

Willits Weekly

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Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 639

Thursday, May 21, 2026

More from the 3rd District Supervisors Forum

Here is a transcript of one more set of questions and answers from the candidates at the April 19, 2026 3rd District Supervisors Candidates Forum, with Buffy Wright Bourassa, Russell Green, Eric Hart, and Clay Romero. You can watch the forum on Willits Community Television's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@WillitsCommunityTV

QUESTION: The next question is from the audience. What is your stance on Jackson State Forest regarding future logging, recreation, and tribal co-management?

Russell Green: Well, that's a little bit of a tricky one for me because on one hand, I feel like it's public property and so it should be generally preserved for the public use, but then it's also my understanding that it was called a demonstration forest so that we could demonstrate logging practices on it.

There's all these issues that come into balance, one of which is fire. So, if we say, "OK, if we're going to preserve it perfectly how it is, don't touch it," then that could

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

Willits man arrested in Ukiah after calls about a disturbance

By Sgt. J. Woida, for MCSO

On May 15, 2026 at approximately 8:30 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to the 100 block of Ford Road in Ukiah, regarding a report of a suspicious and aggressive male subject causing concern to citizens in the area. The reporting party advised that the male subject was yelling aggressively and had parked his vehicle in a manner that obstructed access to the parking area.

Upon arrival, MCSO deputies observed a male matching the description who appeared to be in a verbal confrontation with two subjects in the area. Deputies contacted the male subject, later identified as Justin Greer (43-year-old male from Willits). During the investigation, MCSO deputies observed Greer displaying objective signs and symptoms consistent with alcohol and controlled substance intoxication, including: erratic behavior,

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



Above from left: It's PROM time at the Brooktrails Lodge! Student parent Kari Rowles, left, and Willits High School Principal Kenneth Mansfield, right, check in prom attendees at the front table. "Midnight Masquerade" was the theme of this year's prom, and masks were available to wear, if desired. Below: The 2026 Prom court included, from left: Princess Alexandra Ramos and Prince Dalton Amburgey, behind; Queen Jazmarie Henson and King Donald Glenn, behind; and Princess Salisa Leon and Prince Quinton Carpentieri behind.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Midnight Masquerade

Willits High School holds annual prom at Brooktrails Lodge

The Brooktrails Lodge was alive with twinkling lights, dancing music, and a sparkling disco ball during the annual Willits High School prom last Saturday. Excited students came dressed in their finest gowns, suits, and ensembles to dance, toast, be photographed, and make memories with friends. Photos from this year's event are available for students to download online for free at: <https://photographpress.zenfolio.com/prom>



Above, from left: Arion and Beren share a sweet moment in the photo booth. Always fun to get a group together to attend prom like this bunch, which included, back row, from left: Sophie, Khatia, Nayamae, Layla, Olivia, Cassidy, and Kylie; and in front, from left: Kadie, Leah, and Jeriko. These four attendees looked beautiful in their elegant gowns, including, from left: Georgia, Leah, Vada, and Ava. Below: Even the staff and chaperones decided to get together to commemorate the 2026 prom with a photo, including, back row, from left: Mr. and Mrs. Fischer, Ms. Hall, Willits High School Assistant Principal Mr. Ludwig, Willits High School Principal Mr. Mansfield, Ms. Goforth, and Willits Unified School District Superintendent Mr. Baker; and in front from left, Ms. Dockins, and Mrs. Haigounian.



At right: Grace Orozco holds one of the "Midnight Masquerade" themed tickets for the Willits High School prom held last Saturday. At far right: Mr. Ludwig welcomes prom goers into the Brooktrails Lodge's foyer.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



City Council OKs new entertainment zone with 3-2 vote

By B.B. Kamaroff
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

A new interim city manager, a party-on-the-street Entertainment Zone, an outdated 141-page employee manual, and another high-priced outside consultant: The May 13 city council meeting was a Three Ring Circus of civic action (and inaction), something for everyone to like or to complain about.

The meeting started off with several public comments, anything anyone wanted to talk about that wasn't scheduled on the agenda, for up to three minutes. Former Frontier Days Sweetheart Danielle Barry reminded the city that this Fourth of July marks the 100th Anniversary of Willits Frontier Days. Instead of crowning a 100th anniversary sweetheart, nine former sweethearts, including Barry, will be selling tickets to the events.

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

A Message from the Superintendent

By John Baker, Superintendent, WUSD

The month of May has been an exciting and busy time throughout Willits Unified School District. We have had many wonderful events taking place across our schools, including Open Houses, the FFA Banquet, recognition of our retirees, Senior Prom, talent shows, athletic events, and many other student activities and celebrations.

Senior Prom, held on Saturday, May 16, was a tremendous success, with many of our seniors attending and creating lasting memories together. I also had the opportunity to attend the talent show at Brookside Elementary on Friday, May 15, which was truly amazing. It was wonderful to see our young students confidently performing songs, dances, and creative acts in front of their families and peers. Events like these remind us how talented and creative our students truly are.

We are also nearing the end of another successful year in athletics. Sports continue to play an important role in the lives

Read the rest of **Baker**
Over on Page 15

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:
Thanks to the many generous patrons of the Grateful Gleaner plant sale, enough funds were raised to offer small grants to local farmers (or even to gardeners who grow food for the Food Bank). If you or someone you know would be able to benefit from a small grant to purchase seeds, tools, equipment or infrastructure (e.g. fencing or irrigation supplies), please send a short and specific proposal itemizing the price of materials or equipment requested – and how it will be used – to the Gleaner email at gratefulgleanersofwillits@gmail.com. The grant application deadline is June 30 of this year.

The fundraising plant sale couldn't have happened without the efforts and contributions of many: the Willits Grange for loaning us their tables, the dedication of the Gleaner team of volunteers, and husbands, Monte Vander Horck, Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, and Brian Corzeliuss.

The list of gardeners who donate plants grows every year and includes Tam Adams and Kasha of Emandal Farm, Mellisa Bouley, and Nola Hontou-Marshall, Keith Michalak of Golden Rule Gardens, Katie Jeane, Rosamund Crowder, Robin Leler, Nan Trichler, Janae Stephens, Nancy Stipe, Mike A'Dair, Terri Turner, and Medie Parrott.

Special thanks to Barbara Wilens and Gail Savarese for cashiering, Mylz Orion for keeping all the plants watered, and Marisela de Santa Ana for assistance with set-up.

Finally, one important aspect of developing local food security is to harvest the fruit and vegetables that are growing in abundance in local gardens and orchards. The Gleaners can always use an extra hand. Call us at (707) 367-7391 to be on our call list. Leave a message with your name and phone number and a Gleaner will call you back.

Grateful Gleaner team, Willits

Senior Center menu

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 Baechtel Road.

Thursday, May 21: Asian Chicken Wrap

Friday, May 22: Hot Dogs w/Chili

Monday, May 25: Center closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 26: Open-Faced Chili Burger

Wednesday, May 27: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

Thursday, May 28: Balsamic Glazed Chicken, Veggies

Friday, May 29: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggies, Roll
Activities: Bingo on Friday nights, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class weekday mornings from 9 to 10 am.

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday, excepting holidays. To sign up call Juliana 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.

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

Willits Weekly

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American Legion's Memorial Day events 2026

Submitted by Roger Ham, American Legion

American Legion Post 174 will be placing flags on the graves of veterans on Saturday, May 23, beginning at 9 am, starting at the Willits Cemetery. Come give us a hand. On Monday, May 25, following "Taps Across America" at 3 pm, the flags will be retired.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, American Legion Post 174 will be conducting memorial ceremonies at Willits Cemetery on Highway 20 West at 10 am, and at Little Lake Cemetery on East Hill Road at 11 am.

Please join us as we pay tribute to our departed comrades in arms.

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

Submitted by Mendocino County Department of Social Services

May is Foster Care Awareness Month – a time to challenge common misconceptions about foster care and recognize the people who step in to support children, youth, and families navigating the child welfare system.

Resource and adoptive parent Jason Hanover understands that this work requires consistency, accountability, and a willingness to show up – especially when situations are complex. In 2016, he became licensed to care for three relative children between the ages of 9 and 15. He hadn't planned on becoming a parent, but as he puts it, "What began as an obligation became a privilege."

Four years later, Hanover was asked to take in four siblings who otherwise could have been separated or placed outside the region. At the time, he was already parenting a 4-year-old son. He agreed to the emergency placement and renewed his license.

During that case, Hanover worked closely with both the children and their parents toward reunification. Like many families involved in child welfare, the parents were struggling with addiction. Hanover recalls a turning point during a Child & Family Team meeting: "Dad kept asking what he needed to do. I told him directly – he needed to get sober."

Over the next several months, Hanover stayed engaged with the family and ultimately advocated in court for reunification. Eight months after placement, the children returned home. Today, that family is stable – pursuing higher education, purchasing a home, and raising their children in a safe environment.

That experience influenced Hanover's own path. He shifted his focus from criminal justice to social work and is now preparing to graduate from Chico State University with a Bachelor of Social Work, with plans to continue on to a master's program.

Since then, Hanover has continued fostering and has adopted five children, with another adoption anticipated this year. His experience includes caring for a teen parent and her baby, supporting a transgender youth, and providing respite care.

He emphasizes that foster care is not just about temporary placement – it's about supporting families and advocating for reunification whenever possible. "At the end of the day, parents miss their kids," he says. "Respect and clear communication matter. Sometimes families don't feel like they have a voice."

For those considering becoming resource parents, his advice is straightforward: "Do it. And don't be afraid to advocate – family voices can get lost in the system."

In addition to parenting and completing his degree, Hanover volunteers with the Lake and Mendocino County Toys for Tots program and works as a social worker with Lake County Social Services.

Foster care is complex work. It requires commitment, patience, and the ability to navigate difficult situations – but as Hanover's experience shows, it can also create meaningful, lasting outcomes for children and families.

If you are interested in learning more about fostering, please visit the County of Mendocino website at www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/social-services/children-s-services/foster-care or call (707) 463-7990.

MEASURE A IS ABOUT KEEPING EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND OPPORTUNITY CLOSE TO HOME

By Noel O'Neill, president, Mendocino-Lake Community College District Board of Trustees

For families in Willits, Covelo, Round Valley, and throughout North County, access matters.

It matters when a high school student wants to take college classes without leaving home. It matters when a working adult needs training for a better job but cannot afford to commute long distances every day. It matters when our communities need more nurses, emergency medical technicians, firefighters, skilled tradespeople, and workers trained for the jobs that keep rural communities functioning.

That is why Measure A is important.

Measure A, the Mendocino College Career Training/Affordable Education Measure, will appear on the June 2, 2026 ballot for voters in the Mendocino-Lake Community College District. If approved by voters, Measure A would provide local bond funding to repair and upgrade Mendocino College facilities, including aging classrooms, labs, roofs, infrastructure, and career training facilities.

For North County, this is not an abstract issue. Mendocino College's North County Center in Willits is one of the most important access points for students who live north of Ukiah, including students and families from Willits, Laytonville, Covelo, Round Valley, and surrounding communities. When education is available closer to home, more people can realistically attend. When training facilities are modern, safe, and appropriate for today's workforce needs, more students can prepare for careers without having to leave the region.

Measure A would support programs that matter directly to our rural communities: healthcare, nursing, EMT training, fire and public safety, skilled trades, construction, solar installation, and sustainable building. These are not just college programs. They are community needs.

We all know the reality of living in rural Northern California. We need trained emergency responders. We need healthcare workers who understand our communities and are willing to stay here. We need people trained in fire safety, wildland firefighting, construction, and renewable energy. We need career pathways that allow local students to build a future here, not only somewhere else.

For students from Covelo and Round Valley, the barriers to higher education can be especially significant. Distance, transportation, cost, family responsibilities, and work schedules all affect whether college feels possible. Mendocino College helps reduce those barriers by offering affordable education, transfer pathways, dual enrollment opportunities for high school students, and career training connected to local employment needs.

Measure A is also about affordability. Many students begin at Mendocino College because it allows them to earn college credits, complete general education, prepare for transfer, or train for a career at a fraction of the cost of many four-year options. That matters in a region where families are already facing high costs for housing, transportation, food, and basic necessities.

The measure would cost property owners \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed value annually. For example, a property with an assessed value of \$300,000 would cost about \$72 per year. It is important to note that this is based on assessed value, not market value.

Measure A also includes accountability requirements. Independent citizen oversight, annual audits, public reporting, and public disclosure of spending would be required. Funds would stay with our local community college district and could not be taken by the state or federal government.

As a trustee representing Willits and Covelo, I see Measure A through the lens of local access. I think about the student in Covelo who wants to take college classes but cannot easily relocate. I think about the Willits student who wants career training that leads to a family-sustaining job. I think about local hospitals, clinics, fire departments, public safety agencies, small businesses, and construction employers that need a trained local workforce.

I also think about the future of our region. If we want

Read the rest of **Measure A** Over on page 15



Brooktrails Fire Fundraiser

Firefighters Association hosts golf match tasty and ribs, bread and beans contest

On a cool bright clear morning last Saturday, 32 intrepid golfers gathered in teams of four, for three purposes. The first was to play 18 holes of competitive golf. All eight teams teed off at the same time in what is known as a "shotgun start," each team having an assigned hole to start their rounds.

The second purpose was to eat some ribs from each of the five competing teams, to be judged on the meat, the bread, and the beans. The final purpose, and the one that was most evident, was to have fun, playing a game they love, enjoying the company of like-minded individuals, and sharing the morning's activities.

The overall purpose of this fundraiser was to bring in enough money for the Brooktrails Fire Department to purchase a combi tool, a device similar to the "Jaws of Life." The combi tool is designed to cut open metal and to spread it to gain access to victims of automobile accidents.

It was the Brooktrails Firefighters Association that came up with the idea for this tournament and rib cooking competition, said Jeremy Lippincott of Brooktrails Fire. "We just all put it together. We're trying to raise money for some combi tools. It's just a multi-tool. It cuts, spreads, helps get people out of cars. The more people we get up here, especially in the summertime, we start to get more automobile accidents."

Prior to spreading out to the tees to begin the competition, the 32 golfers, in eight teams, gathered to hear the tournament rules from the course pro, Alex Herron, "It's

almost nine o'clock so we want to get this started. Obviously, some people are going to have to walk. On the scorecard, on the top left corner, it will say what hole you're starting on. This is a scramble format. Everybody takes off at the tee. Whoever hits the best shot of the four, the other three go get their balls and bring them to that spot.

"Some of you have purchased Mulligans," Herron said. A Mulligan allows a do over for a particular stroke. "Those can work anywhere on the course. You miss a 3-footer or nobody gets off the tee well, whatever the case may be, you can utilize your Mulligan there." Scoring was on the honor system.

By the end of the morning, the top team of Steve and Irma Ford, Rick Brodieske, and Mark Kelley won the tournament with an astounding 10 under par for the 18 holes, for which they received a trophy and bragging rights until the next tournament.

The five competitors for the rib, bread, and beans contest brought their smokers and slowly and methodically prepared their entries while the golfers were engaged on the course. The Little Lake Fire Department booth, with Captain Harry So and Chad Leshar, came to support their brother fire department.

"It's very fun, always coming out here and supporting each other," said So. "My best ingredient is love. I've got my normal apple juice spread. I'm trying a new barbecue sauce to put on and kind of lather

Read the rest of **Golf** Over on page 11



At top, from left: The winning team displays their trophy. Photo courtesy of Jeff Donaldson. Matt Moratti, Mason Donaldson, Alex Herron, and Brooktrails Fire Chief Jeff Donaldson take a moment on the third hole. Little Lake Fire Department's entry in the rib contest getting ready in the slow smoker. Above, left: The entire field of golf competitors poses for a pre-game photo. Above: With five color-coded rib boats, this young judge will be able to compare all of the entries easily. At left: Alex Herron, Brooktrails Golf Course Pro puts for a birdie. Below: Flynn Mahoney dishes out some ribs along with his mom, Susan Mahoney, who created the corbread bites. At bottom, left: Brooktrails Golf Course was represented in the food competition by Dave "Pops" Lowry and his granddaughter, Ava. At bottom, right: Jeremy Jamison brought this vertical smoker, to compete for Windsor Mills in the rib contest.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

Level: Intermediate

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

PHOTO FINISH WORD SEARCH

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| APERTURE | FOCAL | REFLECTOR |
| BOKEH | HISTOGRAM | RESOLUTION |
| COMPOSITION | ISO | SATURATION |
| CONTRAST | LANDSCAPE | SENSOR |
| DARKROOM | LENS | SHUTTER |
| DEPTH | MACRO | TRIPOD |
| EXPOSURE | NEGATIVE | VIEWFINDER |
| FLASH | PORTRAIT | VIGNETTE |

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						43	

CLUES ACROSS

- Government lawyers
- The back of a person's neck
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- In a less flashy way
- Living room piece
- Shepherd dog
- A citizen of Iran
- Moved slowly
- Small finch
- Previously
- What a kid does on Halloween
- Monetary unit
- Using dry humor
- Ocean
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Not close
- NHL legend Bobby
- A ballplayer would love to do this

CLUES DOWN

- Abstain from
- Admirer
- Expedition to observe animals
- Act that is legally void
- Gets up
- A tool
- Looked at
- Showing wild excitement
- Banknotes
- Tired
- Printers need it
- Women's patriotic group
- When you anticipate getting somewhere
- Functions
- Breed of sheep
- Mocking pieces
- A major division of geological time
- Andiron
- Many not ands
- Cuban city
- He voiced 'Olaf'
- Criticize
- 'Thundercats' character
- Markings
- Gets up
- MLB lefty reliever A.J.
- An assembly of witches
- High energy lasers (abbr.)

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

May 4 to May 10
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported 87 incidents in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 4
8:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
8:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Hill Road and Baechtel Road and issued a citation.
8:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

May 5
12:20 am: PHILLIPS, Shannon Lee (53) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.
8:30 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
10:05 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of Robert Way.
1:00 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
1:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
2:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of School Street and West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

May 6
1:31 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Holly Street.
4:41 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of Alice Drive.
8:36 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
9:10 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Bush Street.
1:02 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of South Main Street.
1:28 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
1:49 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
3:02 pm: PERGEAU, Richard Martin (58) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Fort Bragg Road. He was arrested on felony charges of assault with a firearm and illegal use of a firearm, and on misdemeanor charges of brandishing a deadly weapon in a threatening manner and illegally carrying a loaded firearm.
10:12 pm: SIMERSON, Aydin Nathaniel (19) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Bonnie Lane and Crestview Drive. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (drugs and alcohol) and resisting an officer.

May 7
10:59 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of South Main Street.
2:17 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

May 8
12:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Commercial Street and Mill Creek Drive and issued a warning.
12:37 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and South Main Street and issued a warning.
3:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
8:19 pm: MAY, Christopher Jonathan (50) of Redding was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).
9:24 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

May 9
7:32 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of Coast Street.
5:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
5:27 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Humboldt Street and East Commercial Street and issued a warning.
5:45 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

May 10
1:33 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.
8:57 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.
10:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Hazel Street and issued a citation.
7:58 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
8:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Coast Street and West Highway 20 and issued a warning.
8:34 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Cropley Lane and West Highway 20 and issued a warning.
8:45 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Highway 20 and Coast Street and issued a warning.
9:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and Sherwood Road and issued a citation.
9:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Highway 20 and Coast Street and issued a warning.
10:26 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
10:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
11:20 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

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The rest of Arrested

From page 1
rapid mood changes, hyperactive body movements, and delayed responses.
While deputies attempted to conduct their investigation, Greer repeatedly refused lawful commands and attempted to leave the scene after being advised he was not free to leave pending further investigation. When MCSO deputies attempted to place Greer under arrest, he actively resisted by pulling away and using physical force during the struggle with deputies before ultimately being taken into custody.
During the investigation, MCSO deputies learned Greer was released from custody on bail from the Mendocino County Jail for an unrelated arrest for alleged felony crimes.
Based on the totality of the investigation,

including statements from witnesses, Greer was arrested for violations of 69(a) PC – Resisting by force or violence; 148(a)(1) PC – Resisting/delaying a Peace Officer; 11550 HS – Under the influence of a controlled substance; and 12022.1 PC – Committing a felony while released on bail or own recognizance.
Greer was transported and booked into the Mendocino County Jail. Greer was later released on a signed promise to appear after posting \$40,000 bail.
Anyone with information related to this incident is requested to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office at 707-463-4086 (option 1). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling the non-emergency tip-line at 707-234-2100.

BGMS Track and Field is stunning the competition this spring

Submitted by Head Coach Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles

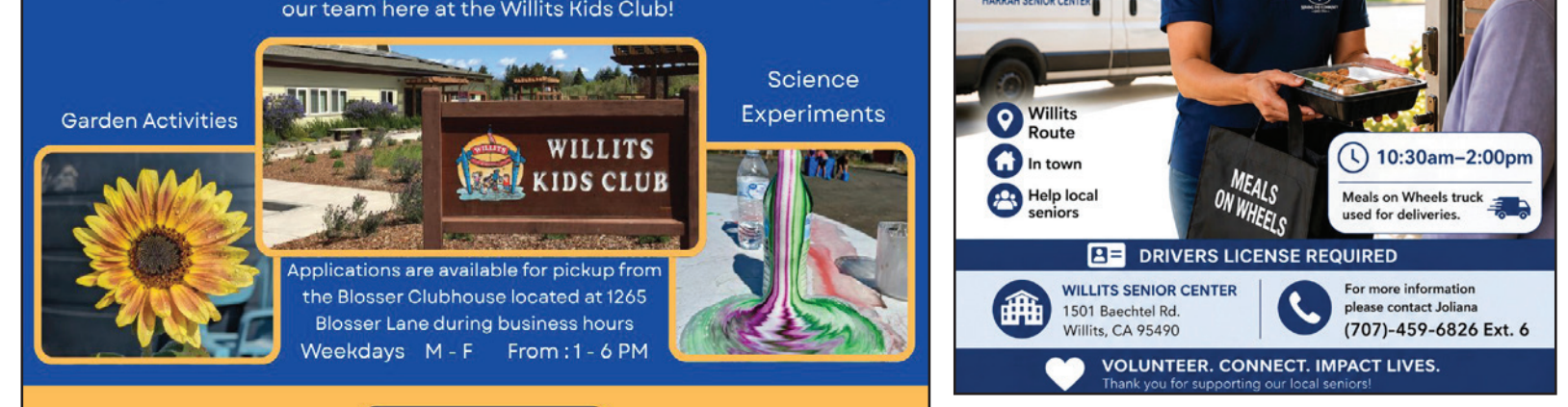
Spring 2026 for Baechtel Grove Middle School Track and Field has started out well. We have had two meets in Ukiah. During the first meet we had nine athletes who nearly placed in every event they participated in. Last week we had 14 of our athletes at the meet in Ukiah. We have three or four athletes who participated in each of the field events, long jump, high jump, and shot put, and everyone ran.

The BGMS athletes have been making the most of the short amount of time we have had for practice, showing up, and working hard. The excitement and nervousness have been palpable, while they waited for their heat at both meets, though the second meet felt less like nerves and more like excitement.

They have learned that they can do hard things, and they have surprised themselves and the competition. The kids are still talking about both meets and their accomplishments. Coach JJ and I have been very proud of them for the effort they have been putting forth at practices and meets, the team spirit and support for each other that they exhibit, and for trying something new.

The meets have been very informal with kids interested in an event just stepping up to the line.

When the competition tries to recruit our athletes for their high school team next year, you know our kids are doing something great. These kids are so fast and competitive!
Congratulations BGMS for your stellar athleticism and wishing you luck at the Lower Lake meet this Thursday.



Above, left: Ridge and Zuko bear down on the 200m race at the May 13 meet in Ukiah. Above, right: Peyton passes off the competition in the 200m race. From far left: Bronach and Champ push and keep each other going during the 1600m race at the May 13 meet in Ukiah. Kenji starts off his long jump at the May 13 meet in Ukiah. Atlas shows off his style on the high jump. Below, left: Stella goes for the win in the 200m. Below, right: Ayanra makes strides in the 200m.
Photos by Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles

We Are Hiring!!

Play, Learn, and Grow After School!

Our after school program helps kids explore new skills, finish homework with guidance, and enjoy creative activities, all in one exciting place. If you are someone that enjoys being around children, and shows qualities of being a positive role model for those in our community Please consider joining our team here at the Willits Kids Club!

Garden Activities

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Applications are available for pickup from the Blosser Clubhouse located at 1265 Blosser Lane during business hours. Weekdays M - F From :1 - 6 PM

ABOUT THE POSITION

- ✓ Instructor Assistant
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- ✓ Blosser Openings - Age Group TK - 5th
- ✓ Baechtel Openings - Age Group 6th - 8th

Academic Enrichment through 30 minutes of instructional reading/writing time. Separated by grade group led with your assistance!
The ability to be creative while planning Indoor/Outdoor Activities with access to the Facilities Game Room, Art Room, Kitchen, Sandbox, etc.

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Meals On Wheels VOLUNTEER

Make a difference—one meal at a time.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED
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Willits Route
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DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIRED

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For more information please contact Jolana
(707)-459-6826 Ext. 6

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Thank you for supporting our local seniors!

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FOR 3rd DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

5th Generation Mendocino Resident. Protecting Property Rights & Fiscal Accountability.

VOTE JUNE 2nd

Paid for by Russell Green for Supervisor 2026, FPPC ID# 1485693

REMINDER

THE BEST USE OF IMAGINATION IS ART.
THE WORST USE OF IMAGINATION IS ANXIETY.

ESTD. 1993

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Call any of these past Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart winners to get your tickets to the 2026 events!



This year's Fourth of July Celebration is a big one: The centennial year! Make sure to get your tickets early and you can skip the purchase line for the Truck Pulls, CCPRA rodeos, Junior Rodeo and more. Each of the women participating this year are past winners, and are excited to support Willits Frontier Days again this year for the "Year of the Sweethearts."

Participants include: 1988 Winner Nicol Persico Kunka: 1-916-996-7126; 2008 Winner Kinzie Vogel: 707-972-3108; 2009 Winner Lindsey Bowlds: 707-354-4802; 2017 Winner Hailey Riley: 707-272-1088; 2019 & 2020 Winner Jaden Doak: 707-513-9040; 2022 Winner Danielle Barry: 707-272-1340; 2023 Winner Hazel Cooke: 707-354-0985; 2024 Winner Elena Arkelian: 707-354-2877; and 2025 Winner Lisa Arkelian: 707-354-3114.

See the website www.WillitsFrontierDays.com for entry forms to the CCPRA and Junior Rodeos, Parade, Bulls and Broncs, Western art show, Hometown Celebration and more.

Willits Frontier Days Schedule of Events

(Subject to change) Entry forms: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

Date	Time	Event	Location	Admission
Fri, June 19	5:00 pm	Hometown Celebration	Main Street Willits	Free
Sat, June 20	6:00 pm	Ned Ledoux Concert	Jack Tharp Arena	\$40.00
Fri, June 26	6:00 pm	Truck Pulls	Jack Tharp Arena	\$25 - Adults \$15 - Child (12 and under) Free - Child (2 and under)
	9:00 pm	Street Dance Featuring Brody Stewart Band	Tennis Courts	Free
		Carnival Opens	Old Ball Field	
Sat, June 27	5:00pm	Western Art show Show closes on July 5th	Community Center	Free
Sun, June 28	6:00 pm	Sweetheart Dinner	Rodeo Grounds	\$30 - Adult (limited tickets) \$10 - Child (12 and under)
Friday, July 3	7:00 pm	CCPRA Rodeo Rockin' M Rodeo	Jack Tharp Arena	\$30 - Box Seats \$25 - Adult \$15 - Child (12 and under) Free - Child (2 and under)
	9:00 pm	Western Dance Chad Bushnell	Tennis Courts	Free
Sat, July 4	10:00 am	Horseshoe Competition	Rec Grove	\$75 Entry Fee Free to watch
	11:00 am	Main Street Parade "Year of the Sweethearts"	North Main Street	Free
	12:00 pm	Country Music Rodeola	Recreation Grove	Free
		Western BBQ	Recreation Grove	\$25 - Adult \$15 - Child (3 & up)
	4:00 pm	Water fights	Fire House	FREE
	7:00 pm	CCPRA Rodeo Rockin' M Rodeo	Jack Tharp Arena	\$30 - Box Seats \$25 Adult \$15 - Child (12 and under) Free - Child (2 and under)
Sun, July 5	7:00 am	Lions Club Cowboy Breakfast	Recreation Grove	\$15 - Adults \$10 - Child (12 and under)
	8:00 am	Jr. Rodeo (Junior Rodeo ticket price includes entry to Bulls and Broncs)	Jack Tharp Arena	\$20 - Adult \$10 - Child (12 and under)
	6:00 pm	Bulls and Broncs	Jack Tharp Arena	
Sun, July 26	8:00 am	Horseshow	Jack Tharp Arena	FREE



Above, left: Museum Curator Lindsey Dick, Administrator Karen Mattson, and president of the Friends of the Museum, Brent Walker, read the Land Acknowledgement to the attendees. Above, right: A California license plate from 1956 is just one of the many bits of memorabilia in the exhibition. Below: The Curio Shop is a place to view old movies about a train trip and a Native gathering, as well as ways that the Redwood Empire Association encouraged people to travel the highway to the area.

'Road Trip'

New museum exhibit documents the history of the Redwood Highway in Northern California

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." So said naturalist John Muir, and it is true also of the nature of all things in Northern California. Logging, railroads, tourism, and Frontier Days – all have a lengthy and intertwined history in this part of California and especially Mendocino County.

In 1921, given the rising popularity of the automobile, all of the coastal counties from San Francisco to the border and even some in southern Oregon, formed the Redwood Empire Association, to promote this part of California as a destination.

In order to facilitate the tourists, the association encouraged the counties and California to pave northern Highway 101. The Redwood Highway was born 100 years ago, and was closely tied to the birth of the Willits Frontier Days celebration.

The new exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum, "Road Trip! Discover Mendocino County by way of the Famous Redwood Highway," had an opening reception last Friday to celebrate the 100-year anniversaries of both the Redwood Highway and Willits Frontier Days.

"The Redwood Highway was a county-wide effort by the nine counties of Northern California," explained Lindsey Dick, curator of the Mendocino County Museum, "working together to get people and tourists up here because they knew that was what we needed to survive. Timber wasn't going to sustain us forever. It is what we know as Highway 101."

"The Redwood Highway is a name they coined as the redwoods were what they were using to draw people," Dick continued. "Instead of the redwoods being just lumber, they were now being used as a tourist draw, vistas that people wanted to see."

"There were people campaigning for the road in the early '20s. It was in 1926 when they were really getting it going. It was a project of the Redwood Empire Association. Each county picked a person to represent them. Ours was Bill Whitney."

The exhibit is chock-full of old photos, memorabilia, a northern coastal map with antique cars one can drive along the highways with, a barber chair photo booth, videos of a rail trip along the highway, an Indian Marathon, and the Frontier Days Parade.

"The reason we have the barber chair out is we have all of these articles that talk about the Willits Frontier Days Whiskerina competition," said museum administrator, Karen Mattson. "You were supposed to be inspired to grow out your facial hair, to prepare for Frontier Days, so you would wear Western wear and have all kinds of fancy facial hair. We have all of these mentions of the wives and girlfriends really looking forward to the Fourth of July

Read the rest of **Museum** Over on page 15



At left: A group of exhibit-goers gathers around the map of the North Coast and the major roads. At left, below: Willits Frontier Days is an expanded section at the museum, to coincide with the "Road Trip" exhibit. Below: The "Road Trip" exhibition contains many archival photos and stories from the era.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

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

Church of Christ
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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-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:00 p.m.

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ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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www.eckankar.org

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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 appointment at
707-459-2252
https://santhonywillits.org/
santhonywillits@gmail.com
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ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

St. John Lutheran Church
Sunday Service
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(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
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ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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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.
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All are welcome!

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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



Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23 at 7 pm. This "nothing short of astonishing" show opens with traditional magic and seamlessly transitions into acts of mentalism, featuring extensive audience interaction and participation. \$25, early tickets advised, as Goleman's Willits shows in 2024 and 2025 all sold out; available online at: wctperformingartscenter.org, or at the door.

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: Local Mendocino County jam band, sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. Friday, May 22 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Thursday, May 21

Bit & A Bite at the Museum: Join the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum for light refreshments, history, and conversation. Willits Frontier Days Vice President Marcy Barry will talk about the history of this beloved community tradition that she's supported for 31 years and will share the special events planned for the upcoming 100th year celebration of Willits Frontier Days. Thursday, May 21 at 12:30 pm. 400 East Commercial Street. Also learn about volunteer opportunities.

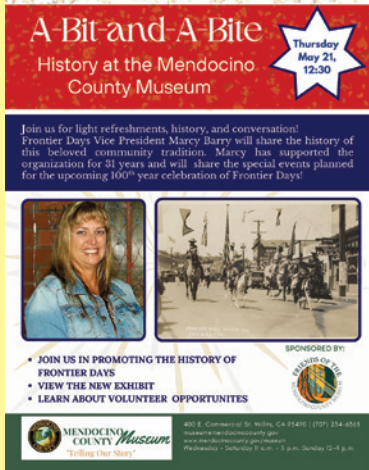
Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, May 21, from 3 to 5:30 pm, for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

Avenues to Wellness at WCA: The Howard Foundation's ATW speaker series presents "Why are People So Sick? – Lyme, Mold & Mystery Illness Demystified," by Terri Turner, DO. Dr. Turner is an integrative holistic physician who practices Functional Medicine, focusing on uncovering the root cause of illness. Her specialties include Lyme disease, women's health, bio-identical hormone therapy, chronic fatigue, and fibromyalgia. Thursday, May 21, 6 to 7 pm, Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. FREE to the public. Wheelchair accessible. More info: 456-9676.

Friday, May 22

Free Community Breakfast at Methodist Church: The Willits United Methodist Church and the Willits Shelter Action Group host a free community breakfast on Friday, May 22, from 8:30 to 10:30 am. With a wide selection of breakfast goodies, juices, coffee and rolls, at the Methodist Church, 286 School Street, across from the Grange.

Magician Robert Goleman returns to WCT: Fort Bragg magician and mentalist Robert Goleman brings "The Joy of Astonishment" to the Willits



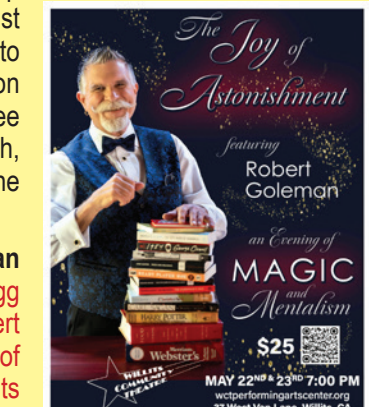
Saturday, May 23

Memorial Veterans Flags for the Cemeteries: American Legion Post 174 will be placing flags on the graves of veterans on Saturday, May 23, beginning at 9 am, starting at the Willits Cemetery. Come give us a hand.

'Y'Art Sale at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts' festive annual sale of art supplies and more: Ribbon, Glitter, canvas, Paints, Inks, Easels, Art & Crafting Supplies, Tools and lots more recycled treasures. Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24 from 11 am to 5 pm. 71 East Commercial Street, come around the back! Gently used donations in good shape are welcome.

Willits Car & Bike Show Cruise-In: The Willits Chamber of Commerce kicks off the Car & Bike Show with the Cruise-In at the south end of town. This free, family-friendly event is set for Saturday, May 23 from 4 to 7 pm at Little Lake Auto, 1571 South Main Street. Enjoy L.C. Diamonds – rocking Lake County since 2004 – playing live music from Elvis Presley to Michael Jackson, the Beatles to Chris Issak, and the Kinks to the B52s. With BBQ and Taco trucks, prizes & 50/50 raffle. More info: https://www.facebook.com/events/1576468466836732/

Skunk Train Highball Express: The Skunk Train's "Highball Express" summer Happy Hour train trips start Saturday, May 23, and leave from the Willits Depot at 5 pm on Saturday nights for a 2-hour ride to Crowley. Age 21+. A unique blend of natural beauty and festive atmosphere." Tickets \$78.05 – ask for your local discount! Also available: A



bar featuring Mendocino featured beer, wine, spirits, and snacks. More info: www.skunktrain.com/railcoaster/

Magician Robert Goleman returns to WCT: Magician and mentalist Robert Goleman brings "The Joy of Astonishment" to the Willits Community Theatre, Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23 at 7 pm. This "nothing short of astonishing" show opens with traditional magic and seamlessly transitions into acts of mentalism, featuring extensive audience interaction and participation. See Friday, May 22 listing for more details.

Sunday, May 24

Grange Pancake Breakfast: Join us at the Grange for a wonderful collection of comfort foods – our "scratch" pancakes (sourdough wholegrain, Hank's famous buttermilk, or gluten-free) plus organic, local farm-fresh scrambled eggs, Beeler's Quality bacon, real butter, juice and organic coffee or tea for only \$13! (\$11 for Senior plate, \$5 for kids under 10). Extra sides of organic fruit, Amish organic maple syrup, fresh fry up or bacon for a small additional fee. Every fourth Sunday, Sunday, May 24 this month, from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Punch cards are available for purchase: \$100 buys 10 months of breakfasts, a savings of \$30 a year.



'Y'Art Sale at WCA: the second day for Willits Center for the Arts' annual sale of art goodies. Sunday, May 24 from 11 am to 5 pm. See Saturday, May 23 listing for details.



2026 Willits Car & Bike Show: Willits Chamber of Commerce presents the 44th annual free Willits Car & Bike Show, Sunday, May 24, 10 am to 3 pm, in downtown Willits.

Featuring 100s of vintage, modern, modified, stock, lowriders, kit builds and EV vehicles, live music by Soul Circus, food vendors in the Willits City Parking Lot on Main Street, beer from Northspur Brewing Co., a great array of vendors at Bud Snider Park, and much more.

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day Ceremonies: on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, American Legion Post 174 will be conducting memorial ceremonies at Willits Cemetery at 10 am (at Highway 20 – West), and at Little Lake Cemetery at 11 am (East Hill Road). Please join us as we pay tribute to our departed comrades in arms. Flags on veterans' graves at Willits Cemetery will be retired on May 25, impact Saturday, May 30, 10 am to 2 pm, out in front of Willits Safeway.

following "Taps Across America" at 3 pm.

Trivia Night at Flying Dog Pizza: "Come grind your gears with music, movies and bike-related trivia" at Flying Dog Pizza, 65 South Main Street. Monday, May 25; doors open 5 pm; game starts at 6 pm. Portion of all sales will be donated to Willits Area Cyclists.

Thursday, May 28

Talk with the Supervisor at Brickhouse: Come chat with your 3rd District Supervisor John Haschak at his monthly "Talk with the Supervisor." Thursday, May 28, from 10 to 11 am at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. Contacts: haschakj@mendocinoco.gov or 707-972-4214.

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, May 28, from 3 to 5:30 pm, for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food 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 dollars.

Friday, May 29

WECS Children's Art Show: Willits Elementary Charter School celebrates the creativity, imagination, and accomplishments of the youth in our community through a curated showcase of artwork created during the academic year. Friday, May 29 from 3:30 to 5 pm at WECS, 405 East Commercial Street. Also set for that day, WECS Open House and Student Concert Performance. Art Show is a fundraiser for the WECS After School Program, and student artwork and handmade crafts will be available for sale.

Bryan Bielanski at Shanachie: singer-songwriter based in Charlotte, North Carolina on a West Coast tour plays a free show on Friday, May 29, starting at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. "Acoustic rock road warrior has audiences smiling all over the world!"

St. John's Lutheran Bake Sale
Saturday, May 30
10 AM - 2 PM
in front of Willits Safeway.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Mortal Kombat 2'

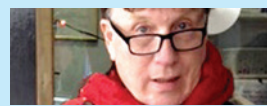
The Story: Johnny Cage (Karl Urban) is back. And he is alive (despite the treacherous gossip I overheard while shopping at Safeway). Once again, he is transported out of this dimension to another dimension(!!!) where the foul murderous warlord Shao Kahn (Martyn Ford) is ruling by bullying violence and fear, and probably torture, too.

Johnny C. is told he has to fight to the death against warriors with supernatural powers. The odds are stacked against him. He doesn't really want to fight because he's just a movie actor playing like he's a great martial artist, or so he claims. His protests are ignored, and (boom!!!) it's Game Day. The fate of our Earth and You and Me and the noble Princess Kitana (beautiful Adeline Rudolf) is what's at stake. Johnny has to get in touch with his courage, and his trademark dark glasses, and try to "fake it – until – he makes it!" Bloody violence ensues.

My Thoughts: This movie proves quite graphically that we human beings are sacks of juicy meat and crunchy bones and floodgates of blood. Beyond that, the movie doesn't seem to have much to say. The good guys win. The bad guys are dispatched. The Princess Kitana is restored to her throne as a just and loving ruler. Meanwhile, I'm not really sure what happens to Johnny Cage. I guess he gets back to our Earth and makes more movies. There's no love story in this flick, so no big Hollywood kissing scene at the end. And spoiler: the Good Guys win.

Parents: If your kids like blood and gore and cheer at gruesome stuff, well there's plenty of it in this flick. The good guys win. That's commendable. But truthfully, this flick's raison d'être is to titillate the watcher with bad guys suffering dismemberment and thereby getting their just deserts. Better they should watch "The Sheep Detectives."

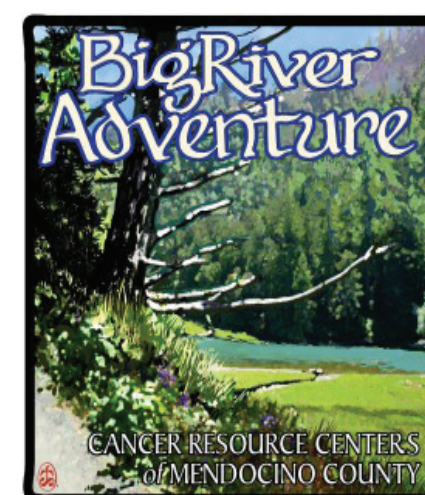
Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.



Dan Essman
Columnist

Big River Adventure to benefit Cancer Resource Centers, May 30

Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County hosts a Big River Adventure on Saturday, May 30 at Big River Beach State Park. The family-friendly fundraiser, formerly known as the Big River Walk and Paddle offers multiple adventures following the scenic haul road along the picturesque river, including a kiddie race, competitive 5K and 10K runs, a leisurely walk with friends, swimming, or paddleboarding. For the past 31 years, CRC has provided free support, resources, and compassionate care for anyone facing cancer or undergoing testing for a possible diagnosis in Mendocino County. More info, tickets and donate button at www.crcmendocino.org/https://www.crcmendocino.org/en/big-river-adventure



WILLITS KIDS CLUB
Brookside + Blosser + Baechtel + Sherwood

Our program is designed to strengthen academic skills, improve creativity, and develop real-world abilities, all in a fun and engaging environment.

Program Highlight:
• Snack everyday
• Homework help
• Creative Projects
• Teamwork & Social Skills

Why Choose Us?
• Safe & Caring Space
• Fun + Learning Combined
• Trusted, Trained Staff
• Flexible & Affordable

Applications must be picked up at: 265 Blosser Lane for TK-5th and 150 Magnolia St for 6th-8th. All applications MUST be turned in with a mandatory \$25 non-refundable deposit.

Bus drop off for Brookside and Sherwood students: MONDAY, MAY 23, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

WILLITS ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL CHILDREN'S ART SHOW
FRIDAY MAY 29th 3:30-5:00 PM

JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY INTO THE ENCHANTING REALM OF CHILDHOOD CREATIVITY!

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF A MAGICAL SHOWCASE THAT CELEBRATES THE BOUNDLESS CREATIVITY OF OUR YOUNGEST ARTISTS

405 E. COMMERCIAL STREET, WILLITS

Add your local event to our calendar by emailing text and or a poster to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Deadline is Monday for each Thursday paper!

WILLITS CAR & BIKE SHOW CRUISE IN
FREE EVENT
DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 23RD, 2026
TIME: 4PM TO 7PM
LOCATION: LITTLE LAKE AUTO, WILLITS
BBQ - PRIZES - LIVE MUSIC - 50/50 RAFFLE

Live Music by: L.C. DIAMONDS

NOYO Theater
Willits, CA.
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheater.com

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

STAR WARS: THE MANDALORIAN AND GROGU
(PG) 1H 21min
Fri: 4:00, 7:00
Sat/Sun: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
Wed/Thurs: 4:00, 7:00

MORTAL KOMBAT 2
THEATER 1 DELUXE LUXURY RECLINERS, LASER PROJECTION
(R) 1H 56min
Fri: 4:15, 7:15
Sat/Sun: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15
Wed/Thurs: 4:15, 7:15

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES
(PG) 1H 49min
Fri: 4:30, 7:30
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30
Wed/Thurs: 4:30, 7:30

We now have Open Caption Wednesdays
This means that, when available, every show on Wednesdays will have subtitles on the screen.

2026 WILLITS CAR & BIKE SHOW EVENT MAP
Sunday, May 24, 2026 | 10AM - 3PM

SCAN ME

VISITWILLITS.COM
Willits Chamber of Commerce | 299 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA | (707) 459-7910

TOWN-WIDE ONGOING EVENTS

Trivia Night at The Munchery: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 6 pm at The Munchery, 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

Trivia Night at Northspur Brewing Co: Put your knowledge to the test on the first and third Wednesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm at Northspur Brewing Co., 101 North Main Street.

Food Not Bombs at Rec Grove Park: Receive a free meal, supplies and zines every first and third Friday of the month at 4 pm in Rec Grove Park at the picnic tables. Everyone is welcome.

Skunk Alley Improv Lessons at WCT: Every Sunday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm with instructor Schuyler Marcier at Willits Community Theater. Cost is \$5, cash or Venmo.

Free Meal by Willits Daily Bread: Every week on Monday through Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at 66 East Commercial Street.

Willits Tennis Club: Meets every Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School Tennis Courts. All levels welcome. More info: 707-484-3385.

Drop-In Life Drawing Group at WCA: Every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm at Willits Center for the Arts. Cost is based on sliding scale. More info: Margaret 707-459-9251.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Saturdays at 1 pm, sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations, and families at Bud Snider City Park on East Commercial. Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch!

Willits Indivisible Democracy Vigil: Every Friday from 5 to 6 pm at Babcock Park on South Main Street. More info: "Willits Indivisible" on Facebook.

Pickleball: Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 5 pm and Saturdays at 9 am at the Willits High School tennis courts. Free to play and all levels welcome.

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

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Friday at 7 pm, at St. Francis of the Redwoods on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

Literacy Volunteers of Willits: We teach adults to read! Free personal tutoring at the library.

Call or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@gmail.com or 707-456-7729.

Mobile Showers Available in Willits: Mobile shower is in Willits every Monday and Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, behind St. Francis Church at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Toiletries, towels and washcloths provided. Those with disabilities may need to bring a helper. Sack dinners are served from 4:30 to 5:30 by Willits Daily Bread.

Inland Valley Women's Chorus: Every Thursday (except holidays) from 6 to 7:30 pm to sing songs of peace, joy, social justice and healing. No audition or experience required. Carpooling available from Willits. Holy Trinity Church, Mary & Martha Room, 640 South Orchard Avenue, Ukiah. More info: Madge Strong, 707-459-1493.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events
Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, one of our locals will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub. Bring any instrument and explore your creativity!

Bluegrass String Jam: An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm, with all Bluegrass musicians welcome!

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Every Wednesday – Enter your name in the lottery from 3 to 7 pm to choose your 20-minute time slot, with performances beginning at 7:20.

Willits Library Ongoing Events
Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendollibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; now open Sundays, 12 to 4 pm. Closed Monday.

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 pm, in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe."

LEGO Club: Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. "Bring your imagination and start building."

Tech Help: Saturdays from 11 am to noon, come get computer help and your technical questions answered!

Spinning and Knitting: Saturdays at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning, 1 to 2 pm; Knitting, 2 to 4:30 pm.

Story and Playtime: Fridays from 11 am to noon, bring the kids for a story followed by play time in the Children's Area.

Art Session: Join other artists every Thursday and Friday from 1 to 3 pm in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss and work on your personal projects. For ages 18 and up.

Create it, Make it, Break it: 3:30 to 5 pm, 1st & 3rd Fridays: Join the S.T.E.M. club to explore creativity and reasoning through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Each meeting will present new ideas and challenges! For ages 9-14.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

IMPRINTED
JJ Plante
Prints & Sculpture

LIFE LINES
Willits Life Drawing Group
Roger Bloomfield, Kat Emerson
Nancy Finn, Richard Smith, Andy Hill
Margaret Pirouette, Lyn Tavolsky

Opening Saturday June 6, 2026, with Fine Art, Community & Refreshments from 6-8pm. FREE!

Exhibit runs thru Sunday June 28, Fri. - Sun. 11-5pm
71 E. Commercial St., Willits



Above, left: Master of Ceremonies Tom Allman gives out the trophy for 2025 Best of Show in front of an estimated 2,000 people along Commercial and Main streets. Above, right: The Noyo Movie Theatre, appropriately showing "American Graffiti," is home to the myriad of Corvettes. At left: Scoutmaster Ken Pedersen tests the scouts' rope bridge in the vendor-inhabited Bud Snyder Park.



Above, left: This 1967 Volkswagen bus, owned by Christopher Moore, is part of his extensive collection of VW models. Above, right: Bruce Burton drives his stunning 1912 Pathfinder to the 2025 event. At left: Necole Aguilar Barnes entertains on the Granite Stage with her band, Nectar, at the corner of Commercial and Main streets.

Photos by Mathew Caine

44th annual Car & Bike Show this weekend in Willits

Posted by Willits Chamber of Commerce

The Willits Chamber of Commerce presents the annual free Willits Car & Bike Show this weekend, Sunday, May 24, 10 am to 3 pm, in downtown Willits. There's also a pre-show, "Cruise-in," at the south end of town, Saturday, May 23 from 4 to 7 pm at Little Lake Auto, 1571 South Main Street.

This year the Chamber has extended the downtown Car Show to begin on Main Street at East Valley Street, wrapping around East Commercial Street down to Marin Street (see the event map on Willits Weekly's Calendar spread). This is sure to be our biggest display of beautiful vehicles and bike!

Car enthusiasts, families, friends, and community will gather to marvel at a stunning display of an array of vintage, modern, modified, stock, lowriders, kit builds and EV vehicles.

Sunday's show features live music by Soul Circus, staged kitty-corner on South Main Street and East Commercial. Also featured: A variety of delicious cuisines to enjoy, thanks to great food vendors, located in the Willits City Parking Lot on Main Street. And let's not forget Willits' own Northspur Brewing Co., serving up their delicious craft beer, plus an array of great buys on "Vendor Row on the Green" in Bud Snyder Park, and so much more!

If you haven't registered to show off your special vehicle yet, advance registration (\$40) is available until 4 pm on Thursday, May 21. Register online at: <https://members.willits.org/ap/Events/Register/dx6E2xsoC0cv>

You can also register the day of the event for \$45. Vehicle / bike check-in time is 7 to 10 am; check-in location is 74 East Commercial and Humboldt (corner of Bud Snyder Park). Admission to attend the Car Show is free.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to experience the nostalgia and beauty of automotive history while spending a fantastic day with family, friends and the great community of Willits!

'Cruise-in' Car Show pre-show

The Willits Chamber of Commerce invites the community to join us for "Cruise-in," the pre-show for the Willits Car & Bike Show, Saturday evening at the south end of town at Little Lake Auto. This free, family-friendly event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our local automotive culture and enjoy a classic afternoon in the Heart of the Redwoods. Saturday, May 23 from 4 to 7 pm at Little Lake Auto, 1571 South Main Street. Enjoy live music by L.C. Diamonds, rocking Lake County since 2004, play a variety of genres: Elvis Presley to Michael Jackson, the Beatles to Chris Issak, and the Kinks to the B52s.

Grab some great food from the BBQ and Taco trucks, while you browse the impressive vehicles on display. Prizes & 50/50 Raffle: Participate for a chance to win while supporting Chamber community initiatives. For more information and to let us know you are coming, please visit our official event page here: www.facebook.com/events/1576468466836732/

We look forward to seeing our members and neighbors come together for both of these community gatherings.

Fix the Foundation **Deliver Results**

FOR MENDOCINO SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3

Every priority we care about — public safety and infrastructure, healthcare, housing, the economy, and our environment — depends on one thing: a county government that works. They all depend on a county government that has the tools, leadership, and alignment needed to deliver.

Our employees work hard every day. Our responsibility as elected leaders is to ensure the systems around them are clear, disciplined, and supportive so their work can succeed. Strengthening the foundation is how we turn effort into outcomes. — Eric Hart

AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ACROSS DISTRICT 3

"I've worked with Eric for many years on our local Fire Safe council. He's a creative, educated and experienced thinker who believes in collaboration to solve issues. He's proven that time and time again. I've learned to trust his abilities and am happy he's running for Third District Supervisor."

— Ree Slocum

"Eric is passionate about building a healthy community, bringing folks together to educate, gather feedback ... He understands the steps necessary to make Mendocino a fire safe county ... He looks for opportunities to bring the community together focusing on our youth and young adults through community engagement, he understands the importance of installing a sense of community in the younger generation. Eric has my 100% support as Mendocino County Supervisor."

— John Button

Because he's the only thoughtful candidate, and his community service record is far superior to any of the others.

— Hal Wagenet

"Eric has excellent administrative skills and gets things done. He cares about our community. I know because I have worked with him."

— Mark Komer

"I work with Eric in the Willits Rotary Club and have served on the County Civil Grand Jury with him, where I find him to be intuitive, caring and possessing great integrity. He has workable and intelligent ideas to address Mendocino County's problems, and I look forward to seeing positive changes through his service as District 3 Supervisor. ... it is my honor and pleasure to enthusiastically endorse his candidacy."

— Helen Simms

Full list on www.EricHartForSupervisor.com

Mail your ballot now or vote

June 2 at the polls

Titles and affiliations of each individual are provided for identification purposes only
Paid for by Eric Hart for Supervisor 2026, FPPCC #148787

RIDE THE THRILL!

SKUNK TRAIN RAILCOASTER

» Power down steep terrain, pass through a historic tunnel, and take in breathtaking redwood views on this 15-mile journey, complete with a picnic lunch.

SkunkTrain.com
707.964.6371
299 East Commercial Street
Willits, California 95490

LEGAL NOTICES

WW611

CITY OF WILLITS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Solicitation of Applications

for a Cannabis Activity Dispensary Permit

Date of Issue: May 18th, 2026

The City of Willits invites interested parties to submit an application to establish a Cannabis Dispensary within the city limits of Willits. The City currently has one (1) available Medical Cannabis Dispensary Permit. Pursuant to Willits City Code Section 17.85.110(A)(3), no more than three (3) Medical Cannabis Dispensaries shall be permitted to obtain a Dispensary Permit and operate within the City at any given time. The City intends to award up to one (1) Medical Cannabis Dispensary Permit to an eligible applicant through the City's dispensary selection process.

Applications and additional information are available at the Community Development Department or on the City website at <https://www.cityofwillits.org/240/> Cannabis-Activity-Program

EVENT	DATE
Announcement of solicitation of applications for Cannabis Dispensary Permit	May 18, 2026
Information session prior to application period	5:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers, 111 E. Commercial Street on May 26, 2026
Open application period begins	June 1, 2026
Deadline for receipt of applications	3:00 p.m. Pacific Time on June 25, 2026
Selection of eligible applications announced	mid July 2026
Deadline for selected applicants to submit Dispensary Permit Application	45 days after selection of applications is announced

Timeline:

Program Contact: Connor Stack
City Planner
707-459-7168
cstack@cityofwillits.org
Publication Date: May 21, 2026

WW609

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0182

The following person or persons are doing business as FWT, 95 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490; 707-354-1603.

Registered owner: Hellagood Opportunities, LLC, 95 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a limited liability company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 7, 2026.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on May 7, 2026.

/s/ Erin Rehder, CEO

Publication Dates: May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2026

WW608

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0181

The following person or persons are doing business as Indigenously-Rooted, 307 Creekside Dr., Willits, CA 95490; 707-354-2988.

Registered owner: Antonio Martin Amador, 307 Creekside Dr., Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

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

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on May 7, 2026.

/s/ Antonio Martin Amador

Publication Dates: May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

Brown Bag Lunch Program

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

How to Recognize Spiritual Guidance

Join our open spiritual discussion at the Willits Library, Tuesday, June 2, 11 am to noon. Free books and refreshments. Questions? Call Joy, (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of CA & NV.

Do you need food?

Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 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

Room for Rent

For rent master bedroom and bath. Private entrance, no shared space, includes refrigerator, utilities, internet, AC. 1 person 50 or older. \$800 month; rental referral required. 805 259-9155.

For Rent

Spacious 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Close to town and Howard Hospital. Newer with well-appointed kitchens. Laminate floors throughout and window coverings. \$1800.00/mo. 707-489-1080.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

Want to support Willits Weekly?

Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a "street subscriber"! You send in an annual donation, and pick up the edition on the street each week! We love our regular subscribers too: \$75 for home delivery in the Willits area; \$100 for a year's subscription in the U.S. mail. Visit <https://form.jotform.com/61915582053153> for a sign-up form and more info.

Little Lake Fire Association

POKER TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by:

POKER STARTS AT 5PM

SATURDAY MAY 30TH

300 EAST COMMERCIAL ST WILLITS

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 4PM

NO HOST BEER & WINE BAR

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LITTLE LAKE FIRE

WILLITS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

1ST ANNUAL GEM SHOW

at THE COMMUNITY CENTER @ EAST COMMERCIAL STREET, WILLITS, CA

SATURDAY 7/11 & SUNDAY 7/12

10-12 ADULT TICKET \$1000

10AM-6PM \$500 UNDER 12 FREE

PRESENTATIONS ON LOCAL GEOLOGY & CRYSTAL HEALING

CRYSTALS & MINERALS JEWELRY BEADS & CABS

SNACK & FOOD VENDORS

Long Valley Health Center-Wellness Gathering & Walk

May 29th

1-Mile Wellness Walk starting in the LVHC parking lot at 10:30 AM

Yoga Session: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Free event Swag Refreshments & Smoothies Substance Use Education

Teen Health Information Nutritional Information & tables from our community!

All are welcome. Bring friends and family! Relax, Recharge, and connect with your community.

Rotary Club of Willits

People of Action

Serving our Community Since 1948

www.willitsrotary.org

WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com

Locally raised in Willits, organically fed and pasture raised Beef, Pork and Lamb

Personal and Commercial orders available

Contact Melissa at (707) 513-5705 | eastsideranchwillits@gmail.com

Willits Weekly can run legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more. Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com

The rest of Golf From page 3

it right before the finish: Cherry Brown Sugar. Chad worked on the beans." Leshler added: "I used canned beans. I did hickory smoked with a barbecue flavor, too."

Jeremy Jamison, representing Windsor Mill, kept his rib recipe close to the vest. "It's a secret sauce, but it's zesty and it's sweet and it's good. We put a little bacon in the beans, a little sausage, a little zest - and a little rib drippings are going to go in there from the rib rack," said Jamison.

The Brooktrails Fire Department entry had the Lippincott family, who were also promoting Jeremy's honey business. His daughter, Natalie, acted as spokesperson: "My dad has his own business. It's called J&J Honey. The ribs have J&J Honey, raspberry, and a bunch of other stuff like molasses, ketchup, mustard, and some seasonings. In the beans, we put bacon, onions, bell pepper, and made our own beans. My dad has his special bread stuff. It has mayonnaise, garlic powder, and cheese."

Brooktrails Golf Course's competitor was Dave Lowry, father of course manager, Kimberly Herron, and his granddaughter, Ava. Flynn Mahoney and his mother,

Brooktrails board member Susan Mahoney. "I'm not representing any group. I'm just a Brooktrails resident," Mahoney said. "[My mom's] got the little mini corn bread and some good old beans she's cooked up. We have to do six racks of ribs.

"My grill can only hold about three at a time, so I kind of have to stagger. I'm going to have three ready at noon and another three ready about one o'clock. I figure I can feed about 60 people. We only have 32 golfers, so I figure I'll be giving some large portions. Part of my strategy. I'll give them the double cut."

Attendees paid \$20 to participate in the contest and walked away very well-fed. There was a prize for every category. The winners of both the ribs and beans contests were the Lippincotts, and the bread prize went to the Mahoneys.

In addition, there was a raffle to win a variety of prizes.

The Brooktrails Golf Course also hosts one of the most highly regarded Disc Golf courses in California and is open from 8 am to 5 pm, every day. Visit www.brooktrailsdiscgolf.com/ to learn more.



At left: Brooktrails Golf Course Pro Alex Herron gives the rules and last-minute instructions. Photo by Mathew Caine

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Above: Students in the Spring semester of Mendocino College's new Northern Pomo Language class, being offered as a standalone, credit-bearing class. Enrollment is now open for the Fall 2026 semester class, "Elementary Northern Pomo."

Mendocino College offers first Native American Language course

Submitted by Mendocino College

Ukiah – Mendocino College has reached a historic milestone with the launch of its first Native American Language course – marking the first time in the college's history that a Native language is being offered as a standalone, credit bearing class.

The new Northern Pomo Language course, "Elementary Northern Pomo," taught by Lori Laiwa Thomas, department chair of Ethnic Studies, is currently the only opportunity in the region for adult learners to study Northern Pomo. Interest has been strong, with 41 students enrolled in the Spring semester class, including local tribal leaders, grandmothers, siblings, Mendocino College faculty, and community members of all ages. This intergenerational participation highlights the language's vibrancy and its essential role in maintaining community continuity.

Northern Pomo is one of seven Pomoan languages and was traditionally spoken by tribes and communities throughout Mendocino County, including Coyote Valley Reservation, Pinoleville Pomo Nation, Redwood Valley Reservation, Potter Valley Tribe, Guidiville Rancheria, Sherwood Valley Reservation, and the communities of Fort Bragg and Boonville. The

establishment of this course represents a major step toward reclaiming and revitalizing indigenous languages that were historically suppressed under U.S. federal assimilation policies.

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, federal policies – especially Indian boarding school – punished Native people for speaking their languages, resulting in multigenerational language loss across California. Institutions of higher education were often complicit, either through exclusion or by treating Native languages as artifacts rather than living knowledge systems. Offering a Native language course at a public college is therefore a meaningful act of historical repair.

This course builds on a successful high school Northern Pomo program at Ukiah High School, now in its fifth year, with concepts and activities adapted for college level learners. Professor Thomas brings a lifelong dedication to Pomoan language revitalization. After more than 20 years focused on Central Pomo, she has developed curriculum and learning tools for both Northern and Central Pomo, ensuring instruction that is culturally grounded, linguistically rigorous, and community centered. Her training in language archiving

and documentation further strengthens the course's foundations in ethical preservation practices.

Thomas collaborates with Cathy O'Connor, Professor Emerita of Linguistics and Education at Boston University, who worked for 26 years with Northern Pomo elder speakers Edna Campbell Guerrero and Eleanor Stevenson Gonzales to document the language.

After their passing, O'Connor created a website featuring a dictionary, phrases, sentences, and texts recorded by original speakers. Developed with support from Boston University students, these online materials now serve as the backbone of the course. Mendocino College's curricular materials are aligned with the resources created and refined over the past five years for Ukiah High School by O'Connor and Buffie Campbell Schmidt, who teaches UHS levels 1-4. O'Connor and Thomas are also developing new lesson plans specifically for the college.

The course is UC/CSU transferable, expanding opportunities for students pursuing four year degrees. Enrollment is now open for the Fall 2026 3-credit semester class, August 17 to December 11, Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to

8:35 pm, at the Mendocino College Library Learning Resource Center, Room 4135, 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah.

Professor Thomas hopes to offer "Elementary Northern Pomo" every semester, supporting long term language learning, community involvement, and cultural revitalization. Offering Northern Pomo for college credit – taught by a Native instructor, rooted in local tribal communities, and supported by learners across generations – affirms that Indigenous languages have a vital place in contemporary education and in the future of local communities. This milestone reflects Mendocino College's commitment to indigenous leadership, community partnership, and the preservation and strengthening of local Native knowledge systems.

For more information, contact Lori Laiwa Thomas at lhomas@mendocino.edu.

Mendocino College is a public community college serving Mendocino and Lake counties, committed to student success, workforce development, and lifelong learning. Through accessible, high quality education and strong community partnerships, the College supports economic mobility and enriches the region it serves.

The rest of **Zone** | From page 1

Two members of the public spoke about the Mendocino College District's Measure A on the June 2 election ballot: a \$95 million bond that, with interest, will cost \$210 million, to be paid by a property tax on local property owners. The public speakers pointed out that more than a 100 different projects are listed under Measure A, which will take 35 years to pay off.

City manager

Willits now has its third interim city manager since former city manager Brian Bender left Willits in March 2025. Longtime city Community Development Director Dusty Duley will temporarily take on the job, replacing Robert Richardson, whose contract ended last week.

Due to a miscalculation of Richardson's contract hours, Duley was offered the job with no prior notice: "I was appointed interim manager at the end of the day on Monday, and about five minutes later, I got forwarded an email that demanded immediate attention," Duley said. "I just want to recognize and appreciate the 300 seconds of the honeymoon phase I got to see." According to Mayor Tom Allman, the city currently has a recruitment process for a fulltime city manager.

Entertainment Zone

A little bit of New Orleans French Quarter will brighten some city events with the council's approval of a downtown Entertainment Zone, an area along Main Street and reaching down to Bud Snider Park (City Park) where, during special events, people will now be able to walk around with cups of beer, wine, saki, and distilled spirits (hard liquor).

The "EZ" runs from the 100 block of North Main, where the Northspur Brewery and the future saki brewery are located, to Wood Street, just past El Mexicano and Buzzard's Roost, and down both East Commercial Street and State Street to the park.

Only drinks purchased from businesses located within the entertainment zone and licensed to serve alcoholic beverages can be carried around. (Currently, there are no businesses in the zone that sell distilled spirits, though if AI's Redwood Room reopens, it would qualify.)

Drinkers will have to wear wristbands or have their hand ink-stamped, and the drinks must be in specially marked cups that are not glass or metal. No drinks can be carried past the boundaries of the event, which could be the entire entertainment zone or just a part of it, depending on the event. Events cannot start before noon and must end no later than 9 pm.

Each event will require barriers to define the limits of the EZ, and security to watch over everything. According to City Planner Connor Stack, barriers could be nothing more than signs marking the boundary of the zone, and security can vary depending on the size and nature of the event. Nothing is specifically spelled out in the ordinance, although security must be approved by the chief of police.

As a part of the Entertainment Zone is in a residential neighborhood, event organizers will be required to notify neighbors in advance, though what unhappy neighbors could do about it is unclear. Organizers must also provide for cleanup, trash, recycling, and restroom access.

Not everyone on the council was in a party mood to approve street drinking in the city. Councilmember Larry Stranske expressed his concern that the city will greatly increase its liability for lawsuits by allowing alcohol on the town streets, as opposed to current alcohol events that require a fenced-off area for anyone consuming alcohol. Councilmember Bruce Burton thought the entire project was unnecessary. "I don't think it's going to help businesses," he said. Burton suggested that eliminating red curbs and little-used bike lanes on Main Street would be much more beneficial to city businesses. The final vote was 3 to 2 in favor of the zone.

Money for another outside contractor

Buried in the regular list of monthly expenses was a payment of \$10,000 to an attorney named Cole Huber that councilmember Burton spotted and asked about. Building Inspector Davey Bowles told the council that former interim city manager Richardson hired the attorney to help with taking receivership of the long-troubled Van Hotel. The \$10,000 fee was for filing papers and a court appearance. No one seemed to know why Richardson did not turn to the city's regular attorney Jim Lance.

When a surprised Burton asked if the council had given direction to take receivership of the hotel, he was cautioned that it was a closed-session litigation matter that could not be discussed at the public meeting. Burton still added, "It would have been nice to know about it."

Out-of-date employee manual

One of the urgent projects that the cash-strapped city is taking on is updating the city's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, a 141-page document that, according to Mayor Allman is "woefully out of date," and has been for several years.

The manual is being updated, a little bit at a time, by one of the city's outside consultants, Deborah Muchmore, owner of Muchmore Than Consulting. Muchmore has been under contract to the city for the last eight months, projects ranging from a city manager search, the city's restructuring and employee layoffs, HR (human resource) functions, and now the employee manual. To date, Muchmore has contracts with the city totaling \$180,900, plus an additional \$140,000 for the next two fiscal years.

At the May 13 meeting, the council was asked to approve one updated section of the manual, a complex arrangement called a Catastrophic Leave Bank Policy. Basically, it allows employees to donate some or all of their accumulated vacation leave back to a city fund (the leave "bank") to be given to other employees who have medical or family emergencies but have used up their sick leave. A simple and worthwhile concept in theory would up tangled in procedures, legal restrictions, and IRS tax issues, which Muchmore explained to a dubious city council.

Vice Mayor Matthew Alaniz spoke at length about his opposition to the personnel manual being updated piecemeal, and repeated his opinion that no decisions should be made until the city has a permanent city manager. Councilmember Burton stated: "I'm not convinced that we have the staff to administer another benefit," and said the leave bank was "adding a layer of bureaucracy to something that doesn't need to be there."

Alaniz and Burton, along with councilmember Stranske voted no. Failing 3-2, the Catastrophic Leave Bank met its own catastrophe.

The rest of **Forum** | From page 1

potentially create more of a fire issue. If we allow too much commercial activity on it, then, you know, we might be destroying an asset that that took hundreds of years to get, and we really should be stewarding it better. On my property I have a huge madrone tree that is right in the way of some sunlight that I really really needed over the last decade. And the decision I made there was that the tree was older than me and that even though I owned the property that it still had a right to be there. So I left it, and it still stands today. I guess it's kind of a hard question to directly answer. I would say some responsible harvesting, but if a tree reaches a certain age, I don't know if that's 500 years or what exactly that would be, but I feel like if a tree reaches a certain age, it has more right to be there than we do. So, I guess that's my answer. Thank you.

Eric Hart: I look out over Jackson from where I live. It's something that is a daily part of my life. Every day when I leave the house, I see Jackson Forest. There's no question that the tribes have a basic right to that and they should be part of the decision-making, that's pretty black and white. As far as what we should be doing with the forest, that's where we need to be careful. The idea that mankind should be doing anything is sometimes what gets us into trouble. We make these decisions that we know what's best, and then we find out 20 years later that, oh no, that actually wasn't the best thing to do, now we're going to try this. Then we go do that, and we find out that that wasn't the best thing either. We need to be very careful about what we decide is good management of that forest. The problem is we've messed it up so badly now, that we need to be doing something to bring it back to health. There are a bunch of different ideas about what that looks like. Logging for commercial purposes probably does not fit into that. Logging as a concept for forest health does have its place in maintaining that forest health and bringing that forest back to the natural state it would have been if we hadn't messed it up in the first place.

This is where it kind of gets into the nitty-gritty where we need real expertise from the local tribes, from foresters, and from the people who have been working in Jackson for a long time to understand what does that path look like. That doesn't necessarily mean we're not cutting down another tree, but it also doesn't mean we are doing commercial logging in Jackson. The change of mandate is a good direction. We just need to refine that a little bit and do some more work on the language so that we're very clear about what that means and what liberty that gives us in that forest.

Buffey Wright-Bourassa: So, just a little story really quick. I'll try to make it fast, but if you don't know, I'm going to tell you I support Jackson State Demonstration moving from a logging-first model to a restorative process. And I have been a part of that process way before it became popular with this Assembly bill. My tribe has been in conversations with CAL FIRE, Caltrans, all state agencies for quite some time. So, the reason why I believe this should happen is because of the long-term health of the forest and wildfire resilience.

There are things that we can learn. We've had plenty of time to learn how to log, right? So, now let's learn how to restore the forest and still have some thinning done and logging happening. And, you know, it just makes sense to me. The other thing is that I really think that we need to respect tribal knowledge and local voices. Those folks have been in that forest for quite some time, and so they understand how the biodiversity is working, what's happening in that forest. So we don't want to push them out. There is a big issue though, and it's been talked about at the board of supervisors about the funding. You know, when we pass an Assembly bill with no funding behind it, we have a little bit of an issue. The thing is is that we need to put money in it in order to hire all the people that we're going to need to have a restorative forest and all of the work that's going to come into that. So, that bill needs to be revised. So, if you have a chance, take a look at it. Make sure you put in your public comment. Thank you.

Clay Romero: The Jackson Demonstration State Forest has been operating for about 79 years now. It's had a very very good record. It's worked extremely well. I think at this point it's probably not a wise thing to start changing things.

This is a living laboratory. It is designed and it's specifically set up for harvesting timber for the wood industry here. That's its whole purpose. To change that to where it no longer has harvesting of timber there is going to create a problem. I actually was looking into the bill, and it says they wanted to harvest the trees that are quite a bit younger. This is not a good thing to do. It's sort of like harvesting your corn before it's fully ripe. There's a long long period of time that goes into any crop for that matter for it to be developed, and then you harvest it at the correct time. And the Jackson Demonstration State Forest is specifically designed for that purpose. I would much rather see it continue on as it is as opposed to the people that do need the timber, they have to go out to other areas and create a different plan or whatever to do that. And I don't want to see that. I think the Jackson Demonstration State Forest is a vital part of our community and it's part of our tax base because it does create a physical product. Thank you.

Check your blood pressure at your Mendocino County library

Submitted by the American Heart Association

May 14 – Patrons who visit any of the six Mendocino County Libraries will now be able to check their blood pressure and manage a major risk factor for heart attack and stroke. The resources are available as part of Libraries with Heart by the American Heart Association, devoted to a healthier future for all.

Library card holders will also have the option to borrow blood pressure monitoring kits for at-home measurement the same way they check out a book.

"Libraries are an amazing fount of resources. We know that high blood pressure is a major health threat, and now our community can find tools at their local library to help them manage their heart health," said Mellisa Hannum, director of Mendocino County Library. "In addition to blood pressure cuffs, the library also provides American Heart Association information on how to properly measure blood pressure at home, an explanation of what blood pressure numbers mean, and a contact list of care providers who will provide follow-up to anyone who needs it."

High blood pressure is known as the silent killer because usually it has no symptoms. The only way to know if someone has high blood pressure is to get it checked, according to the American Heart Association. Almost half of U.S. adults – 47.3% – have high blood pressure, increasing their risk for heart attack, stroke or kidney disease. These poor health outcomes can potentially be avoided if high blood pressure is managed.

Unfortunately, many people are not even aware that their blood pressure is elevated, and the use of a blood pressure monitor might be difficult because of cost or lack of access. Libraries with Heart aims to improve the health of local communities by making these resources readily available for free for those who need them.

"Libraries with Heart helps to break down barriers to health care so that everyone has the opportunity to live a longer, healthier life," said Cherish Hart, region vice president, Community Impact at the American Heart Association. "Together with Mendocino County, the American Heart Association aims to empower individuals to take control of their health and ultimately save lives from heart disease and stroke."

Through the non-profit Califa, 24 libraries in 49 locations in rural areas of California are participating in Libraries with Heart, as part of the Rural Health Connections Project which is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

To learn more about blood pressure, visit www.heart.org/BP.

The American Heart Association has been a leading source of health information for more than 100 years. Supported by more than 35 million volunteers globally, we fund groundbreaking research, advocate for the public's health, and provide critical resources to save and improve lives affected by cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Planning and Building issues email scam alert

Submitted by Mendocino County Planning and Building

A series of fraudulent emails are being sent to applicants with Planning and Building Services. These emails pose as Planning and Building Services Director Julia Krog and require that additional funds be paid in order to continue processing a permit or as credit towards a future application.

The emails request that correspondence only be continued via email and that the recipient reply to the email to receive wire instructions to submit the requested funds. This scam is part of a nationwide scam that has been targeting local and county planning departments.

Key indicators that you have received a scam email include:

- The sending email is from the email domain of @usa.com. The emails the department has seen are specifically from krogj.mendocinocounty.gov@usa.com. Note: All official county emails are received from email addresses with the email domain of @mendocinocounty.gov
- The email requests wire transfer. Note: The department does not offer wire transfer as a form of payment.
- The email requests that you correspond only via email. Note: The department offers numerous forms of communication including phone calls, emails and in-person visits.

Planning and Building Services encourages all individuals who are unsure if an email received is fraudulent to please contact our office via telephone to ensure the validity of the email. If you receive a scam email, do not open attachments, report the email to your email service provider as spam, and delete the email.

Have something to say? Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor about local issues. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com
REMEMBER: Deadline is end of day Monday for each week's Thursday edition.

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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Joyful Fozzie

Fozzie is a 10 month old, 45 pound bundle of sweetness and goofy charm. He came to the shelter as a stray, and with his soft curls and expressive face, we think he may have some poodle in his mix. Fozzie is a joyful, playful and social pup who loves people and lights up when he meets new friends, wiggling his whole body when he's excited. He'd be thrilled to have an active home and a canine buddy to romp around with. At just 10 months, Fozzie is still learning the ropes—working on his basic commands and showing an eagerness to learn. With consistency, patience, and positive reinforcement, he'll continue to blossom into an amazing companion.



requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 707-459-4900.

Loving Rock

Rock is a long-term resident of the HSI/MC shelter, taken in as a kitten about a year ago, who is currently enjoying a foster home. A note from Rock's foster mom: "Give Rock a moment, he's a lot shy! He takes time to warm up and then will stick to his person like glue. He makes sure to tell you how much he loves you daily." Like Peter Pan's shadow, Rock is mischievous but will go with you anywhere.



Need to do dishes? He will ensure all is rinsed properly. What about sitting home doing absolutely nothing? Don't worry, he'll lie near you, and if he needs to move he'll find a toy to entertain himself!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant 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.mendocinoshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

Gentle Sammy

Sammy is a 3-year-old gentle soul who's just getting his bearings at Milo Sanctuary—and he's already winning people over with his quiet sweetness. He's the kind of dog who takes a minute to check things out before jumping in. New people and places can make him a little shy at first.



Sammy really shines when he's outside—wandering, sniffing, and taking in the world at his own pace. He'd love a home with some space to roam and a calmer, more rural setting where life moves a little slower. He gets along with other dogs, but cats are a no for him.

our website: www.mendocinoshelter.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com. Call 707-485-0123 for more information.

To learn more about Sammy, 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 707-459-4900.



Mendocino Film Festival 2026 presents the most films ever, May 28-31

Submitted by Mendocino Film Festival

The 19th Annual Mendocino Film Festival presents a compelling line-up of more movies than ever before, as well as special events, live music, and lively Q&A discussions with filmmakers from all around the globe descending upon Mendocino.

This year's Mendocino Film Festival, May 28 to 31, celebrates achieving new records: the most films ever (80), the most short film programs (5), the most Sundance selections (10), and the most films directed by women (43).

Of the total 80 films, 35 are features and 46 are shorts. Fifty filmmakers and industry guests will be in attendance for the 19th year. The festival offers something for all tastes: films on the arts, environmental and social justice films, and stories from over 35 countries around the globe are represented in our programming line-up.

Musical fare includes "You Got Gold: A Celebration of John Prine," a star-studded tribute to the legendary songwriter. The movie will play Friday, May 29, at 7:30 pm and will be followed by live music from local Americana band, Sweet Root.

The following day, Saturday May 30, at 7:30 pm the festival offers a special treat for lovers of choral singing, featuring the Mendocino Music Festival Chorale, following the screening of the uplifting documentary from New Zealand, "Tina," about a scrappy children's choir.

Also on Saturday, two culinary treats await. At 10 am, come for the film "Pieowa," celebrating the myriad ways pie is woven into Iowa's – and America's – culture, and stay for pie. Then at 4 pm, take a trip to the Olympics of Cheese with the documentary "The Big Cheese," followed by a locally sourced wine and cheese pairing event.

On Sunday, May 31 at 1 pm, the festival offers its Fifth annual Native Cinema event, one of the fest's most popular screenings. This year the festival features a sneak preview of "Coming Home: From Shadowland to Spirit World," about a Kashia Pomo tribal elder seeking coastal land return, preceded by two short films.

As usual, the natural world plays a big part in the coastal film festival. "The Last Forests Project" shows the tragic kelp forest decline, and highlights collaborative restoration efforts led by scientists and

Read the rest of **Film Fest** Over on page 15

Below: The Mendocino Film Festival Tent. Photo by Nicholas Wilson.



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The rest of **Museum** From page 7

because they wanted their partners to shave. We thought it would be fun to have people pose in the barber chair."

The Friends of the Museum, a volunteer group that helps raise funds to keep the museum going, handled the food and drink at the opening, with President Brent Walker and Beth Onyon tending the juice bar and laying out a sumptuous spread of foods and desserts. Mattson, Dick, Walker, and Neeka Aguirre (of the Friends and the Museum Advisory Board) recited the Land Acknowledgement of respect for the original stewards of the area, the tribes. There is a separate exhibit currently at the museum, "Sovereignty: Native Nations of Mendocino County," with QR coded information about each of the tribes in the area, curated by Buffey Wright-Bourassa.

"So, the automobile was really one of the life-changing things," curator Dick said. "Everyone could have an automobile. When they were travelling, what was a five-hour trip now from San Francisco to Eureka, would take four days. So, they already planned to be camping. Certain individuals made auto camps which had all the amenities, cabins with running water. They didn't have motor hotels then [motels]. It was literally camping.

"Auto shops, which our curio shop is based on, were things to get people to pull over," Dick explained. "They knew that in Willits there was a camp. Recreation Grove used to be an auto camp. Auto camps, eventually, when they needed swimming pools, tennis courts, etc. as the culture changed, they evolved into motels," he said.

"We are the repository for the Redwood Empire Association records," said administrator Mattson. "We have all of their minutes, their main plan where they laid everything out. It involved all kinds of civic clubs, chambers of commerce, hotels, businesspeople. It was a very well-detailed plan of how they were going to get it done. They were not going to be happy until they paved the 101 from San Francisco to Grants Pass. Their early objectives were to get the Golden Gate Bridge completed as well as the Klamath River Bridge."

This exhibit is a deep dive into the life of the area from 100 years ago and is tied into the upcoming Willits Frontier Days centennial celebrations.

The Mendocino County Museum in Willits, 400 East Commercial Street, is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 12 to 4 pm. 400 East Commercial Street. More info, visit: www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/museum or www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountyMuseum

At right: Annie Waters tries out the barber shop photo booth. Below: Museum Administrator Karen Mattson looks through some of the archival postcards in the Curio Shop. Further below: Museum Administrator Karen Mattson speaks with Jed and Carlin Diamond about the "Road Trip" exhibition. At bottom: The "Road Trip" exhibit has several messages about the beauty of Northern California and the lure of the redwoods.



Photos by Mathew Caine

The rest of **Baker** From page 1 of our students by promoting teamwork, leadership, discipline, confidence, and physical wellness. I am very pleased to see athletics continuing to be a strong part of our district culture and community engagement.

At this time, we are in the process of hiring coaches and athletic directors for the upcoming school year, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our athletic programs. We are especially excited for the upcoming football season. Go Wolverines!

We recently recognized both our girls softball and boys golf teams for their outstanding accomplishments this season. On behalf of Willits Unified School District, I would also like to sincerely thank all of our coaches, assistant coaches, volunteers, and athletic directors for the tremendous amount of time and dedication they give to our students. Their leadership and commitment help make athletics one of the highlights of our school community.

Academically, we are excited that a team of teachers and administrators from both the high school and middle school will be attending upcoming MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) training sessions. This work is extremely important as we continue strengthening instruction, intervention, student support systems, and social-emotional learning across the Willits Unified School District. MTSS will continue serving as a strong foundation for improving student achievement and supporting the needs of all learners.

We are also excited to begin several important facility improvement projects this summer. Planned projects include replacing the roofs at the high school boys' and girls' locker rooms, the woodshop and metal shop building, and the auditorium and classroom roofs. These upgrades are long overdue and will help improve the safety, functionality, and overall condition of our facilities for students and staff.

Finally, we welcome our families and community members to attend our upcoming promotions and Senior Graduation Ceremony as we celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Information regarding dates, times, and locations can be found on the district website: www.willitsunified.com

Thank you for your continued support of Willits Unified School District and our students.

The rest of **Measure A** From page 2

young people to stay, work, serve, and lead here, we have to invest in the educational infrastructure that makes that possible.

Many Mendocino College facilities are more than 40 years old and were not designed for the training needs of today's students or today's workforce. Classrooms and labs that support healthcare, emergency response, trades, and technical education need to be safe, functional, accessible, and current.

Measure A gives voters the opportunity to decide whether to make that local investment.

For North County, the question is simple: Do we want students from Willits, Covelo, Round Valley, and neighboring communities to have stronger access to affordable education and career training close to home?

I believe that answer matters – not just for students, but for the future health, safety, and economic resilience of our communities.

For more information about Measure A, including project funding, oversight, and accountability, visit www.mendocino.edu/affordable-local-education.

The rest of **Film Fest** From page 14

local communities, including the Mendocino Coast. The "Keeping it Wild" short film program includes a hopeful collection of land conservation and rewilding topics presented with the Mendocino Land Trust. "Nuisance Bear" follows a polar bear forced to navigate a human world of tourists and hunters.

No festival would be complete without socio-politically themed documentaries. This year "If I Could Stay/Si Pudiera Quedarme" tells the story of two undocumented mothers who enter churches to evade deportation. "Steal This Story, Please!" follows independent journalist Amy Goodman and her daily news show "Democracy Now," and be sure to stay for a lively panel discussion about media today after the film.

The festival has movies that wowed audiences at the Sundance Film festival, including "Hot Water," "See You When I See You" from Jay Dupless, the California premiere of "How to Divorce During the War," "American Pachuco," "Cookie Queens," and "Give Me the Ball," about tennis legend and trailblazer Billie Jean King – to name a few!

Focusing on art films has always been an integral part of the festival. This year in a sneak preview of "Acting Like Women," we follow a collective of artists who reshaped the cultural landscape at the foundational art space, the Woman's Building. "Maintenance Artist" shows us what happens when art meets trash – when the New York City's Department of Sanitation welcomes an artist-in-residence.

Hometown filmmaker Will Geiger, who now lives in Italy, returns with his new feature "Glass Beach," about a Sicilian fisherman. Other local filmmakers will also be highlighted at the Reel Mendo short film program, a festival favorite.

For family viewing, the free Children's Program will be screening charming short films for ages 5+ from the New York International Children's Film Festival, on Saturday, May 30 at 10 am, with a free bicycle giveaway.

Tickets are on sale at <https://mendofilm.org/> – hit the "Get Tickets" button, or can be purchased at the Mendocino Film Festival Office, 45062 Ukiah Street in Mendocino.

For more information, and to peruse this year's complete program, please visit <https://mendofilm.org/>

Mendocino Film Festival has established a reputation for presenting riveting, thought-provoking and award-winning independent and international films. The festival draws increasing numbers of filmmakers, cinephiles and avid attendees from around the world, while maintaining its commitment to the local community. Featuring a varied line-up of films, panels and special events, the festival offers a unique opportunity to meet filmmakers and film aficionados in the intimate and strikingly beautiful setting of seaside Mendocino and Fort Bragg.



At top, left: John Prine in "You Got Gold," a tribute to the legendary songwriter. At top, right: "If I Could Stay/Si Pudiera Quedarme" tells the story of two undocumented mothers who enter churches to evade deportation. Above: Tennis trailblazer Billie Jean King in "Give Me the Ball." At right: A scene from Native Cinema's "Coming Home: From Shadowland to Spirit World."





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