered owner: Veronica G.

This business is conducted by

The registrant commenced to

transact business under the

fictitious business name listed

FBN statement filed with the

Recorder on August 29, 2025

September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

Mendocino County Clerk-

/s/ Veronica G. Fani

Publication Dates:

Fani, 70 Nancy Lane, Willits,

Root And Ritual, 70 Nancy

The following person or

Lane, Willits, CA 95490.

CA 95490.

an individiual

above on N/A.

WW555

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0360 The following person or persons are doing business as

Tight Line Painting, 171 Crestview Street, Willits, CA Registered owner: Justin Allen

Johnson, 171 Crestview Street, Willits, CA 95490. This business is conducted by

an individiual The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on August 4, 2025. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on August 18, 2025.

/s/ Justin Johnson Publication Dates September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

WW556

NOTICE

A seat on the Round Valley Unified School District's Board of Trustees became vacant on August 5, 2025.

Clarence Roy Britton was provisionally appointed to the vacant seat on August 25, 2025.

Unless a petition calling for a special election pursuant to Education Code 5091 is filed in the office of the County Superintendent within 30 days of the provisional appointment, it shall become an effective appointment.

Publication Date: September 11, 2025



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The rest of Garden

From page 8

a tile, board, or other impervious surface under any unripe melons or winter squash to protect both from rot and from tunneling rodents.

It's hard to let go of tomato season, always too short here in Willits. But in some ways, this may be the best time of all, when hiking and working outdoors are comfortable again, when fruit weighs down the branches, and when summer's work is rewarded with fall's harvest.

Jamie Chevalier of Quail Seeds lives and gardens near Willits. Visit www.quailseeds.com for over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive how-to information.

GALNMUGP(DOOW) CGW H B U R N B U D G E T D N I W) S (S E V I T A N R E T L A)

From page 5

a counterbalance. It's about a 35-pound door. We start soaking it in the front for about two days. The pots get to be red hot. We have ceramic cones in there that melt at a certain temperature. It's part of the way that we can gauge the temperature. We use those cones and the color of the kiln. It goes from black, and it starts to turn red and cherry red and then orange and then yellow. When it's white-hot is when we are pretty much done.

"There's no glaze or anything on the pots when they go in," said Campbell. "The ash lands on the pot and it fuses with the silica and it melts into the clay. The silica of the clay and the ash makes glass. There's not much control on the pattern and color. Experience helps. There are places in the kiln where the temperatures vary and certain kinds of clay react differently to the heat. Porcelain grabs the ash. It really likes the porcelain. The more blues and greens are on porcelain. Porcelain is mostly made out of kaolin clay. It's primary clay that is weathered-out granite and

Sanovich loves the "spontaneity of each firing and how it affects the work. We can kind of nudge things in a certain direction but ultimately, we never really know how it's going to turn out. In gas-firing, you pretty much know what things are going to look like. With wood-firing, it's always pretty much a surprise. It's always different. It keeps it interesting."

Another interesting aspect is the social manner in which the firings are done. There is a crew of eight or 10 people who constantly keep the fire burning at the correct temperature in shifts. "Most of the cast and crew are the same but we have different people at times," said Sanovich. "There's some mentorship that happens. We're always learning. There's a community aspect to it as well. There are people who are 20 firing in our crew and there are people who are close to 80. No one is excluded. Everyone brings something different to the process."

Gomez enjoys creating sculptures of the animals that she loves. "I always did sculpture," explained Gomez. "I never really learned to use a wheel. I've been good friends with Leslie for some 60 years. When she said she was going to be building this wood kiln, and she explained to me how it all works, I became completely intrigued and found I couldn't stay away. The social aspect of it is so fantastic. It's like an eight-day pajama party. Everybody is stoking the fire, 24 / 7 and trying to stay fed and watered. Also, I like to work with clay.

"It takes about a week for the pots to cool off," said Gomez. "Once you get it up to its maximum temperature, you have to go away and let it cool for a week and then come back to a really fun social event. Everybody is there for the unveiling. You take the bricks all off the front of the kiln. Then, we always form like a bucket-brigade. Each piece that comes out is handled and looked at by each of the participants as we fill up the tables. It's kind of a ritual."

"Painted With Fire" will be on display at Willits Center for the Arts through September 28.

to the public Friday and Saturday 11 am to 5 pm. For more info, call 459-1726 or visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org/.

The rest of Roots

From page 3

membership, three newsletters, and two free tickets to the barbecue. Mail your check to P.O. Box 1540, Willits, 95490 to become a member," explained Kamoroff.

Several of the volunteers are experts in certain machines and enjoy telling people about every aspect of their apparatus. Alan Spivak runs the Eastep engine. "I've been running it for 16 years now," said Spivak. "This was used for hauling logs out of the forest, to replace the steam donkeys. It has three, used to have four, steel cables on drums, for moving logs on a highline. Since they were loading onto rail cars at the time, it was real handy to have this thing on a rail car. This weighs about 48,000 pounds [24 tons]. The engine alone is 18,000 pounds. It pulls 300 horsepower at 250 rpm, which means, that's a lot of torque. the lifting and keeps tension on the highline. This was Gordon Logan day, absolutely." made in 1928."

Another machine, this one not formerly seen by the

9 5 9 4 6 5 3 8 2 8 6 3 9 5 6 9 3 4 3 9 5 2 8

CLASSIFIEDS

Free Food for All Fundraiser for Pop-Up Nuestra Alianza /lendocino Network Garage Sale Fundraiser

Food presents food pop-ups with free for Nuestra Alianza. food for all: Due to Saturday, September the impact of federal 20, 9 am to 4 pm. Come budget cuts, there will find your treasure! 227 be only one monthly South Humboldt .Plenty pop-up In Willits, on of parking across street. 1st Thursdays, from 10 to 11:30 am at 1250 Blosser Lane. In Laytonville, every 4th Thursday, 12 to 1 pm at 300 Cahto Drive. Covelo, every 2nd Thursday from 12 to 1

Lunch Program Every Saturday a pm sack lunches are served by local pm, at NEW ADDRESS: churches. community 24065 Rifle Road. In Leggett: Every 1st Bud Tuesday from 12 to Snider Park on East pm at 65100 Drive-Thru Tree Road. Info: Commercial. . Come at 1 pm to be assured a Rachelle@mendofood. org; 707-615-6654.

Do you need

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

food?

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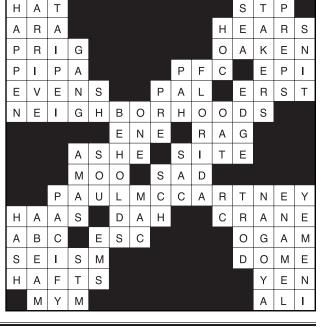
public, is the Keystone Drill, which was used for prospecting gold. "This machine is unique because it is self-propelled." You can see the gears. It's a bit like a tractor. It was built for prospecting gold in the early days. They would drill holes down and look in at the sand and see if it had any gold. It's a drill rig," said volunteer Dana Davis

Across Commercial Street, at Recreation Grove Park, was an array of smaller machines, all puffing and clanking and fascinating both the kids and adults. Further into the park, amateur artists were trying their hand at creating linoleum block prints, which after inking, were run over The gallery, located at 71 East Commercial Street is open by the extremely heavy Buffalo Springfield steam roller, utilizing its weight to press the ink onto the paper in the

areas of the linoleum that have not been cut out. Later on, the annual members' barbecue served a couple hundred hungry families with pulled pork, beans, salad, rolls, etc. They dined under the trees on long communal tables. Prior to the dinner, people could peruse the various silent auction items, enter a raffle, and see what would be live auctioned later. This year, Tom Allman will try and sell some interesting machines, a working antique tractor, and a beautiful large redwood picnic table.

"This is an incredible crowd," commented Allman. "There's going to be over 200 people here, at the barbecue and auction. The vast majority of these people are outof-towners. When I look at a crowd and I can't name six people at a table, these people are from out of town. This is an economic draw for Willits," said Allman who loves to tell remembrances of his days in Willits. "I don't know if you remember Gordon Logan. He was the city manager. He envisioned the train track going around the baseball and soccer fields. We all said he was crazy. That'll never work. It will pull 55,000 pounds on a highline [suspended]. This But that is exactly what is happening today. The train was car has to be well-anchored because it has no brakes. going around the soccer fields and baseball fields. Kids There's a trolley on the cable that it pulls. The trolley does were laughing. Adults were eating popcorn. This was a

> For further information about the Roots of Motive Power, visit https://rootsofmotivepower.com/.





Cheerful Taz

Taz is a whirling dervish of happiness! He has a very smooth coat, floppy ears, a long, skinny tail, and long legs. This guy has energy and enthusiasm to spare! Taz would be a fun dog for active people, he loves to go swimming or just be around water

He would make a great running companion. With training, consistency, and lots of exercise, this boy will make a great addition to the right home. Tall fences are a good idea as well. He loves to play a game of fetch that includes swimming.

We took Taz to The Cat House at the Sanctuary, where cats lounge and hide out. He was very interested in the smells, and a little curious about the few cats he saw. He was not eagerly pulling on the leash, or extremely intent on the cats. We believe he would do well in a house with cats as long as they had a well-monitored introduction period.

To learn more about Taz, or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.

org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 459-4900.

Spunky Crocus

Crocus is a handsome young cat ready to find his fur-ever home! He has been at the shelter since 8/28/24 at no fault of his own. He was brought in as a small kitten and has unfortunately grown up here. Crocus loves to show off his parkour skills, play with cat toys, and explore the cat room. If you're looking for a fun, spunky cat,

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant

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come on by and meet her during open hours! The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments petfinder.com.

Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from

9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday,

and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for

lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make

sure to pre-fill out the adoption application

available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.

Sweet Cece

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needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www. mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.

wasn't so kind to this puppy. But do not fear, operation kindness and love is in full effect!

These days. Cece is being treated like the gueen she is, and we are excited to find her a

home she deserves! Cece has lived in foster homes so check in for more information or

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Good Farm Fund celebrates local food resilience

Join the Good Farm Fund at Yokayo Ranch on Tuesday, September 16, for the 10th Anniversary Farm-Raiser — a these amazing chefs: night of food, community, and impact.

For the past decade, the organization has partnered with farmers, chefs, and community members to grow a food system that's resilient, equitable, nutritious, and delicious. And it's working: Since 2015, Good Farm Fund has granted over \$600,000 to 50+ local farms for projects like irrigation, fencing, cold storage, fire recovery, and more. They have also raised over \$35,000 for their Market Match Program, helping CalFresh families access fresh, local produce.

A group of prominent chefs paired with local farms is joining forces this year to create unforgettable dishes that tell the story of Mendocino County. This event offers a unique opportunity to savor food crafted by chefs collaborating directly with local farms, connect with food enthusiasts and changemakers, and support small farms

Here is a glimpse of the culinary stars who are bringing their talents, creativity, and the very best local ingredients

This is a true taste of our region: the highest quality food,

Call to Artists

practices, and transformed into unforgettable dishes by

Michelle Costa, Mendo Ferments; Makonnen Nile Blessed, The Record; Erica Schneider, Fog Eater Café; Bree Ann Kesterson, Patrona Restaurant & Lounge & Chef's Table Catering; Ian Scharlotta, Bee the Change Microfarm; David Hopps, Izakaya Gama; Olan Cox, Bonterra; Matthew Allison, Ukiah Brewing Co; Noah Thomas McKeown, Left Coast Seafood; Ben Kater & Earl Chavez, Big Earl's BBQ; Bailee Dayton, Farola Empanadas Argentinas; Fernando Plazola, Cultivo ...and more

"We hope the whole community will join us to celebrate our local farms," said Sarah Bodnar, co-founder of the Good Farm Fund and CEO of West Business Development Center. "This milestone is about honoring 10 years of impact and fueling the next decade of food security. Let's celebrate our delicious and plentiful local food - and plant the seeds for the next Soccer, steam, and community spirit: decade of impact."

When & Where: Tuesday, September 16, 2025, from 5:30 to 9:30 pm at Yokayo Ranch, Ukiah. Tickets and details: GoodFarmFund.org

Mendocino County Sports Academy fall season kicks off in Willits Submitted by Mendocino County Sports Academy

released in April 2025.

BigGame@wildlife.ca.gov

Gordon Logan Sports Complex in Willits was buzzing with life as more than 20 youth soccer teams from across Mendocino County gathered for the opening weekend of the Mendocino County Sports Academy's Developmental Soccer League. Over 200 kids and their families filled the fields for the first regular-season matches of the fall. bringing with them a community spirit that stretched well beyond the sidelines.

The day was nothing short of idyllic. Just across the fence, the historic locomotives of the Roots of Motive Power were firing up for their annual Steam Festival, and throughout the morning, whistles and bells echoed across the fields as a train circled the grounds. For visiting families from the coast, Ukiah, and beyond, it was a uniquely Willits experience; a rare chance to watch their kids compete while steam engines puffed clouds of white against the blue sky.

"It doesn't get more small-town beautiful than this," said MCSA Executive Director Ian Fitzpatrick. "Soccer and steam trains in the same place, you could see it on the kids' faces and the parents' too. Everyone was having fun."

A countywide celebration

Saturday marked the first of three DSL weekends to be hosted in Willits this fall. with additional game days scheduled in Ukiah. Teams rotated through matches on six fields, and the turnout reflected the program's steady growth across the county. Families from Mendocino Coast to Lavtonville, and everywhere in between. made the trip to Willits for the opener.

Local businesses felt the impact, too. Families were encouraged to stop by MCSA sponsors J.D. Redhouse and Taqueria Bravo while in town, and many did. "That's part of the beauty of sports," Fitzpatrick noted. "It doesn't just benefit the kids – it brings people into our communities to eat, shop, and experience what makes places like Willits special."

Building soccer from the ground up

The DSL program is at the heart of MCSA's mission: creating opportunities for kids to train, learn, and grow in their own communities. In Willits, players train twice a week and then compete on weekends. rotating game days between Willits and Ukiah, with a preseason tournament each vear in Mendocino.

Soccer in Willits is thriving, thanks in large part to the leadership of Coach Juan Jacinto, who took over the program this year. Jacinto and his staff bring not just technical soccer knowledge but also a deep passion for teaching life skills through

"Soccer is more than a game for these kids," Jacinto said. "We're teaching resilience, teamwork, and how to push through challenges. Those lessons matter just as much off the field as they do on it."

In addition to DSL, MCSA offers its Grassroots Academy for children ages 3 to 7. This entry-level program focuses on fun, safe play while building skills and confidence before kids are introduced to

This past Saturday, September 6, the formal games. Together, Grassroots and DSL form critical steps in MCSA's player pathway, which culminates in Select Teams for those who want to compete at higher levels. Already, more than 20 percent of MCSA's Select Team players have come through the Willits Grassroots and DSL programs.

From page 2

· Virtual Platform: Zoom. https://wildlife-ca-gov.zoom.

Input received during this scoping session will help guide

The development of the Statewide Deer Conservation

and Management Plan follows on the heels of the

Black Bear Conservation and Management Plan

Conservation and Management Plan for Bighorn

Sheep in California https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.

ashx?DocumentID=232342&inline - both of which were

For more information about the Statewide Deer

Conservation and Management Plan or the public input

meeting, please contact: Brian Leo, Statewide Deer

Coordinator, California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

California https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.

the preparation of a draft plan, which CDFW anticipates

releasing for public review in early 2026.

ashx?DocumentID=231227&inline

From youth to high school impact

MCSA's presence in Willits began in 2019, and the investment is already paying off. Players who started in Grassroots and DSL are now moving into Willits High School, where they've made an immediate impact. Just last year, the Willits High girls' soccer team captured its first league title in 19 years, with several WHS players with

"That's the long-term vision coming full circle," Fitzpatrick said. "It starts with kids kicking a ball around at age 4 or 5, and 10 years later they're helping Willits High win championships. It shows what's possible when a community commits to building from the ground up.'

More than a game: an economic

For a town like Willits, events like Saturday's DSL kickoff are about more than just soccer. They provide a snapshot of what youth sports can mean for the local economy. With over 200 families in attendance - many from outside the area - restaurants, shops, and community landmarks saw an influx of visitors

As Willits looks for ways to boost tourism and economic vitality, youth sports offer a clear opportunity. "The answer is right in front of us," Fitzpatrick said. "Invest in our kids. Give them fields, programs, and opportunities, and not only do they grow, you strengthen the community and the local economy.'

MCSA's long-term vision includes expanded facilities, which have proven in other rural communities to be powerful economic drivers. "When families travel for sports, they spend money," Fitzpatrick explained. "Willits can position itself as a hub for youth development and sports tourism. Saturday was a glimpse of what that looks like."

Soccer is alive and well in Willits

The takeaway from Saturday was clear: Soccer is alive and thriving in Willits. From the steam engines to the cheering parents to the determined young players, it was a day that celebrated both the game and the

For Fitzpatrick and Jacinto, the goal is to keep building. "We want every kid in Willits who wants to play soccer to have that chance," Jacinto said. "And we want them to know they're part of something bigger

MCSA will return to Willits for two more DSL game days later this fall, continuing to bring families together, support local businesses, and grow the game.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities with MCSA, contact lan Fitzpatrick at Ian@MendocinoSports.com



at 10th anniversary Farm Raiser, September 16

Submitted by Good Farm Fund

and food access programs in our community.

to the Good Farm Fund 10th Anniversary Farm Raiser on September 16 at Yokayo Ranch.

grown with care through the most responsible farming

Call for artists / crafters 38th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair for WCA's Holiday December 13th and 14th, 2025 Craft Fair to be held at the Willits Community Center and Willits Center for the Arts. Submitted by WCA

Willits Center for the Arts is accepting entries for the 38th annual Holiday Craft Fair. December 13 and 14, 2025 to be held at the Willits Community Center and Willits Center for the Arts. This is a two-day show: Saturday, from 10 am to 7 pm, and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. All interested artists, hand crafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs, who handmake their own products, should request application forms by e-mail to: Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com Or visit: www.willitscenterforthearts.org or by mail: Willits Holiday Craft Fair c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Dr. Willits, CA 95490 and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Please note acceptance is subject to quality of work and earliest postmark date. Applications will be accepted until all booths are filled. For best booth placement apply early!! For further information you can call Bonnie Belt at 707-459-4792 (landline) and leave a message with your phone number, email to belt.bonnie@gmail.com or visit www.

From page 1

willitscenterforthearts.org.

is is a 2 day show starting Saturday 10am-7pm,

Sunday 10am-4pm. All interested artists, hand crafters, and

should request application forms by e-mail to:

Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com

Or visit: https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Willits Center for the Arts

ecialty foods entrepreneurs, who hand-make their own products,

our students can focus on learning in a August. With numbers that "low," the district secure environment and that families can have peace of mind each day their children

Baker

The rest of

While cameras are only one part of a comprehensive safety plan, they represent our commitment to taking proactive steps to safeguard our schools. The investment reflects the dedication of our Board of Trustees, district leadership, and staff to creating a safe and welcoming place for all students to thrive.

Clarifying staffing concerns

Recently, there was a statement made that suggested a "dropping number of teachers" in our district. That is not the case. Our staffing levels remain steady and aligned with student enrollment, class size requirements, and contractual ratios. In fact, the district has been proactive in hiring and continues to fill positions to meet student needs. Over the last several vears, the number of certificated staff has remained stable, and in some areas we have even added positions to strengthen student support.

While we acknowledge that staffing shortages are a statewide challenge, Willits Unified has not experienced a decline in teachers. Instead, we continue to prioritize recruitment, retention, and support so that every classroom is fully staffed, and our students receive the education they

It is important to clarify that teachers are not being "forced" to purchase classroom materials out of their own pockets. It is an exaggeration. The district has systems in place to provide supplies through planned bulk orders, which are designed to save money and stretch resources further for all schools. While there may sometimes be a delay in the arrival of these supplies. discretionary funds are available at each site to ensure immediate needs can still be met. Teachers are encouraged to work with their school leadership to access those funds so that students receive what they

Music at Willits High School

It is not budget driven at all. Despite rumors to the contrary, the district did not eliminate music to save money. The main issue was lack of student interest at the (often fewer) were interested in early

struggled to justify staffing and scheduling a full music class. By contrast, participation at Baechtel Grove Middle School remains healthy, which suggests that younger students are still excited about making

We have advertised for a music teache and are still waiting for qualified applicants. In the meantime, the district is exploring ways to build interest early so that incoming high schoolers are more likely to enroll. One proposal is to introduce robust music instruction in elementary grades so that students arrive in middle school and high school already engaged and eager to continue. At this moment, we have a zero period music class at the high school allowing high school students to have music. Also, we have a music club during

I care deeply about our high school music program because it plays such an important role in the lives of our students. Music not only enriches their education, but also nurtures creativity, discipline, and a deeper appreciation for the arts. For many students, these experiences spark a lifelong love of music that can grow into personal passions or even future academic pursuits in college. Supporting the music program ensures that students continue to have opportunities to discover, explore, and expand their talents in meaningful

As someone who values a well rounded education, I'm saddened that Willits High School's music program has dwindled in recent years. Our middle schoolers clearly enjoy band and choir, and they deserve a place to continue their studies in high school. Music shouldn't be an afterthought; it's essential to fostering creativity, collaboration, and academic resilience. I believe Willits needs a dedicated

music program at all grade levels. If high schoolers don't have a music option, those who thrive on artistic expression may feel their needs are marginalized. Moreover, offering music classes signals to families that our district values the arts alongside academics, agriculture and athletics. I hope the district will redouble its efforts to recruit a qualified music teacher, build excitement among students, and restore high school level: Only about 17 students a program that reflects the importance of

To all of the buyers who helped reach the 2025 Junior Livestock Auction total of



Grace Silva of the Potter Valley 4-H sold her Grand Champion market lamb



sold her Grand Champion market hog



Maren Neumiller of the Potter Valley FFA sold her Grand Champion market goat



sold her Grand Champion market steer to Redwood Coast Fuels



Austin Weaver of the Ukiah Shamrock 4-H sold his Grand Champion rabbit meat pen to Rescue Solutions

An additional Thank You goes out to the Mendocino County Farm Bureau, Anderson Logging and Taco Bell - Ukiah for their sponsorship of the buyer's hats and to the Savings Bank of Mendocino County for all of their hard work throughout the event.

Aaction Rents Acme Rigging & Supply Co. **Advanced Collision Repair Alex Guzman Alexander Valley Soils**

All In Heating & Cooling

American AgCredit - Ukiah **Angie Gibson Atlas Vineyard** Management

B & B Industrial Hardware and Metal Beckstoffer Vineyards

Blundell Ranch

Body Works Gym Bonterra Organic Estates Bouthillier's Construction. Inc.

Bud Garman Construction Services, Inc.

California Deer Association Capistran Ranch

Cesar Yanez C Y Painting Chase Vineyards

Chevalier Vineyard Management, Inc. **Chris and Heather McMahan**

Christensen Construction & Concrete, Inc.

Cold Creek Compost, Inc. CRMT Resources, Inc.

> Cupples & Sons Construction, Inc.

Cupples Excavating

Daniel Steel & Machine, Inc.

David Simmons Trucking

DC Technical Rescue Deanna Windle

Deep Valley Security, Inc. **Defatte Equipment**

Dennis Thibeault

DNA Hardwoods. LLC

Donahoo, Inc. **Drive-Thru Tree Park**

Eddie Ranch

Elliott's Christmas Trees

Factory Pipe

Family Tree Service

Fonsen Cattle

Fonsen Young, LLC Friedman's Home Improvement

Furniture Design Center

Garman Family Land Company, LLC

Garton Tractor, Inc. Geo Aggregates **Goat-San Dairy Goats** **Granite Construction** Company

Gravier's Laytonville Chevron

Gregg Simpson Trucking and Construction

Grow West Farm Supply

Happy Harvest Harvest Market

Hatchet Mountain Construction

Heavy Equipment Rentals Hernandez Electric, Inc.

Highway 20 Feed **HydroPacific** Garden Supply

Intercounty Mechanical & Electrical, Inc.

Johnson Builder

Johnson's Custom Landscaping

Johnson's Quality Tree Care & Logging Company

> **JRS Construction** Katrina Bartolomie

Keith's Market IGA

Les Schwab Tire Center - Ukiah Les Schwab Tire

Center - Willits

Long Valley Health Center Lucchetti Construction

M & M Feed and Supply **Madeline Cline**

MajorFarms, LLC

Mark Davis Insurance Agency

MBC Construction Company

McCarty's Auto Body **Melanie Mountanos**

Mendo Mill - Ukiah **Mendocino County Deputy**

Sheriff's Association **Mendocino County** Farm Bureau

Mendocino Forest Products

Mendocino Roofing, Inc. Moreno Logging, LLC

> Morgan Ingram **Myers Medical Pharmacy**

Next Generation Heating & Cooling

Nor-Cal Recycled Rock & Aggregates, Inc.

North Fork Lumber Co.

Northern Aggregates, Inc. **Novoa Construction**

Odell Family

Ordway's Valley Foothills Vineyard

Osburn Farm

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Pomilia Civil, Inc.

Poor Ranch Rachel Fansler

Rainbow Ag

Raley's

Ramos and Ramos Real Estate Team

Redwood Coast Fuels

Redwood Empire Sawmill

Redwood Empire Title Company

Redwood Investments

Redwood Rooter

Rena Trimble

Rescue Solutions

Rosenthal Fire Mitigation

Round Valley Indian Health Center

Round Valley Indian

Housing Authority Round Valley Indian Tribes

Round Valley Indian Tribes Convenience Store

Roundtree Glass

RW Auto Center

Ryan Hayes Insurance **Brokerage**

Safeway - Fort Bragg

Safeway - Ukiah

Safeway - Willits

Saving Bank of Mendocino County

Scarlett Meat Co. **Seghesio Family Vineyards**

Sparetime Supply

Steve Spackman Superior Pump

& Drilling, Inc. **Sweet Cotton Tails**

Taco Bell - Ukiah

Tara Dawn, Inc. Telecom Service Co.

Thompson Gas Thurston Auto Plaza

Tom Snyder

Tonya's Business Services Valley Paving

Vince Sigal Electric Vulcan Materials Company

W6 Farm

Willits Redwood Company **WIPF Construction**

Wylatti Resource Management, Inc.