

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 642

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Ballots left to count in Mendocino County

Submitted by **Katrina Bartolomei, Clerk-Recorder**

June 5 – Mendocino County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomei announced that as with every other election, there are many ballots left to be processed and counted as part of the official canvass.

Since Monday, June 1, 2026, the Elections office has received over 15,000 ballots. The Elections office is required to count ballots that are received at the Polling Locations and in the Official Drop Boxes throughout the county by 8 pm on Election Day and ballots that are postmarked by Election Day and received within 7 days of Election Day.

Mendocino County has 17,720 countywide ballots left to process; this includes 580 Provisional / Conditional ballots to review and process. As for the highly-watched Supervisor races – in the 3rd Supervisorial District we have 3,618 ballots to count, and in the 5th

Read the rest of **Ballots**

Over on Page 9

PG&E plans gas pipeline 'blowdown' in the valley

Submitted by **MCAQMD**

Mendocino County Quality Management District has been notified of a planned natural gas pipeline blowdown by PG&E near the intersection of Eastside Road and East Hill Road in Willits on the morning of Tuesday, June 16, 2026 around 9 am.

What is a pipeline blowdown?

A pipeline blowdown is a routine operation used by natural gas companies to safely perform maintenance, inspections, and construction. It involves isolating and depressurizing a section of pipeline and venting the natural gas to the atmosphere. According to the U.S. EPA, this is standard industry practice – though it can result in noise, gas odor, and temporary methane emissions in the surrounding area.

What to expect

- You may notice the smell of natural gas in the Willits area during this time
- There may be noise associated with the venting process
- Natural gas is non-toxic but highly flammable – keep away from open flames

This is a planned activity. If you have concerns or questions, contact MCAQMD at (707) 463-4354.

For pipeline emergencies, contact PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.



Above, from left: Khatia Geiger holds her diploma high at Thursday's high school graduation ceremony. Willits High School's Lisa Arkelian smiles as she walks into the ceremony. 8th grader Grady Fonsen welcomed guests to the Baechtel Grove Middle School 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony on Wednesday. WHS Valedictorian D Fanier was the first to receive his diploma at the high school ceremony, and shakes hands with board member April Lamprich. Below: Graduate Emelia Owsiany, left, and Sober Grad guest Ember, right, smile in front of Sober Grad Naya, who was stuck to the Velcro wall, a well-enjoyed past event, which returned this year for Sober Grad, the annual graduation-night party for Willits seniors.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above, left: WHS graduate Gracie Jennison smiles from her seat in the bleachers. Above, right: WHS's Julian Patino holds up the flag of Mexico as he crosses the field. At left: WHS' D. Fanier, left, and Willits Charter's Sapphire Southwick both received \$1,000 checks at Sober Grad. At left, below: WHS' Lyly Herman holds up her diploma with a smile. Below, from left: Baechtel Grove Middle School promotion ceremony member Arya Sizemore holds her certificate. BGMS' Todd Jennison watches the speakers. Moziz Friend holds his 8th grade promotion certificate. Willits High School's Cecily Potter smiles with her diploma and garlands. At bottom, from left: The drunk goggles and trikes are always a Sober Grad hit. WHS' Jizelle Bellamy signs thank you cards at the check-in table. WHS' Arion Martin gave a heart-warming speech, making sure to thank her "MeMaw" Tracy Crippen who stood in the audience to be recognized.



Wrapping Up

Graduations, parties, Sober Grad, and more to celebrate the achievements of local students

It's officially over for the Class of 2026 who celebrated the end of their 12 years of school at the annual Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, June 4 at Willits High School.

Willits High School and Sanhedrin High School seniors walked across Maize Field to the delight of family and friends. After the conclusion of the ceremony, grads gathered in the backs of cars and trucks for a parade around town, smiling and waving to folks gathered along the sidewalks and in parking lots around the route.

The high school grads served as inspiration to the 8th grade students who walked the same stage the day earlier for the Baechtel Grove Middle School 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony. Many of those students will come to WHS in

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



County's \$1.5 million settlement with Cubbison revealed

By **Mike Geniella**

Mendocino County supervisors are paying \$1.5 million to settle civil litigation with former county Auditor Chamise Cubbison, according to newly obtained documents.

The board's agreement was reached weeks ago but was kept concealed until the settlement was disclosed this week in response to a Public Records Act request.

A key document bearing the signature of Board of Supervisors Chair Bernie Norvell is dated Feb. 16, according to the records disclosed. Earlier, on Feb. 10, Cubbison attorney Therese Cannata and Morin Jacob, the county's lawyer, signed a document approving the form of the agreement.

Why the settlement has been kept secret so long remains a mystery.

No one at the county level, including Norvell or the county's outside attorney involved in the Cubbison case, responded to requests Thursday [June 4] for comment.

Nor did District Attorney David Eyster who was a key participant in events

Read the rest of **Settlement** Over on Page 9

CHP arrests 8 in Covelo after freeway shooting investigation

Submitted by **CHP, Northern Division**

June 1 – California Highway Patrol officers executed multiple search warrants in Covelo on May 27 as part of an ongoing investigation into a freeway shooting that occurred on U.S. Highway 101 in the Ukiah area in February.

The operation led to the arrest of eight individuals on various firearms and drug-related charges. Investigators also seized multiple illegally possessed firearms, ammunition, controlled substances, and two stolen motorcycles.

The operation resulted in the following arrests:

- Robert Cole Whipple Sr., 42, of Covelo — possession of an assault weapon, manufacturing a ghost gun, and providing a firearm to a prohibited person.
- Robert Cole Whipple Jr., 19, of Covelo — possession of an assault weapon, manufacturing a ghost gun, felon in possession of a firearm, and felon in possession of ammunition.
- Ramiro Mendez Saldana, 21, of Covelo —

Read the rest of **Arrests** Over on Page 9

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

Thank you to everyone who showed up, voted, volunteered, donated, put up a sign, made calls, walked neighborhoods, hosted conversations, shared information, and took part in this election.

I got into this race because I believe Mendocino County can work better for the people who live here. We need a county government that is more responsive, transparent, financially disciplined, and focused on finding safe lawful ways to help residents grow, adapt, and strengthen our communities.

Throughout this campaign, I have heard from people across District 3 who are concerned about roads, emergency response, housing, healthcare, small businesses, county services, wildfire safety, and whether rural communities are truly being heard. Those concerns are real, and they will remain at the center of this campaign.

No matter who you supported, your participation matters. At this time when the national conversation about everything has become so politicized and divisive, local politics is more important than ever. Government at the county level is where we work together with our neighbors, ALL of our neighbors regardless of their politics, to improve our communities on a daily basis. Local democracy depends on people paying attention, asking questions at forums and meet and greets, doing research on their candidates, and then ... taking the time to vote. I am grateful to everyone in District 3 who made their voice heard.

Over the past few months, we have been working together to better understand the challenges before us, the changes our county needs, and how we can forge a new path forward for Mendocino County.

As the votes continue to be counted, and we look toward November, I hope we can have serious, honest, and respectful conversations about the future of District 3 and Mendocino County. I encourage voters to keep engaging in the process: Ask those of us running for office what we believe. Look at our track records to better understand how we lead, make decisions, work with others, and deliver results. Elections are not only about policy positions. They are also about judgment, trust, transparency, character, experience, and the record each candidate brings to the job.

I am eager to talk with all who are interested about the challenges and opportunities before us, I am ready for the work ahead, and I look forward to earning your vote.

Eric Hart, candidate for 3rd District Supervisor, Willits

Long Valley Health Center wins \$10,000 grant to build Patient Resource Center

Submitted by Long Valley Health Center

Laytonville – The Long Valley Health Center was awarded \$10,000 by 100+ Women Strong Inland Mendocino on May 21 to establish a Patient Resource Center equipped with showers, a washer, and a dryer for patients who lack basic hygiene access at home.

The Laytonville nonprofit's Medical Director, Dr. Jodi Parungao, presented to the giving circle — which pools donations from 100 or more local women to fund community grants — highlighting the clinic's Enhanced Care Management (ECM) program and its patients' unmet needs.

"Many of our ECM patients have no running water at home, no washer, and no safe place to shower," Parungao said. "Basic hygiene isn't a luxury for these patients — it is healthcare. It is dignity."

LVHC's ECM program, led by Lanette Gordon and a team of case managers, provides wraparound care to the clinic's highest-need patients — helping them navigate housing, food assistance, benefits, and recovery. Last year, 272 patients received ECM services, up from 3% to 10% of all patients over two years. In 2026, the program has already logged 1,238 visits with 162 patients, a 52% increase over the same period last year.

LVHC serves 3,023 patients annually in North-Central Mendocino County, 53% of whom are enrolled in Medi-Cal. The clinic's most common ECM referral diagnoses were low income, food insecurity, and housing instability. More than 15% of Mendocino County adults experience food insecurity, above the state average.

The clinic operates on a break-even budget with 18% of revenue from federal grants and 66% from Medi-Cal and state programs. Parungao said potential federal and state funding cuts make community support increasingly critical.

The ECM team applied for multiple grants to fund the resource center before receiving this award. "This belongs to our amazing case managers Lanette, Cindy, Taylor, Molly, Samantha, and Phil," Parungao said. "I am so privileged to work alongside them every day."

About Long Valley Health Center

Long Valley Health Center is a nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center in Laytonville, California, providing medical, dental, behavioral health, and other services to all residents of North-Central Mendocino County regardless of ability to pay. LVHC has served the community since 1978. For more information, visit www.longvalley.org.

Upcoming spay & neuter appointments available at Ukiah Shelter

Posted by Mendocino County Animal Care Services

We are gearing up for our next large-scale spay and neuter event with the help of Animal Balance and funding provided through the generous Margery Pfund Spay and Neuter donation recently made to Mendocino County. Together, we'll be able to provide spay and neuter services for another 200 community animals!

Please read this entire post carefully for important event details and registration information.

Event Dates & Location: July 31, August 1, and August 2 at the Ukiah Animal Shelter, 298 Plant Road, in Ukiah.

Appointment Fees: Dogs: \$125; Cats: \$75.

Payment is due at the time of booking and must be made by credit or debit card over the phone. Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable if you cancel or miss your appointment.

The fee includes:

- Spay/neuter surgery
- Any necessary vaccines
- Microchip

Multiple animals from the same household are welcome. Appointments are currently available to Mendocino County residents only.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Information: Animals will be dropped off early in the morning and picked up later that afternoon or early evening. Your pet will remain with us for the entire day, so please plan accordingly. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to accommodate owners waiting on-site during the procedure.

Event Restrictions: For this event, we cannot accept:

- Dogs over 90 pounds
- Brachycephalic (flat-faced) breeds, including Pugs, Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, and similar breeds
- Trapped feral cats

How to Schedule an Appointment: Please call 707-463-4782 to book.

Important: We expect a very high volume of calls. At times, the voicemail box may become full, and it may take one to two days for staff to return your call. Please be patient and avoid repeatedly calling the line.

Updates will be posted on this page when the voicemail box has been cleared. If you have not received a callback after an update is posted, please try calling again.

When leaving a voicemail, please:

- Speak clearly
- Leave your first and last name
- Provide a phone number where you can be reached
- Keep your message as brief as possible

If you were previously on a waitlist or called about a different event, you must still call and register for this event. While we do our best to contact those who have been waiting, appointments are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Calling now gives you the best chance of securing an available appointment.

We look forward to another successful weekend serving our community! Be sure to follow the "Mendocino County Animal Care Services" page on Facebook for updates and announcements regarding this event and future spay and neuter opportunities.

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Due to increasing food costs, dine-in and to-go meals are now \$9.

Thursday, June 11: Country Fried Steak

Friday, June 12: BBQ Beef Sandwich

Monday, June 15: Meat Loaf w/Sides

Tuesday, June 16: Italian Sub Sandwich

Wednesday, June 17: Egg Salad Sandwich

Thursday, June 18: Mushroom Chicken

Friday, June 19: Carnitas Burrito Wet w/Green Sauce

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 Joliana at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

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

The Senior Center is in need of volunteers to help with the many activities here at the center, including volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers. "Volunteers are one-third of our workforce, which allows us to offer many services to our members and community." To learn more about volunteering: 459-6826.



Above, from left: Softball and volleyball player Alexandra Ramos, left, wants to go into earth science at Cal Poly Humboldt. She sits with Dannyka Smith, who wants to eventually end up in a culinary arts program, as cooking is her passion. Rotary treasurer Tamara Alaniz congratulates Edgar Chavez after handing him his check from the Bill Carrillo Technical Scholarship. Taking separate paths after high school are Cecily Potter, at left, who will be attending Mendocino College next year and then go into a program to learn radiology; Kate Winter, center, who plans to attend UC Santa Barbara to study chemistry with an additional interest in economics; and Estrella Mendoza, right, who plans to study biology at UCLA in the fall. At right: Anthony Fuentes will attend Mendocino College next year on his way to becoming a registered nurse. At far right: Jesse Lopez told the scholarship luncheon attendees about his desire to go into nursing as his future profession. At right, below: Rotary President Cathie Gerhardt (Printess Cathie in her Rotary role) introduces the luncheon program after calling for announcements and happy-sad comments. At far right, below: Arion Martin is headed to Cal Poly Humboldt to gain a bachelor's degree in science and a minor in fire ecology. Below: Jesse Lopez, Alexandra Ramos, Dannyka Smith, Arion Martin, Estrella Mendoza, Kate Winter, Cecily Potter, and Anthony Fuentes enjoyed their pizza lunch at the Little Lake Firehouse. Not shown, Kadie Balthrop, Salisa Leon, and Edgar Chavez.



Photos by Mathew Caine

2026 Rotary Scholarships

Willits service club raised funds to help 12 local students with ongoing learning

Each year, the Willits Rotary Club awards scholarships to those graduating students who the scholarship committee feels exhibits the qualities of academics and character, as well as considering the students' continuing interests, preferably young adults who plan to return to Willits and contribute to the community. This year, 12 such individuals were honored with a pizza lunch in the open bays of the Little Lake Firehouse. In attendance, were the seniors, members of Rotary, members of the Willits Unified school board, Superintendent John Baker, and Councilmember Matthew Alaniz.

Head of Rotary's Scholarship Committee, Tara Moratti, introduced the scholarship recipients. "We want to congratulate each of you," she said. "We work every year to try to raise as much money as we can and to give 100 percent of that money away. Often, we either dip into the reserves or we ask other volunteers or supporters of our mission to donate to vocational scholarships, or academic scholarships. This year, we were really happy, even though the economy was challenging. The crab sale is how we raised our money this year. The cost of crab was a little bit higher, but we were really thrilled, we were able to give 10 \$1,000 scholarships this year for academics. Then, Jolene Carrillo has the Bill Carrillo Scholarship. That is a vocational scholarship that we give out," Moratti said.

"We had something else happen this year that was really nice that I want to share," she continued, thanking Carlos Swinney and new Rotarian Brie Adams [two of the owners of the Kids Corner] for letting Rotary continue to use their parking lot for the crab sale, and then offering to give \$500 to the scholarship fund. "We asked them to keep it in Willits Kids Corner's name and to be a part of the selection process.... Brie chose Salisa Leon, who unfortunately is not feeling well and couldn't be with us today."

Eric Hart, who has been leading the Willits High School Interact Club, spoke about the program, especially the contributions of Salisa Leon. "Interact Club is basically the high school version of Rotary. It is all about community service, creating leadership in youth. Salisa took a leadership role right off the bat. She was elected as president. Since then, she's led meetings every two weeks, throughout the school year. She led them through their project which is just now completing the first phase today. I'm on my way after this to go pick up the libraries that they had made in the woodshop class. These libraries are going to be for food and

books for the community. 'Feed the Body, Feed the Mind,' is the name of it."

Each of the young adults spoke briefly about their plans for school and aims in life, and answered a "surprise question," handed to them by Moratti. First up was Estrella Mendoza who is going to attend UCLA in September. "I plan to study biology. That's what interests me right now, with an emphasis on the molecular. I'll be taking the pre-med track over there, so I can get all my pre-requisites done," said Mendoza.

Kate Winter wants to go to UC Santa Barbara. "I'm going to be studying chemistry, but I'm also looking at economics and a business major. If I have an extra hour every day [reading her surprise question], how would you spend it? I think I need to get outside more. I spend a lot of time on my computer, doing schoolwork, unfortunately. If I had an extra hour, I would spend it outside. Sun is good for you."

Cecily Potter, like several of the graduates, wants to begin their post-high school academics at Mendocino College. "I want to go into the radiology program down at Santa Rosa JC," explained Potter. She advises future seniors to get their assignments in, in a timely manner. Dannyka Smith also will attend Mendocino College and then wishes to end up in a culinary program.

Multi-athlete Alexandra Ramos will be playing softball and volleyball at UCI [University of California, Irvine]. I'm going to get my first degree in earth science, and I want to transfer to Cal Poly Humboldt to major in GIS [geographic information systems] environmental conservation."

Jesse Lopez and Anthony Fuentes both want to go to Mendo College, in the nursing program, with Lopez wanting to go to Sacramento State to complete his education. Both want to help people by becoming nurses. Arion Martin is "going to Cal Poly Humboldt to hopefully get my bachelors in fire science and a minor in fire ecology, so one day I can work for CAL FIRE."

Edgar Chavez is the recipient of the Bill Carrillo Scholarship, granted to students who are going into technical vocational fields. Chavez explained: "My plan after graduation is to become an electrician. I plan on moving in August to Sacramento. I want to join the IBW out there, the local 340. I want to be a commercial electrician and work on big projects, big warehouses and the like. I'll be working with Eel River Electric sometime during the summer."

Scholarship recipient Kadie Balthrop was also not able to attend.



HIGHFLYERS 2X POINTS DAY
9:00 AM TO 9:00 PM ON MONDAYS

Top Earners will be drawn randomly for \$25 Free Play Seniors will receive a \$5 Free Play Bonus and receive 1 Entry into The Highflyers Drawing for \$300 Cash at 9:00 PM Earn 300 Points Receive 25% Off Meal.

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

Smoke-Free Gaming | 100 Kawi Pl Willits, CA | Open 24/7 Hours a Day | SVRCasino.com 707-459-7330

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.

Brooktrails part 2 coming next week

Note: Due to unforeseen circumstances the continuation of the May 26 Brooktrails board meeting story will appear in next week's June 18, 2026 edition.

Correction

In Willits Weekly's June 4 story, "WCC votes against looking at bike lanes, downtown circulation," Jennifer Poole's report of the vote on Item 9a was incorrect. The vote was 4 to 1 against, with Councilmember Bruce Burton voting in favor of the motion to set up an ad hoc committee to "Review Downtown Main Street Roadway Striping, Parking, and Circulation Configurations."

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

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!

FRIENDSHIP WORD SEARCH

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L	F	B	D	Y	P	U	V	O	N	O	I	T	C	E	N	N	O	C	L	

AFFECTION	EMPATHY	LOYALTY
BOND	FORGIVENESS	MEMORIES
CARING	FUN	RESPECT
COMFORT	HARMONY	SHARING
COMMUNICATION	HONESTY	SUPPORT
COMPANIONSHIP	KINDNESS	TOGETHERNESS
CONNECTION	LAUGHTER	TRUST
DEPENDABLE	LOVE	UNDERSTANDING

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49								50		51	52	53	54	55
56								57			58			
59								60						
62								63						

CLUES ACROSS

- Sealed with a kiss
- Large sandwich
- Swiss city
- Japanese persimmons
- When you hope to get somewhere
- Wings
- A name of God
- Elected official (informal)
- Abnormal breathing
- 'Seinfeld' character
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Something for sale
- Gets rid of
- One who touts
- Blemished
- Less than exciting
- Born of
- N. German town
- Notes
- Move away from land
- Vulcanite
- More ignoble
- Child actor Kirk
- Written works
- Sea vessel

- Residue
- Engraved
- Having sufficient skill
- One and only
- Erase
- Broad inlets
- Nightmarish street
- Play again
- Formerly (archaic)
- Add a color to change the color
- Move swiftly and lightly

CLUES DOWN

- Scottish island
- River in the Netherlands
- Asian people
- Fuzzy fruit
- Ninth month (abbr.)
- An idealistic social reformer
- What you owe
- Colorless mineral
- Overjoyed
- Rattling breaths
- Tropical Old World tree
- A citizen of Senegal

- Greek mythological beauty
- Wrath
- Instrument to measure wind speed
- Luxury carmaker
- Bitterly regret
- Not or
- Google certification
- Midway between northeast and east
- Space station
- Relating to the ears
- Congressman
- Yelled at
- Rudely assertive
- Defunct European money
- Shared one's soul
- Onion rolls
- A way to state clearly
- Relating to a lobe
- Underlying message
- Hollywood pig
- Indicates pitch
- Filament of a feather
- Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles
- Diminish

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

May 25 to May 31

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported 88 incidents in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 25

12:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

3:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of South Main Street.

5:44 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

May 26

1:28 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

8:01 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

8:18 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

10:58 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

2:46 pm: RUMBLE, Dylan James (26) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Oak Street. He was arrested on multiple felony and misdemeanor charges.

4:37 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of Brothers Lane and issued a citation.

May 27

8:46 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

11:19 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Baechtel Road and South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:22 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Humboldt Street and State Street and issued a warning.

12:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

2:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Commercial Street and North Main Street and issued a warning.

2:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:43 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Valley Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.

3:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a citation.

5:00 pm: TUCKER, Andy Blake (54) of Covelo was contacted near the intersection of Baechtel Road and East Hill Road. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges.

5:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Coast Street and issued a citation.

May 28

12:00 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:02 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:26 am: Officers conducted a stop in the

800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:15 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

3:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:29 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

4:40 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:05 pm: BUTTREY, Kenneth Wayne (68) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Monroe Street. He was arrested on multiple felony and misdemeanor charges.

6:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:30 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

May 29

1:23 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

3:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

4:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

May 30

11:01 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 24000 block of Birch Lane.

3:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

5:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a citation.

5:28 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of California Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:40 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:54 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

6:17 pm: GAYSKI JR., Benjamin J. (34) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue. He was arrested on multiple felony and misdemeanor charges.

7:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of Nancy Lane.

May 31

1:50 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:30 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:12 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

2:49 pm: GONZALES, Andrea Megan (40) of Albion was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on multiple misdemeanor charges.

6:46 pm: LOPES SR., Anthony Frank (56) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of North Main Street and Sherwood Road. He was arrested on multiple misdemeanor charges.

LOVE THIS PAPER?

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www.WillitsWeekly.com

Our P.O. BOX 1698 is always happy for envelopes! Mail us any amount direct!

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Chalk Creations

Happy kids drew colorful sidewalk art Saturday at the city's Clean Canvas event

Give a kid a variety of chalks and a sidewalk, and they will create something beautiful and deeply personal. The Bud Snider City Park, last Saturday, was a scene of creativity and information. The Willits City Planning and Building Department created a space for kids (and some adults) to explore what could be created given time, materials, and a place to work.

From 11 am to 3 pm on June 6, kids and their parents wandered into the park at the second annual Clean Canvas event. They were given bags and chalk and were invited to use their chalk to make art on the several sidewalks that crisscross the park. The results were some very sophisticated and skilled compositions, along with some pieces that were more simple but beautiful.

In the end, it was a competition, with the judges, Connor Stack of the Planning Department, Kristine Gonzales of C&S Waste Services, Monique Sonoquie, a Native artist, and a representative from Willits Weekly. Each was allowed to create a category for their selection.

The award for Best in Show was given to Natalie, who made a scene with a large sea fish and a message saying, "You Matter." The Best Whimsical Design was won by Indy, with a rainbow surrounded by butterflies. Aliyah won the Best Use of Sidewalk Medium award, blending her colors in, with the main subject being an orca, defined by the sidewalk itself. Best Blending was an effort by Sawyer, who opted to go for a design, with the colors subtly blended in a pleasing pattern. Most Eye Catching was a late entry by Gracie, with a stunning, colorful display of jellyfish.

Both Stack and Gonzales had tables at which the public could educate themselves about the Clean California grant project being utilized to beautify Willits and recycling and proper use of materials in order to reduce garbage and help keep the city clean.

"So far, we've done cleanups and awareness," Stack related. "We've had dump dates, which we've done on a regular basis ... two or three times a year. We've done a few community cleanups. You might have seen the two murals in Recreation Grove. Both of those are funded through the Clean California grant. In addition, I have some lists here that show that there are going to be some huge overhauls to Rec Grove, Babcock, and Bud Snider Parks, in terms of a series of tables and shade structures and new bathrooms and different pieces of artwork and picnic tables and chess tables and water re-filling stations, and other good stuff that will be done before the end of 2027."

Gonzales, representing C&S Waste Services, was there to educate participants on proper ways to recycle, how to redeem money by bringing in cans and bottles, and what materials to use to reduce waste. "We're giving out reusable items like these re-usable collapsible straws that are made out of stainless steel and come with little cleaners," explained Gonzalez. "You can put it on a keychain. We have coloring books about recycling. We have seed packets. This is a Ziplock bag because a lot of people use them for their lunches. They are a great option because they are reusable. You can rinse it out and keep using it instead of throwing it away. People can call and order the bags for free. <https://candswaste.com/>. We also have some fun stuff for the kids to do. We have crayons and garbage trucks. We have reusable water bottles."

Monique Sonoquie brought Native art, some utilizing reused materials, and some made from natural tule reeds. "On this table, I have items that are made out of natural materials," said Sonoquie. "I have tule. There's a tule mat and a tule basket, a tule duck, a bird. Tule grows by creeks and ponds and lakes. It's a reed. We dry it and make things out of it. What you're looking at is art by Nadia Whipple. She's a 16-year-old artist. She's Yuki. These posters are about the number '988'. We're targeting native youth, so if they know somebody who needs help, they can text or call 988 and talk to somebody. For counselling or somebody to just help them out in the moment."



At left: Amarah Potter tries her hand at subtle shading and nuanced pastels. Above: Natalie employed various chalk techniques for this design that won her Best in Show. Below, left: A visual presentation of the multiple factors of the Clean California Beautify Willits projects.



Above: Gracie works on her jellyfish designs that won the award for Most Eye Catching. At left: Aliyah won Best Use of Sidewalk Medium for this drawing of an orca. Below, from left: Monique Sonoquie brought recycled material baskets and other art objects made from tule reeds. Kristina Gonzales of C&S Waste Systems displays one of the reusable plastic sandwich bags that she was giving away at the event. Dusty Duley, head of Willits Planning and Building, with his daughter, Aurora. They both took the opportunity to try their own chalk designs at the Clean Canvas event. At bottom, from left: This rainbow with butterflies won the award for Best Whimsical Design. Drawing crafted by Indy. Judges Connor Stack of City of Willits Planning, Kristina Gonzales of C&S Waste Services, and Monique Sonoquie, who teaches arts and culture classes to indigenous youth, confer as they choose the winning chalk designs. Connor Stack of City of Willits Planning oversaw the chalk drawing competition and answered questions about the city's Clean California grant.

Photos by Mathew Caine



SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebilechurch.com

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

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:40 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:8:00 p.m.

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
• A University for Soul
• Spiritual Living Courses
• Spiritual Discussions
• ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

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

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

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

St. John Lutheran Church
Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
Facebook.com/stjohnswillits
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort where all are welcome
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook facebook willits umc

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



Thursday, June 11

Book Club at the Library: Come be a part of a welcoming community centered around the love of reading every 2nd Thursday of this month at 3:30 pm, Thursday, June 11 this month, at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. This club welcomes readers 18 and over to discuss notable books. Titles will be chosen during the meetings.

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, June 11 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, June 12

Magical Nathaniel at the Library: Nathaniel brings sleight of hand, comedy, and stage magic to the Willits Library, to kick off the Willits Branch Library Summer Reading Program. Friday, June 12, 3 to 4 pm. A free event for all ages. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 707-459-5908.

Art Talk: '3 American Artists': Willits Center for the Arts Art Talk this month is an engaging presentation on three defining voices of 20th century American art - Edward Hopper, Grant Wood, and Thomas Hart Benton. Presented by Gary Martin, M.A. Friday, June 12 at 6:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: willitscenterforthearts.org

Hella Mendocino at Shanachie: Reggae Fusion band with Psychedelic Rock, Hip-Hop, and Cumbia influences based in Norcal. Friday, June 12 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



Saturday, June 13

Thrift Store Clothing Extravaganza at the Senior Center: Come by on Saturday, June 13 from 11 am to 3 pm. All clothing items: \$1 each. Bring your own bags! Sale will take place in the Senior Center Dining Room, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Local All Star Showcase Game: Enjoy a great day of baseball at the Willits Little League Fields, 600 East Commercial Street, Saturday,

June 13. 24 Minors players, 24 Majors players. Minors play at 11 am, Majors play at 2:30 pm. Two 4-inning games for each. Snack Shack open all day long.

Library Story and Playtime at Rec Grove: Storytime in the Park set for Saturday, June 13 and Saturday, June 27 this month, 11 am to noon, at Rec Grove Park. Bring the kids for a story read by a librarian followed by fun outdoor games.

WCT's Black & White Gala: Willits Community Theatre hosts a beautiful summer evening under the stars at the annual Black & White Gala fundraiser, Saturday, June 13 from 5:30 to 10 pm at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits. Delicious food, hosted beer and wine, silent auction, live auction called by Mayor Tom Allman, music, dancing, celebration with a debut performance by dance band Mixed Bag. Guests encouraged to dress in your best black and white attire. Tickets are \$125 per person, or \$700 for a table of 6, \$900 for table of 8. More info / tickets at www.wctperformingartscenter.org

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. Saturday, June 13 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Monday, June 15

Willits Gem & Mineral Society at the Grange: the monthly meeting of the Willits Gem & Mineral Society is set for Monday, June 15 from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Meeting includes: planning for

and discussion on 1st annual Gem Show (July 11 and 12 at the Community Center); lapidary shop updates; Potluck; and Free Cool Rocks for all attendees. \$1 door prize raffle.

Wednesday, June 17

Willits Stamp Club: Monthly meeting at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Wednesday, June 17 this month, from 5 to 6 pm. Bring your collection, and enjoy an evening perusing stamps. Refreshments provided. More info: talsfam@pacific.net.

Thursday, June 18

Bit & A Bite at the Museum: Join the Friends of the Mendocino County

Museum for a casual lunchtime history talk by guest speaker Roy Pino, Nom.Laki and Koncow Tribal Member, on Thursday, June 18 at 12:30 pm. Pina will offer a storytelling session, "reflecting on a 5-generation family faith walk and history of the Round Valley United Methodist Church in Round Valley." All are welcome, admission by donation; with refreshments. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits. Also learn about volunteer opportunities.



Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, June 18 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 "Understanding Adult Autism," a free talk by therapist Erin Mendoza, MA, LMFT, on Thursday, June 18, from 6 to 7 pm, at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Mendoza is a late-identified autistic therapist who works with autistic teens and adults in Willits, and virtually throughout California. FREE to the public. Wheelchair accessible. More info: 456-9676.

Friday, June 19

Hometown Celebration on Main Street: Willits Frontier Days Hometown Celebration happens downtown on Friday, June 19 from 5 to 9 pm. A free community event featuring live Blues, Southern Rock, and Rock & Roll by the Double Standyrd band. Also, aerial silk artists Circus Mecca; balloon twisting and face painting by Tiffany's Family Circus; master henna artist Hilary Bocher, artisan vendors, local eats, climbing wall, mechanical bull, and bounce house. Family-friendly fun for all!

Hillshaker at Shanachie: Clay Hawkins and Andrew Robertson bring rapid-fire fingerstyle slide guitar and honest, heartfelt songwriting to create a unique brand of acoustic rock on Friday, June 19 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



Saturday, June 20
Ned LeDoux Country Concert:
Willits Frontier Days is proud to welcome back county star Ned LeDoux for a live concert at the rodeo grounds on Saturday, June 20, gates open at 5 pm, show starts at 6 pm, with special guest opener Buck Ford. Tickets are \$40 each and are available from the Sweethearts, at the gate, or online at www.WillitsFrontierDays.com.

Punk on the Patio at Whistlestop: Tommy G presents a punk rock show on the patio at the Whistle Stop Cafe, Saturday, June 20, 3 to 7 pm. Featured bands: Splynter, Tangled Ends, and Friends Anonymous. \$15 all ages. 280 East Commercial Street, Willits.

Starlight Lounge Poetry Reading at WCT: Ukiah poet William Jabez Churchill reads as part of the Starlight Lounge Poetry Reading series at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, on Saturday, June 20 at 7 pm. Churchill, a longtime California Poet in the Schools, "is a multi-cultural and multi-lingual poet who writes equally well in English and in Spanish. He describes himself as an 'activist, single dad and grandfather, instructor in Spanish and French at Santa Rosa, Mendocino and Woodland community colleges.'" Admission to Starlight Lounge Poetry Reading is by donation, but no one turned away for lack of funds.

Sellassie at Shanachie: Conscious Hip-Hop artist, social justice activist, and event producer out of the Bay Area.

Saturday, June 20 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, June 21 Happy Father's Day & First Day of Summer!

Sip and Paint Brunch at WCA: Join Sandy Strong on Sunday, June 21 from 1 to 4 pm for a Sip and Paint Brunch at Willits Center for the Arts in the Great Room. Create a floral watercolor painting while being guided by Sandy's extensive experience in the medium. All levels welcome. The \$75 fee includes all materials and a brunch catered by Scoops with delicious mimosas to drink. Register at www.willitscenterforthearts.org

TOMMY G. PRESENTS
PUNK ON THE PATIO
SATURDAY JUNE 20 2026
featuring **3-7PM**
\$15 ALL AGES
SPLYNTER
TANGLED ENDS
FRIENDS ANONYMOUS
THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE
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Erin Mendoza, MA, LMFT

Understanding Adult Autism Thurs. June 18, 6-7pm

As awareness grows about the many ways autism can present, more adults are beginning to wonder whether an autism diagnosis might explain lifelong struggles that other mental health diagnoses never fully captured. Being identified as autistic in adulthood can bring a sense of clarity, increased self-understanding and self-acceptance. It can also open the door to support and accommodations that might make life feel less overwhelming and more aligned with who they truly are. Please join us to learn more about the ways being correctly identified as autistic can help reduce burnout, increase joy, and help autistic adults thrive.

Erin Mendoza, MA, LMFT, is a late-identified autistic therapist who works with autistic teens and adults in Willits, and virtually throughout California. Erin also provides Autism and ADHD assessments for adults. Outside of work, Erin's special interests include singing, raven, and gardening.

Call 456-9676 for more information.
Email: erin@erinsanderson.com
Visit: erinadownwellness.org

Explore the DSM criteria for autism and how these traits may appear in adults who "mask" or don't fit the stereotypical presentation of autism

- Learn common alternative diagnoses and how they can miss autism
- Discuss the benefits of being identified as autistic

WILLITS Center for the Arts
71 E Commercial St.
FREE to the public.
Donations appreciated
Wheelchair accessible.

Willits Community Theatre Presents
A poetry reading featuring
Bill Churchill
Saturday, June 20
7 p.m.
Open Reading to follow
Willits Community Theatre • 37 W. Van Lane
Donation Requested, but no one turned away due to lack of funds

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

"The Breadwinner"

The Story: Family comedy that feels like it's straight out of some Fifties TV sitcom series. Nate Wilcox (Nate Bargatze) is a successful car salesman. But then, he becomes a stay-at-home dad when his creative wife Katie Wilcox (Mandy Moore) gets a great job opportunity. She invented an oddly useful object for children about which everyone at the Shark Tank TV show seemed excited. (Though I was never quite sure what that plastic starfish actually did, but that's not really an issue as far as this flick is concerned.)

So, what happens is Nate along with his three daughters is such a slapstick moron as a housekeeper that he manages to completely destroy the house. Let me repeat that: he literally mismanages his charge so badly that he destroys the actual family house, inside and out. For a comedy, that's a rather dark outcome. I'm quite baffled that the filmmakers think that we movie-goers will laugh at the destruction of a family home. Nate and Katie and their three girls are homeless. Crkey!

My Thoughts: This is why I disliked "Breadwinners." In this flick there is a preachy and outrageous moral take-away. This take-away is embedded in the narrative. It goes like this: When a woman leaves the house and her righteous duties as a wife and mother, she destroys the family. "Breadwinners" asserts that nobody forced Katie

Wilcox to get married, nor to have three daughters; but when she did get married, she had a sworn duty to her family. When she defied that promise and went to work away from the home, she actually destroyed the home. That's the assertive, and quite dark moral rumination this flick wants us all to find funny. Not me! Gack!!!

Plus: I'm dismayed at one more story from Hollywood that insults men and manhood. Cheap-shots at "Daddy" are wearisome. Plus such flicks are cliches. That noted: read my dismissive advice to Willits parents.

Parents: Despite my own deeply felt misgivings about the flick, there's probably no lasting harm for your kids in portraying a father as an idiot.

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

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.mendolibrary.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; Closed Sunday and Monday.

Lunch at the Library: The Willits Branch Library offers a free lunch for all youth 18 and under this summer, followed by a fun activity, Tuesdays through Fridays from noon to 1 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 707-459-5908.

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

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Wednesdays, 2 to 4 pm, in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe."

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!

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.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE
ARTS
Art Adventures
Summer Art Camp
3 FREE Weekly Classes * Mon-Thurs 10am-1pm
Ages 7-11-Trained Teachers & High School Youth Mentors

Laura Wiecek: MAKE A BOOK: Write, illustrate & bind a book using drawing, weaving, collage, and pop-up originals.

Cierra Bakewell: PUPPETS: Create tabletop puppets using felt & mixed media, then bring them to life through storytelling.

Pearl Maril: CRAFTING: Mini-sculptures, jewelry, beaded boxes, decorated caps, & more!

Week 1: 6/15-18 Create A Book!
Week 2: 6/22-25 The World of Tabletop Puppets
Week 3: 7/6-9 Creative Crafting

Limited Availability - Lots of Creativity!
Register at the Front Desk Fridays-Sundays at 71 E. Commercial St. from 11am-5pm, or Online at willitscenterforthearts.org
One class per child as space allows

American Legion Beer Wagon Raffle

American Legion Post 174 offers its annual Beer Wagon Raffle, funding the post's Boys and Girls State and High School Scholarships. Enter to win an all-terrain Radio Flyer Wagon loaded with craft beer, with secondary winners receiving the overflow Tickets \$10 each / 3 for \$25. 21+ to participate. On sale June 13, Drawing July 4. Contact a Post Legionnaire for tickets, mail a check to American Legion Post 174, PO Box 836, Willits CA 95490, or call Roger at 707-456-9858 or Kennedy at 707-327-9372 for assistance.

A Bit and A Bite
History at the Mendocino County Museum
Join us for a Trains and Tourism talk led by Director Richard Fries of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society (NWPRRHS). Enjoy a lively discussion about early passenger trains and their role promoting Redwood Empire Tourism. Special ephemera and unique photographs will be shared. Enjoy an afternoon filled with good company, conversation and waffles!

WILLITS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
1st ANNUAL GEM SHOW
@ THE COMMUNITY CENTER
33 EAST COMMERCIAL STREET, WILLITS, CA
SATURDAY 7/II & SUNDAY 7/12
10AM-6PM
PRESENTATIONS ON LOCAL GEOLOGY & CRYSTAL HEALING
CRYSTALS & MINERALS JEWELRY BEADS & CABS
SNACKS PROVIDED BY SPOOPS SPIES

SUNDAY HISTORY & WAFFLE CLUB
LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH 2:00 P.M.
Join us for a Trains and Tourism talk led by Director Richard Fries of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society (NWPRRHS). Enjoy a lively discussion about early passenger trains and their role promoting Redwood Empire Tourism. Special ephemera and unique photographs will be shared. Enjoy an afternoon filled with good company, conversation and waffles!

WILLITS COUNTY MUSEUM
400 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490 | (707) 234-0366
www.mendocinocounty.gov
Museum: Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12 - 4 p.m.
"Willits Van Show"

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.

OBSESSION
(R) 1H 48min
Fri: 4:00, 7:00
Sat/Sun: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
Wed/Thurs: 4:00, 7:00
Showtimes: June 12 to June 18

DELUXE THEATRE BACKROOMS
(R) 1H 45min
Fri: 4:15, 7:15
Sat/Sun: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15
Wed/Thurs: 4:15, 7:15
Closed Monday/Tuesday

DISCLOSURE DAY
(PG13) 2H 25min
Fri: 3:45, 6:45
Sat/Sun: 12:45, 3:45, 6:45
Wed/Thurs: 3:45, 6:45
Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.

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

Willits Giant Yard Sale
261 Franklin Ave.
Bring a wagon to carry all the treasure you will find!
Multiple units participating.
SATURDAY, JUNE 20 from 8 am to 2 pm



Above, from left: A great easy-to-grow addition to the hot-weather garden is amaranth. Use it as a gluten-free grain, a hot-weather green, or as an ornamental. At 5' tall, *Feracita* amaranth makes a great backdrop for shorter flowers, or an intermediate-level bloom with tall sunflowers. Commonwealth pickling cucumber is a variety selected for mildew resistance, great flavor, and perfect size for pickling. Most lettuce won't stand up to heat, but local heirloom *Bronze Arrow* has been selected for bolt-resistance. Plant in afternoon shade or use shade cloth. Photo by Kalan Redwood. *Corn* is a summer treat that's always better home-grown. Bred for the West Coast, *Tuxana* is easy to grow here and yields large creamy ears filled all the way to the tip. Cornflowers, aka bachelor's buttons, are a fast and easy edible flower that self-sows, feeds pollinators, often overwinters in Willits, and is a perfect clear blue.



At left, from top: Ever heard of a *carosello*? They are delicious Italian cucumbers that grow extra fast and have no bitterness or digestive problems, because they are actually a melon. They're still rare in the U.S., but are perfect for our Mediterranean climate in Willits. Dry beans are an easy way to grow a full winter's meals in a small space. *King City Pink* is a California heirloom adapted to our climate and available only at quailseeds.com in Willits. What could be more refreshing in summer than a melon from the garden? Now that the soil is warm, you can just stick seeds into well-composted soil and let them grow. This is the *Eel River Melon*, a local heirloom. Snap beans can be green, yellow, purple, or striped, on plants that range from short bush varieties to tall vines. *Dragon Tongue* is a great-tasting striped variety that's too tender and juicy to ship to markets – you have to grow it.

At right, from top: Dwarf cosmos "Glowing Embers Mix" is so fast-growing you can even sow seeds in August and get blooms before frost. Eggplant loves hot weather, and the long skinny types are all ready to put on the grill just like a hot dog! You can still get locally grown eggplant starts ready to plant. Zinnias are an easy way to get big, colorful flowers without fuss. Just sow in garden soil and keep moist. They come in a range of heights and colors, attract butterflies and last a long time in a vase. If you're looking for heat-resistant greens, or for an edible ornamental, or for flowers that bloom all summer, *Jewels of Opar* fits all three! Photo courtesy of Southern Exposure Seed Exchange.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

June: Starting summer right

Now that the weather is set to get hot, everything speeds up in the garden. The hopeful little seedlings planted in a burst of spring enthusiasm can quickly become too dry, too weedy, too stressed, or too darn much work. June sets the pattern for the summer, so it's worth some thought and tinkering to get things set for a summer garden that saves you money, saves time and aggravation, and adds joy to your life.

How can you set things up to stay fresh and productive? First, keep planting. Don't make it all about fun and plans in May and nothing but weeding thereafter. Many crops will produce for a week or two and then quit. If you want bush green beans, sweet corn, lettuce, carrots or greens all summer, be sure to replant every couple of weeks until midsummer. Even cucumbers and zucchini, which do keep producing, get tired by late summer and could do with a July replant. So keep clearing and using spaces as things finish or become less productive.

You can keep planting new items too. The soil is just now getting warm enough for melons, eggplants, okra, basil, cucumbers, and even peppers. Now is a great time to add some new items that make the garden more varied, more interesting, more beautiful, or more fun. Melons do especially well here, since they come from dry climates like ours. Okra takes no more time to grow from seed than lettuce.

Variety is the best safeguard against pests – and especially a variety of flowers and herbs. I like to plant some in every row, and every tub. Zinnias, coreopsis, cosmos, cornflowers, marigolds, and sunflowers all grow fast from seed sown directly in the garden now. Dill, cilantro, chervil, savory, dragonhead, and the many flavors of basil are all annual herbs that fit easily among your other plants. Together, herbs and flowers give a garden the momentum

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

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

it needs to be more self-sustaining, more productive, and a more pleasant place to be.

Next, give your plants what they really need – not what you assume they need. Many people assume the gardener's job is to provide nutrients and get rid of pests. But in my experience, what really keeps plants from yielding well is crowding. It's easy when seedlings are small to put them too close together. It's easy to let weeds proliferate, especially when days are hot and busy. But you'll get more food from a very small patch where plants are the right distance apart and weeds are hoed out regularly than you will from a space twice as big where crops have to fight to stay alive.

Give your plants the space they need to thrive:

1. Thin carrots, lettuce and other small seedlings to recommended spacing.
2. Larger plants that are too close can be transplanted further apart now.
3. Use a stirrup hoe or cultivator regularly to erase weed seedlings

while they're less than an inch tall. (It takes only a minute or two.)

4. Concentrate especially on the crops most affected by weeds/crowding: beans, corn, carrots, and the cabbage family.

Finally, every Californian knows that without water your garden will die. Fewer people notice the signs that plants are thirsty and stressed. (Then they wonder why their plants don't yield well.) Watch out for yellowing that starts at the edges of the leaf and works toward the middle. Nutrient deficiencies commonly cause yellowing between the veins. Water deficiency (and potassium deficiency, which prevents the plant from taking up water) will appear first as a gold or yellow rim around the older leaves.

Prevent drought stress with mulch, with regular watering suited to your soil type and the temperature, and with enough space for each plant to avoid competition for water. Use spacings at least as wide as the seed packet suggests – further apart if you plan to water less often – and remember that weeds have more efficient roots than your crops do. If weeds are there, they will get the water first.

Of course you want to use water

efficiently, and most gardeners will want a drip system for water that's focused, economical, easy, and reliable even when you're gone. But it's worth having small bits of open water in your garden too.

The other day, I took my lunch outside and sat quietly where I could see much of the garden. There was a shallow pan of water nearby, and I watched as birds came to drink and to bathe. They splashed and twisted and flapped until every feather was rinsed. Then they flew to a branch and combed them with their beak, grooming themselves like cats do until everything was smooth, clean, and in place.

We keep shallow pans of water for the frogs and toads that eat so many pests, from aphids to grasshoppers. The butterflies that add so much magic to our garden need not only nectar, but water and shelter as well. Water and shade nourish life – wildlife, the soil's life, and our own life.

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

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



Above: Wyatt Klee, left, won a \$1,000 gift certificate which was donated by Les Schwab Tire Center. Sherwood Valley Casino donated two gaming consoles: a PlayStation 5, won by Kevin Pulido Perez, center; and an Xbox, won by Nichole Poor, right.

Photos by Sober Grad

the fall as incoming freshmen and were excited about their coming years at Willits High School.

All Willits Unified School District high school graduates, including Willits Charter high school graduates, were welcomed to the annual Sober Grad event, held at the Willits Charter School on Thursday, June 4.

The event is free for all graduates to attend, and, if they stay the whole time until 4 am when the event closes, they're eligible for a whole host of amazing prizes and winnings.

"Willits Sober Grad is thrilled to have awarded over \$25,000 in cash and prizes to the class of 2026," said Sober Grad's Carrie Lambert. "A big HUGE thank you to the sponsors, donors and volunteers who make this special night possible!! Congratulations 2026!"

Attendees were able to come check in between 9 pm and 11 pm (when gates officially closed) and bring a pre-approved guest. They were welcomed in with a commemorative T-shirt and coat-check bag where they could stash their

belongings and winnings. During the event, pizza, nachos, snacks, fancy drinks, and sweets were all offered to keep sustenance levels high, and a bevy of activities awaited the celebrating grads.

Some highlights included the drunk goggles and trikes track; the Velcro wall; the cornhole tournament; carnival games; poker room; Polaroid photo booth; henna tattoos; live music, and more.

Over the night, names were called to win prizes galore which included everything from TVs, coffee makers, air fryers, cookware, coolers, record players, cameras, headphones, fishing rods, insulated water cups, portable speakers, and so much more.

Each year, the party is planned for the graduating class, if you would like to help and volunteer with the next event, email willitssobergrad@gmail.com

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
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LEGAL NOTICES

WW611
NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code.
The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 13th day of June, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK SOUTH 1788 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:
John Doe B19 Santa Ramirez-Calderon F46
Laura Douglas I12 Scott Stanton F36
Lauretta Long B18 Scott Stanton A02
Robert Piggott D38 Tracy Vetzmedian D08
The goods are described as: Furniture, misc totes, grow supplies, exercise equipment.
Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.
Glen Green Bond-#70784656 (707) 459-4628
Publication Dates: June 4 and 11, 2026

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WW612
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The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 13th day of June, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., or immediately following the GLENMARK SOUTH auction, on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK NORTH 395 North Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:
Kevin Frez 464 Sierra Simarro 149
Benjamin Lewis 603 Jacob Smith 275
Kolton Linde Carnes 135 Jorge Toste 227
Kasandra McCormick 466 Scott White 336
Kathleen Nelson 613 Phillip Winters 503
Thomas Perrault 159
The goods are described as: Tools, guitars, furniture, auto parts, camping gear, misc totes/boxes.
Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.
Glen Green Bond • #70784656 • (707) 459-4628
Publication Dates: June 4 and 11, 2026

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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



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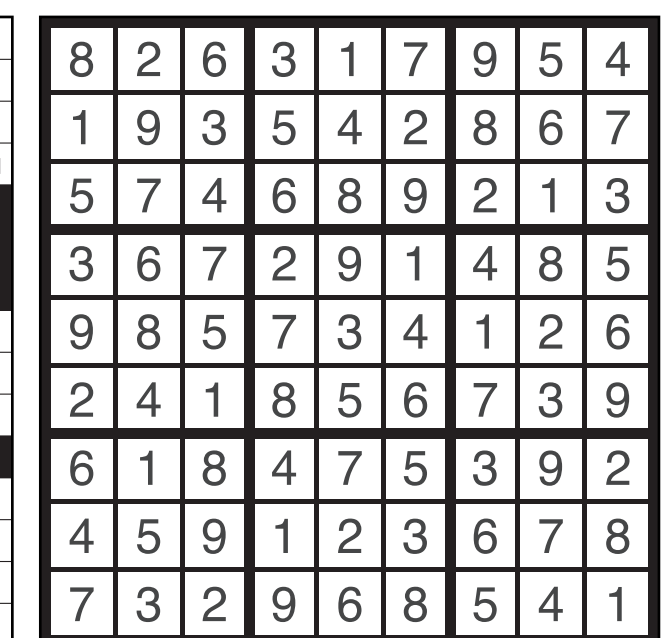
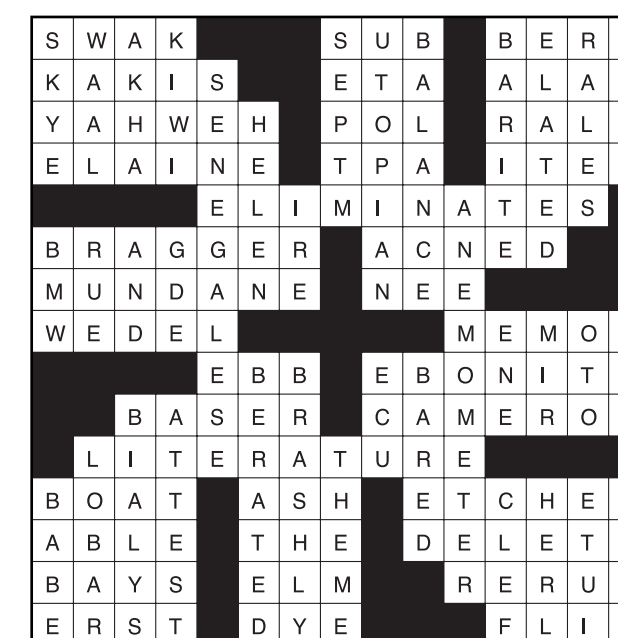
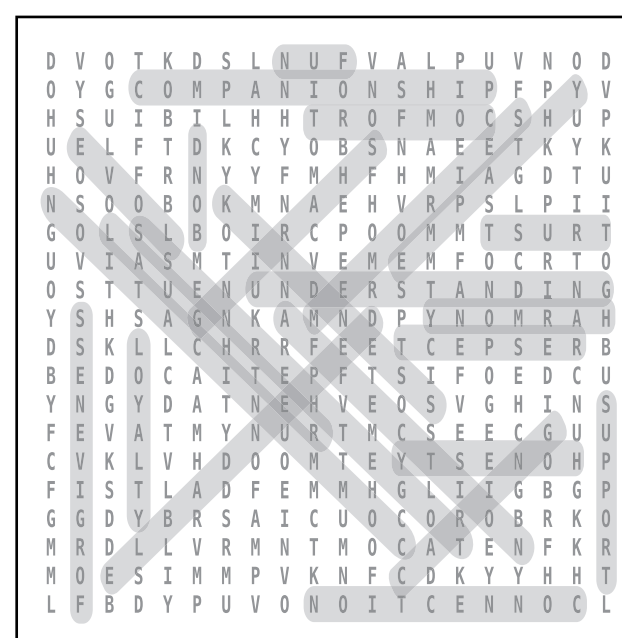
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Walk in with questions. Walk out with confidence.

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Museum seeks submissions on cannabis history for traveling exhibit

Submitted by Mendocino County Museum

The Mendocino County Museum is partnering with Exhibit Envoy, a nonprofit that creates and travels exhibits for educational organizations across California and beyond, along with collaboration from the Cannabis Culture Museum, HappyDay Farms, and our greater community to create a homegrown exhibit. This exhibit will empower new audiences to reflect and learn about the culture of cannabis in Northern California from 1970 to 2016.

Help document cannabis history: From the 1970s to legalization in 2016, cannabis has been an integral yet veiled part of life in Mendocino County and Northern California, with complex stories and histories largely undocumented. Members of our communities have memories, perspectives, and experiences that can strengthen our understanding of this unique political, economic, and cultural legacy that marked our region.

Your story matters. your perspective matters. We invite you to share your experience!

The Mendocino County Museum invites you to contribute your personal stories as a powerful way to document and preserve history. Your collaboration will enhance this exhibit on cannabis, people, and all aspects of its influence in Northern California. The museum will be the stewards of these unique stories and make them available to all, now and into the future.

Follow the link Cannabis Submission to add your own story or submit via the link posted on the Mendocino County Museum website: www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/museum

The Mendocino County Museum welcomes additional objects and photographs that you believe will help narrate the story. If you wish to donate such objects, please contact Museum Curator at museum@mendocinocounty.gov. Donation forms are available for material culture.

For more information, please visit www.mendocinocounty.org/museum or contact the Mendocino County Museum at (707) 234-6365 or museum@mendocinocounty.gov.

HELP DOCUMENT CANNABIS HISTORY!

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

Mendocino County Museum is partnering with:
Exhibit Envoy
Cannabis Culture Museum
HappyDay Farms

**YOUR STORY MATTERS.
YOUR PERSPECTIVE MATTERS.
WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!**

The Mendocino County Museum invites you to contribute your personal stories as a powerful way to document and preserve history.

Your collaboration will enhance our understanding of cannabis, people, and all aspects of its influence in Northern California.

The Museum will steward these unique stories and make them available to all, now and into the future.

MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM
"Telling Our Story"
400 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490 | (707) 234-6365
museum@mendocinocounty.gov | www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum
Open Wed - Sat 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 12 - 4 p.m.

EXHIBIT ENVOY

¿NECESITAS ESPAÑOL?



Willits High School art teacher Carolyn Bakewell with her WHS ceramics students. Front row, from left: Carina Trujillo-Senteno, Amelia Franco, Carolyn Bakewell, Leah Blakely, Hux Dukeshier, Lidia Ramirez, Yamile Vieyra, Kaden Hurst, and Aliciana Davila. Back row, from left: Daniel Tinoco, Aidan Cornell, Brian Bowles, Quinn Jensen, Yessica Gonzalez, and Ava Arkelian.

Photo by Elizabeth Raybee

WHS ceramics class creates collaborative 'Love Mural'

Submitted by Carolyn Bakewell, chair, WHS Visual & Performing Arts

Dear friends and art lovers: We finished our "Love Mural" just in the nick of time!

More than 50 student ceramic artists at Willits High School created handmade tiles for the border and mosaic hearts that are embedded throughout the project.

Along the way, they learned the ancient art of mosaic and had the incredible opportunity to work with world-renowned mosaic artist Elizabeth Raybee.

This collaborative project was made possible through a GASP - Get Arts in the Schools Program - grant and the Willits High School Visual Arts Program.

We are so proud of the creativity, dedication, and teamwork that brought this beautiful mural to life! Blessings to all and happy summer!

BE THE ANTIDOTE

"If you are seeking, seek us with joy
For we live in the kingdom of joy.
Do not give your heart to anything else
But to the love of those who are clear joy.
Do not stray into the neighborhood of despair.
For there are hopes: they are real, they exist -
Do not go in the direction of darkness -
I tell you: suns exist."

-Jalāl al-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī-

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Be the Antidote - Willits
btheantidote@gmail.com

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Learn more at AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org

Adventist Health
Howard Memorial