

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Free - but donations accepted

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Edition No. 6

New political group

forms to weigh in on Brooktrails issues

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Eight Brooktrails residents gathered at the home of John and Yvonne Wagenet for the first meeting of the Brooktrails Community Alliance.

While Wagenet declined to characterize the political group as being either progressive or conservative, several opponents of the Willits bypass attended the meeting.

Wagenet said the group's goal is "to support some candidates with a new vision, a fresh vision, for Brooktrails."

"We hope to have three candidates willing to run in the next election," Wagenet said.

Wagenet also cited the continuing state of antagonism between Brooktrails and the City of Willits as an issue that needs to be addressed.

"Brooktrails and Willits," he said, "need to work together as partners, rather than adversaries."

And he feels Brooktrails

Read the rest of
Brooktrails
Over on Page 11

Eel River Forum explores the Potter Valley Project

Members of agencies and those with interest in Eel River water, agriculture or salmon habitat, gathered at Howard Forest for the Eel River Forum's latest meeting last month.

The meeting spot, CalFire's training room at Howard Forest, is a lecture hall-like setting among fire trucks, barracks and Douglas fir timber south of Willits at the Ridgewood grade summit on Highway 101.

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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Through talks and computer presentations, forum speakers explained the Potter Valley Project through their areas of expertise.

The Potter Valley Project is the name given to a series of early 20th century developments, beginning with Lake Pillsbury in the Mendocino National Forest, and the Van Arsdale dam further downstream – a diversion point for water piped through a mountain tunnel to a small Potter Valley hydroelectric powerhouse.

PG&E operates a system of powerhouses in the state. Alvin Thoma, director of hydro licensing for PG&E, says the system includes 68 powerhouses generating about 4,000 megawatts of electrical power. Potter Valley generates about 9 megawatts.

"It is really a huge infrastructure, with miles and miles of tunnels and canals that most people are not aware of," Thoma said.

Cape Horn Dam, finished in 1908, has a fish ladder, and it has been improved over the years. "The fish ladder was part of the original construction at Cape Horn Dam, so there was thought at that time to help fish passage beyond the dam," Thoma said.

"Lake Pillsbury is the project storage reservoir,"

Read the rest of
Eel River
Over on Page 9



Above: Some of the "advanced" students at the Roots Railroad Operations Class, left to right, Chuck Jones, Jimmy Booth, Shane Grupp, Don Ford and Keith Ronney



Above: Instructors Tyler Phillips, left, and Glen Ford discuss the finer elements of flag rules in the classroom portion of the class

Below: Shane Grupp stands next to some of the ROOTS equipment

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



Honing their ROOTS

Operations and safety class completed last weekend

Roots of Motive Power conducted its annual Railroad Operations and Safety Class on Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2, at the Roots facility in Willits. The class is a requirement for engineers, firemen, conductors and brakemen who operate trains for the Willits group.

Chris Baldo
Contributing Writer

The course consisted of classroom sessions in the mornings and a hands-on training with the Roots diesel and steam locomotives in the afternoon. The morning sessions focused on applicable portions of the General Code of Operating Rules, the operating rules that have been adopted by nearly every railroad in the United States.

The afternoon sessions were split into a "beginning" class and an "advanced" class. The beginning class focused on

Read the rest of
Roots
Over on Page 4

City will take part in new vehicle abatement program

Zack Cinek
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The Willits City Council has approved a resolution to participate in a revived abandoned vehicle abatement program, moving county efforts to restart the project forward.

Willits' participation was OK'd at the council's last meeting, as one of a group of routine items on the city's consent calendar approved by a single council vote.

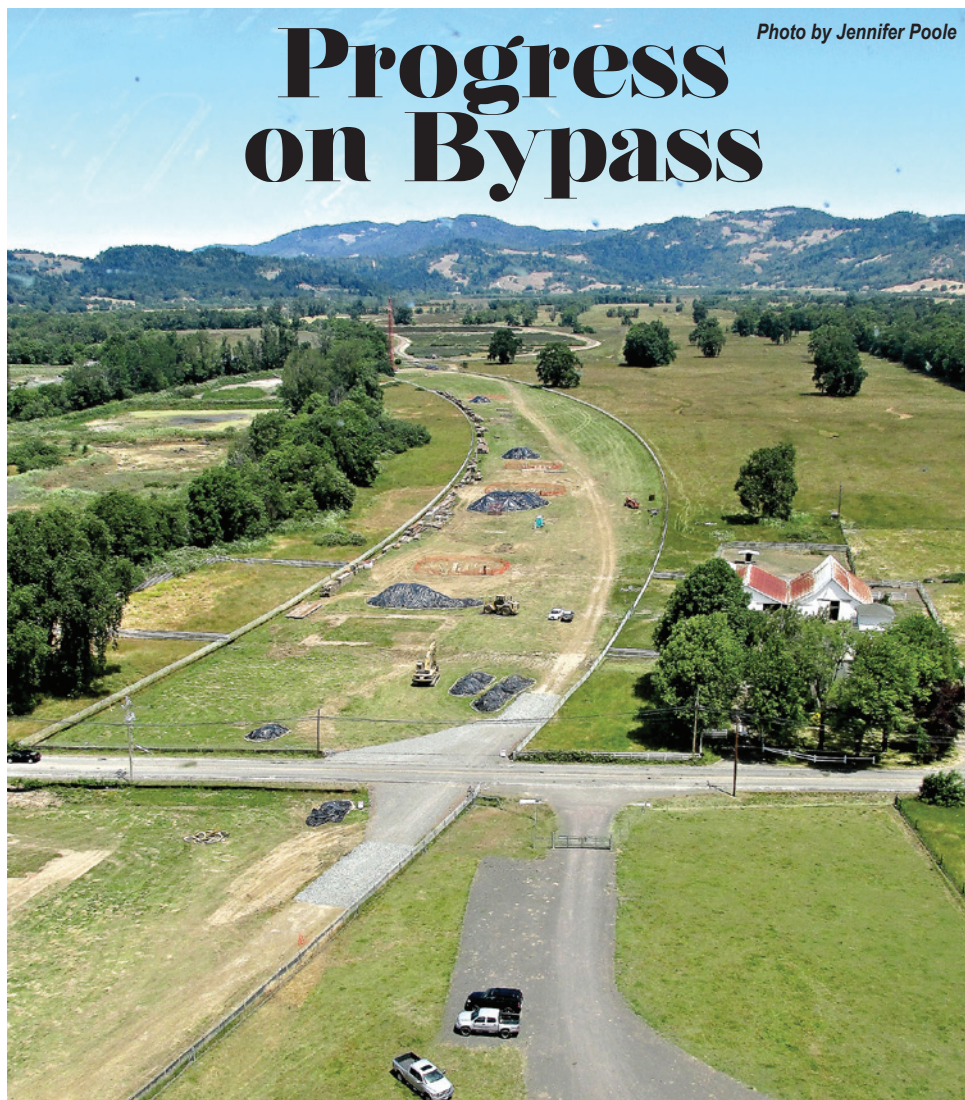
County Code Enforcement Officer Ryan Pelleriti said the next move is to obtain a hard copy of the agreement and submit it to the California Highway Patrol for approval.

CHP will then approve restarting the program and begin collecting \$1 for every vehicle registered in Mendocino County.

The county's abatement program has removed nearly 17,500 vehicles from public and private property since it started in 1992.

The Willits Police Department hopes to get some money back for time it has spent abating abandoned vehicles around town.

Read the rest of
Abatement
Over on Page 11



Progress on Bypass

Photo by Jennifer Poole

Caltrans contractors continue to make progress on the Willits bypass project, as these aerial photos taken Saturday morning show

The long shot above looking north up the Little Lake Valley shows the wide swathe

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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of the bypass footprint passing to the left of the historic Coleman ranch, off Commercial Street, just west of Bray Road, the former home of silent era Western movie star Don Coleman.

The large oval/rectangular holes in the footprint are some of the test pile-driving sites. The tall red piledriver can be seen towards the top of the footprint curve in this picture. The black tarps are covering up

Read the rest of
Bypass
Over on Page 11

Orth cleared on conflict charge

FPPC rules on Orth conflict

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Brooktrails Director Tony Orth does not have a conflict of interest when the Brooktrails Board of Directors is considering items having to do with the Willits bypass, the state's Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has ruled.

Brooktrails resident Richard Weinkle on April 1 had requested an opinion from the commission on whether Orth had a conflict of interest. Weinkle's request stemmed from his observation that Orth's wife, Janet, works for Dow and Associates, the company that provides staffing services to the Mendocino Council of Governments, a Mendocino County joint powers authority that has directed some \$33 million in state transportation funding to the bypass project. Weinkle reasoned that Janet Orth, and therefore Tony Orth, stood to gain financially if the \$215 million bypass was built.

Read the rest of
Orth
Over on Page 9

Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits

Mendo Film Fest & Russian singers

Mendocino Film Festival

The 8th Annual Mendocino Film Festival had its grand opening this year in Willits, which was the first time a Willits venue was included. After a reception in the Willits Center for the Arts, the Noyo Theater was packed on Thursday night for the special showing of “A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet.”

From there the festival moved back to the coast for the entire weekend. Some Willits folks went over the hill to participate in viewing some of the extraordinary films which were being presented. “A Fierce Cold Wind” was blowing on the coast all weekend, but that did not diminish the power of the films we viewed, such as “The Intouchables,” a wonderfully touching and hilarious French film; “Ai Weiwei, Never Sorry,” a documentary about China’s most famous dissident artist and his incredible art; and Buster Keaton’s riotous silent film “The General,” with The Alloy Orchestra providing live music to accompany it.

Russian Men’s Ensemble

The St. Petersburg Men’s Ensemble from Russia performed on Sunday last weekend to an almost full house at the Willits United Methodist Church. This quartet produces the true Russian tone color with the real thing, a totally Russian bass and baritone quality that is unique to their style of singing. With their close harmony, perfect intonation, and varied dynamic levels ranging from the softest to thunderously powerful, the audience was held in rapt attention.

The first half of the evening was classical, with the men in formal attire singing mostly sacred music from composers such as Rachmaninoff, Dvorak and Mozart. After the refreshment break, the singers came back in folk costume and sang from the best-loved Russian folk music repertoire, including “The Volga Boatmen,” “Moscow Nights” and “Kalinika.” This was top-notch, world-class music of the highest quality that we were truly gifted to hear locally.

Tamara Adams of Emandal Farm hosted the Russian men during their Willits stay, and the Methodist Church folks as well as the entire audience were invited to Emandal for a potluck dinner on Monday evening to further interact with the musicians.



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Right: Mason County Logging #7 comes out of the hanger

Below right: Roots of Motive Power Trainmaster Mike Meyer, in the engineer's seat of Simpson Timber Company #600, a 1950 vintage Alco S-3 diesel electric

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



The rest of Roots | From Page 1

safely coupling and uncoupling freight cars, perhaps the most dangerous element of the railroad profession.

The advanced group worked with the Roots steam locomotive, Mason County Logging #7, conducting a number of switching scenarios. The afternoon session Sunday utilized all the learned skills of the weekend to create a nine-car train, led by two locomotives, the Mason County #7 steam locomotive, and the Simpson Timber Company #600, an Alco diesel electric.

Part of the focus of the group is the opportunity to take Mason County Logging #7 to the Niles Canyon Railway in Sunol, in 2014 for a huge rail fair event. The skills required to pull heavy passenger equipment on steep mountain grades need to be developed with years of practice. New brakemen and conductors are the firemen and engineers of the future.

The annual Railroad Operations class is a critical element in the continued safe operation of the Roots railroad.

Below: The “beginning” students and instructors at the Roots Railroad Operations Class training with a “consist” of Simpson Timber Company equipment. Left to right: Dave Sheber, Lee Bryant, Mike Meyer, Michael Hammang, Chris Baldo, Ric Martin, Kent Hinton, Glen Ford and Jeff Bradley

Photo by Maureen Moore

Still time to sign up for the 2013 Hometown Celebration

The 6th annual Willits Frontier Days Hometown Celebration is still signing up vendors and performers, as well as local businesses that want to have tables at the Thursday, June 27 downtown event.

“We’re really looking to promote our local businesses and entertainers,” said Lynn Kennelly of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the twice-a-year Hometown Celebrations: “Our bands, our jugglers, our Willits Shakespeare performers.”

Local businesses can provide information only – “They don’t have to sell anything,” Kennelly said – or they can have activities. “I think Imagination Station is going to do a dunk tank,” she said. Saprina Rodriguez confirmed her preschool and childcare center was doing a “Dunk the teacher” tank, with teachers from Imagination Station, “as well as any school district teacher who wants to be dunked,” she said. “I think it will be a great time.”

Local downtown businesses stay open late for these celebrations, with many offering special discounts and sales from 5 to 9 pm. Event activities include live music, the famous prize wheel at the Chamber of Commerce booth, as well as food and other vendor booths and business tables.

To have a booth or to register your downtown business as a store-front participant, download forms at the Willits Chamber of Commerce’s website, www.willits.org: choose the “Event” tab, then click “Willits Events,” then scroll down to “Local First Hometown Celebration.” Info: 459-7910.

New WCA nonprofit needs board members

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails and the greater Willits area are invited to contact WCA to set up an initial interview.

The directors will be serving two-year terms on the five-member board, with the founding board starting as soon as possible. “Being on a founding board is hard work,” Crawford said, “so members need to be willing to devote considerable time and energy to the organization.” Those interested should send their name and contact information to willitscenterforhearts@gmail.com or call Crawford at 707-291-0084.

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Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



The 64th annual Willits Horsemen’s Playday was a success, as attendees came to enjoy the beef barbecue, watch the rodeo events and to see the association’s new arena and grandstands.

J&M Sheetmetal won the raffle for the beautiful chicken coop made by Don Arms – the prize also included four chickens to get things started, donated by Annette Pinon.

Many hungry patrons showed up for the beef barbecue preceding the rodeo events, and the group even ran out of Dan Pinon and Doug Goss’ famous cowboy beans. Diners chatted with friends and enjoyed the great crowd and the great weather in the shade of the clubhouse.

Eight rodeo events were showcased for the full-bellied crowd to watch: Girls Breakaway Roping, the Hide Race, Steer Stopping, Goat Tying, Ribbon Roping, Team Roping, Barrel Racing and Chute Dogging.



Above top: The meat line; above: Justin Ball waits for his third pickup on the hide; above right: Doug Goss serves up beans

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BBQ & Playday

Dennis in second, Kelly Fonsen in third, and Mark Lucchetti in fourth.

First place went to Riata King in Goat Tying, followed by Sara Caldwell in second. Mark Lucchetti won the Ribbon Roping event, followed by Kelly Fonsen in second, Anthony McKerny in third and Walt Niesen in fourth.

In the Team Roping event, the winning team was Mark Lucchetti and Ron Hogenstead, second place went to Jim Bean and John Weiss, third place went to Mark Lucchetti and Keith Thornton, and fourth place went to Walt Niesen and Ron Hogenstead.

Sarah Caldwell won the Barrel Racing event, followed by Emily Leishman in second, Riata King in third and Libby Edgar in fourth. Kelly Fonsen won the Chute Dogging event, followed by Colter King in second.

All-Around titles went to Sara Caldwell for the cowgirls. There was a tie for the cowboys between Mark Lucchetti and Kelly Fonsen, and since only one set of spurs were allotted for both the All-Around winners, Kelly graciously stepped back and gave Mark the prize. One spur each for a cowboy really didn’t seem to make much sense.

Sponsors for the All-Around awards were Adam’s Tire, Sparetime Supply, Garman Construction and Little Lake Auto Parts.

A morning roping event was also held for cash prizes; High Money Header was Randy Luginbill, and High Money Heeler was Dave Mahoney.

If you missed this annual event, make sure to come by next year, and keep your eyes out in future editions of Willits Weekly for other Willits Horsemen events throughout the year.

Top left: Sara Caldwell throws a loop at a steer; top right above: Walt Niesen heads down the arena with the hide; top right below: Sweetheart contestants Casey Persico (left) and Lila Lamkin (right) pose with 2012 winner Rachel Belvin (center)



Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

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Congratulations Column

GRADS EDITION

Analyssa Nunez

CLASS OF 2013



Willits High School Graduate: Analyssa Nunez

Analyssa Marie Nunez, I am so proud of you and all of your accomplishments. You have proved that no matter what life throws at you if you want something and strive for it you can achieve it. You are an amazing young mother, sister, best friend and daughter. We love you and can’t wait to see you start the next chapter in your life at SCC. Love you, Mom, Jesus, Alex and Arianna

Willits Charter School Grads: Tauna, Miranda, Ellie & Carisma

Congratulations on Graduating to your Four Favorites! Tauna, Miranda, Ellie and Carisma - You Girls Rock!!! Remember, even when you live far apart you share a lot of the same great memories and will always find common ground when your paths cross again. Lots of Love From Ellie’s Mom, Erica

Tauna, Miranda, Ellie & Carisma

CLASS OF 2013




Willits Charter School Grads: Tyler & Camryn

Congratulations to Tyler Vesey & Camryn Christensen. They will be graduating the 8th grade from Baechtel Grove Middle School on Wednesday, June 12, at 6 pm at WHS. We are so proud of the 2 of you and you have the best 4 years to come. Have a great summer and we love you both. Love-Mom & Dad (Eldon & Kristin Miller)

Tyler & Camryn

BGMS CLASS OF 2013



Baechtel Grove Middle School Grads: Tyler & Camryn

Congratulations to Tyler Vesey & Camryn Christensen. They will be graduating the 8th grade from Baechtel Grove Middle School on Wednesday, June 12, at 6 pm at WHS. We are so proud of the 2 of you and you have the best 4 years to come. Have a great summer and we love you both. Love-Mom & Dad (Eldon & Kristin Miller)

New Dental Assistant

Brie Jones



New Dental Assistant: Brie Jones

On May 30, my baby girl graduated from the Mendocino County Office of Education’s Dental Assistant program. She worked through a knee injury to complete over 600 hours of training which included 128 hours of externship at a periodontal office in Ukiah where she is now employed. Good Job Brie, I’m so very proud of you! – Rich Venturi, father, pictured above with Brie

New Baby

Orion Schindel



Orion August Schindel. Born May 29, 2013, weighing 7lb 5oz. He is welcomed by his parents Malakai & Kaylyn Schindel and big sister, Elvia of Willits, Grandparents Greg & Donna Schindel of Willits and Keith & Mary Kyle of Scio, OR.

Furry Friends

Hoping for a home



Nelly

Nelly is a young cattle dog mix. She is tan and white, with cute Dumbo ears and gloves. She is smart and ingratiates herself with all who meet her. Nelly would make a terrific companion. She is spayed, current on her vaccinations and ready for love! Nelly is a great dog in search of a good home; might that home be yours?

Nelly is available for adoption from the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. The Humane Society is open Wednesday through Friday, from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Info: 707-485-0123 or www.mendohumaneociety.com

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Thursday, June 6

Circus Workshops: by ClownSnotBombs, a non-profit community circus troupe from Berkeley. Today from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Little Lake Grange. Clowning, basic acrobatics, stilt walking, unicycle and juggling for all ages and skill levels. \$20 per person; \$10 each for families. Today from 4:30 to 5:30 pm and from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, aerial/silks classes at the Willits Gymnastics Center. \$15 a class. Parade from the Grange to the Farmers Market at City Park today starting at 2 pm. Call Zeynep at 707-972-8558 for info and to register. More info about ClownSnotBombs: www.clownsnotbombs.com. See Friday, June 7 listing for more info about the circus show.

Shanachie Pub: an evening of "Distractionation" from Will Cameron, solo acoustic/electric originals and covers. 6 pm. No cover. Visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crbs2nERGKl>

Friday, June 7

Redwood Run: annual motorcycle run and camp-out in Piercy kicks off today; see article on this page for details.

"A Spaghetti Western": all new and original circus show by ClownSnotBombs from Berkeley at the Willits Shakespeare Company Tent, 1195 S. Main St. Followed by music by The Jaunting Martyrs. Today and Saturday, from 7 to 10 pm. "A Spaghetti Western" is a circus adventure into the absurd that follows a band of travelers as they bring the power of pasta to the western frontier, featuring acrobatics, comedy, performance art, physical theater, circus skills, and original music. The Jaunting Martyrs is a Bay Area cross-genre band "that sounds like an eastern European circus on a folky Appalachian holiday." All ages show is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets available at the door or at Paradise Juice.



"A Spaghetti Western"

Saturday, June 8

87th annual Little Lake Firefighters' Association's Fundraiser & Open House: from 10 am to 2 pm at the Little Lake Fire District Main Station, 74 East Commercial Street. Firehouse tours by uniformed volunteer firefighters, fire apparatus on display, rides in restored antique fire engines, big raffle prizes (\$10 a raffle ticket), and the announcement of the winner of the Little Lake Fire Protection District's logo design contest. Bring your children! Light lunch available at the Firehouse. Register to participate in the district's Smoke Detector Program.

Save the Date

Summer Reading Program Kick-Off, June 20, Willits Library

Staged reading of "Copenhagen," June 19 & 23, Willits Community Theatre

Willits Hometown Celebration, June 27, downtown

Ongoing Events

Farmers Market at City Park: Every Thursday from 3 to 6 pm. Spring vegetables from area farmers plus live music, garden starts, flowers, crafts, baked goods, dinner and other edibles.

Water Aerobics at Willits City Pool: June schedule: Classes at 11 am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and at 6:15 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Pool located at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Info: Shawna at 459-7125 (message phone) or 459-5778 (pool phone).

"Throwing the Bones": June exhibition at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Recent paintings by artist-painter Peter Onstad. Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday, 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 pm. Through June 30.

The Rules:

CALENDAR LISTINGS

Calendar Listings: Willits Weekly is pleased to publish calendar listings and promotional articles for Willits events and activities. Each week's deadline is end of day Monday for Thursday's edition.

Please send calendar listings and press releases via email: willitsweekly@gmail.com. Email us the electronic versions of posters or flyers you've made to publicize your event, too. Calendar listings, press releases and flyers may also be mailed to: Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits 95490, but email is preferred.

Make sure to include a contact name and phone number. If you're sending a digital photograph you'd like us to use in the paper, a high-resolution photo is best.

WELL's 1st annual Bicycle Show and Parade: Bike Show starts at 10 am at City Park. Prizes awarded at 11 am: \$80 prize for Best in Show; also Best Beater Bike, Best Family Bike, Best Utility Bike, Best BMX/Low-rider Bike, Best Art Bike, Best Street/Road Bike, Best Kid's Bike. Parade starts at 11:30 am. Creative entries encouraged, but "ordinary" bike riders welcome in the parade, too. Free advice and help on bike maintenance.



Some of the cast members in "Horton Hears A Who"

Photo by Angela Greystar

"Horton Hears A Who": A bi-lingual "Seussical musical for all ages," presented in American Sign Language and spoken English. Featuring a cast of 40+, ranging from ages 2 to 13. Actors from the Willits Young Actors Theater, The Willits Magical Movement Company, and the TinyTot Theater ASL All-Stars. Today and Sunday at 1 pm, at the Willits Shakespeare Company Tent, Highway 101 across from Howard Hospital. Gates open at noon. Tickets \$10; \$20 for families; seniors and kids under 7 are \$5. Tickets available in advance at Goods' Shoppe or at the gate (past shows have all sold out). Pre-show activities: face painting, food vendors, games and contests. Info: 707 354-2475.

Becoming One with Your Inner Drum: 1 to 3 pm at Willits Community Theatre. Pan-Global drumming workshop with six-time Grammy award nominee, percussionist Will Clipman of Coyote Jump. Bring a favorite drum and/or other percussion instruction; for all ages and skill levels. Tickets \$15, available at Goods' Shoppe and online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/382022>, or by phone 707-459-0895 with credit card.



Coyote Jump in Concert: 8 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. An evening of World Chamber Fusion music drawing on classical, jazz, folk-pop and tribal influences. "Coyote Jump features the multi-instrumentalism of pianist, guitarist and composer Colin Farish, with the sumptuous strings of violin virtuoso Savannah Jo Lack, and the pan-global grooves of master percussionist Will Clipman, in a sound that defies easy categorization.... The trio can soar from whisper-quiet passages of exquisite delicacy to high-energy, foot-stomping, aisle-filling

trance-dance rave-ups – sometimes in the space of one song!" More info: http://www.willits theatre.org/coyote_jump.htm. Tickets, \$15, at Goods' Shoppe and online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/382022>, or by phone 459-0895 with credit card.

Shanachie Pub: The Mixed Nuts, from the Mendocino coast, playing swing, Latin, lounge, calypso, jazz, and Tex-Mex for dancing and "a seriously goofy good time." 8 pm. No cover.

"Shedding Light on Mental Illness": free Saturday classes at the Willits Library, 2 to 4 pm. Today: "Exploring Bipolar Disorder" and Saturday, June 15: "Exploring Schizophrenia." 1-hour video of people with the illness talking about their experience, followed by a discussion plus handout of information and resources. Taught by Sonya Nesch, author of "Advocating for Someone with a Mental Illness." Info: 707-937-3339.

Sunday, June 9

15th Annual Phoenix Hospice Golf Tournament: Hosted by Willits Rotary at the Brooktrails Golf Course to benefit Phoenix Hospice. Check-in is at 8 am; shotgun start at 9 am. Many prizes, silent auction and tri-tip barbecue by Si's Grill. \$45 golf course members; \$65 non-members. Info and to sign up, call Brooktrails Golf Course at 459-6761 or Tammy Long at 480-993-5755.

Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am. Every 2nd Sunday at the Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs (any style), bacon, sausage, or ham, orange juice, coffee. \$6 members; \$7 non-members; under 12, \$5.

"Traffic, Tourists, Taxes, and Main Street": How Will the Caltrans Bypass Change Willits? 12:30 pm at Little Lake Grange. Panelists Holly Madrigal, Richard Willoughby, Christopher Martin and David Patch, moderated by Sheriff Tom Allman. Panelists and community discussion about the changes that the bypass may effect on: traffic congestion, city and county revenues, downtown businesses, and the economy of Willits. Free.



Photo by Jay Gordon



Redwood Run 2013

Photos of 2012 event courtesy Redwood Run Facebook

It's run time again! Friday, June 7 kicks off Redwood Run 2013. So, get ready Willits. There will be a proliferation of motorcycles hitting town starting on Thursday, June 6, with the early-bird riders, and increasing through the day on Friday, June 7. You'll probably hear 'em before you see 'em, especially the Harleys!

The Kiwanis Redwood Run began in 1977. Back in those days The Run was held at French's Camp, in Humboldt County, just across the northern border of Mendocino County. The Run has evolved through the years and is now being held at the Riverview Ranch in Piercy. The location is semi-secluded and features three days of camping, live music, biker games, swimming in the South Fork of the Eel River, and shows ... including my favorite, the Wet T-Shirt Contest.

This year's run proves to be one with great

fun and potential. A fantastic lineup of bands is scheduled to begin playing on Friday at 10 am, with Royalush, and continues on into the wee morning hours. Saturday, music starts at 8 am, with the band Lowfill, and ends with The Fried Brothers taking the stage at 12:30 am.

This is a camping rally, so the best place to stay is at the rally! Motorcycles are the only vehicles allowed in the gate, so camping is tent-only and pretty much whatever you can carry on your bike. There is limited parking for 4-wheel vehicles outside the gates and very limited parking for RVs, because this is a motorcycle rally! The only restrictions are no carry-in alcohol, pets, fires, firearms, fireworks or attitudes. Oh yeah, and no one under 21 years of age.... This is definitely adult entertainment, with plenty of alcohol booths up and running.

Directions to The Run are simple: From Willits, head north on Highway 101 and take the Piercy off-ramp. Hang a left at the stop sign, ride under the freeway, and you will be greeted with coned-

off lanes leading you to The Run entrance. Tickets are \$120 each. The ticket booth is located near the entrance and will be open on Thursday, June 6 from 9 am to 9 pm. Ticket sales at the booth are cash only. The Run gates will open officially at 6 am, Friday, June 7.

There is something for everyone at the Redwood Run. That is unless you don't like motorcycles, great music, beautiful women, beer & cocktails, good food, tons of vendors with great merchandise, or just being in one of the most beautiful areas of California having a fun time with great people. Proceeds from The Run go to local child assistance organizations in Garberville and Humboldt County.

And as always, please be especially careful this weekend while driving on Highways 1, 20, and 101. These are the main routes taken by the bikers. And there are going to be thousands on their way to Piercy from every direction of the compass!

For full schedule and more info, check www.kiwanisrwr.com.



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"Horton Hears A Who": see Saturday, June 8 listing for details.

Monday June 10

Ice Cream Social: 2:30 to 3:30 pm. "Bring your friends and family for ice cream, pie, games, and entertainment at the Harrah Senior Center." Every 2nd Monday of the month. 1501 Baechtel Road. \$1 members; \$2 for non-members.

Willits Community Alliance: 6:30 pm at the Willits Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial Street. After a number of meetings featuring speakers, this meeting focuses on "finding good candidates to run for City Council in future elections," including hearing from potential candidates and gathering suggestions for candidates to run. Info: Jed Diamond at 459-5505 or Jed@MenAlive.com.

Tuesday, June 11

Shanachie Pub: solo performer Josh Dobrusin. 6 pm. No Cover.

Textile Skill Sharing at the Grange: 7 to 9 pm, "Sewing Machines and Sergers" with mentor Betty Walker. How to use a serger: threading it, setting it up, and more. Bring in that slightly "off" sewing machine you don't use (plus foot pedal and manual if you have it), and let Betty take a look to get you sewing. Skill Sharings every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Donations appreciated. Call 459-6362 for more info about the Grange's Textile and Craft "Maker" Studio or to get full summer schedule by email.

Thursday, June 13

Shanachie Pub: 8 pm. Open jam format, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, featuring a variety of jazz musicians.

Sober Grad party:

9:30 pm at Willits Community Center

until 5 am Friday. All high school graduates in Willits are invited, as are chaperones, to volunteer for one two-hour shift or more. Help with set-up, decoration and clean-up is also needed, as are donations of drinks or finger foods that can be dropped off at the Community Center today/tonight. To volunteer: call Joyce (489-8377) or Linda (459-6201) or email willitssobergrad@gmail.com.

"Traffic, Tourists, Taxes and Main Street" How Will the Bypass Change Willits?

Little Lake Grange hosts the second educational forum/discussion about the Caltrans bypass on Sunday, June 9, at 12:30 pm at 291 School Street. Free. Sponsored by Save Our Little Lake Valley. The first bypass forum, focusing on wick drains, on Sunday, April 28, drew about 125 attendees.

Four panelists are scheduled for the first half of the program: Mayor Holly Madrigal, Richard Willoughby, Christopher Martin and David Patch.

Sheriff Tom Allman will moderate the second half of the event: questions & answers, and community discussion about important issues that will affect everyone in the Willits community.

Some of the topics to be discussed will include:

- What is the design of the bypass, and how will it affect our local traffic congestion?
- Will there be corporate development at the interchanges?
- What changes may there be for tourism, the businesses downtown, and our local economy?
- How will this affect city revenues needed to maintain Main Street?
- Will our taxes be affected?

Willits High School

Class of 2003's

10-year reunion weekend: June 14-16

Open invitation to the **bar crawl on Friday, June 14** with specials at local bars for the event.

Potluck lunch at Rec Grove on Saturday, June 15 starting around 1 pm. Music, food and fun for the kids. Planners also hope to coordinate a football game. That night, the alum will have the opportunity to make dinner plans with their close friends and catch up at local restaurants if desired.

River float on Sunday, June 16. Meeting time around noon. At Trout Creek campground, located about 10 miles west of Lake Pillsbury on the Eel River. Coolers will be available for drinks.



Friday, June 14

Willits Community Drum Circle: 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

Saturday, June 15

Walking Tour of Ridgewood Ranch: Home of Seabiscuit. 9:30 to noon. Docent led tours \$20; children under 11 free. Tours are twice a month through October. Info/reservations: 459-5992; seabiscuit@instawave.net, or www.seabiscuitheritage.org/tourschedule.php.

Tour of Ecology Action Research Garden: 10 am to noon. \$10. A brief introduction to GROW BIOINTENSIVE® sustainable mini-farming, including a tour of the research Mini-Farm garden in Willits. Info/pre-registration: www.growbiointensive.org/events_main.html or 459-0150.

Dog License Amnesty & Rabies Clinic: All dogs over 4 months of age are required by Mendocino County to have a current rabies vaccine and have a dog license. Get your dog legal at today's 1-day dog license amnesty program at the county's Ukiah Shelter at 298 Plant Road. License fee: \$25 for altered dogs; \$55 for non-altered dogs. Rabies clinic (for dogs and cats) 10 am to 2 pm; \$6. Micro-chipping: \$10. Info: 463-4427.

Sunday, June 16

Relay For Life Benefit Parking Lot Sale: at Gavel Down Sales, 1611 South Main Street. Donate an item: 459-1300; all proceeds go to benefit Willits' 2nd annual Relay for Life event, set for July 27 & 28 at the Rec Grove. To get involved in the local Relay For Life (which just announced its 31st team, from Howard Memorial Hospital), check out the "Relay For Life of Willits, Ca" Facebook page or register at http://main.acevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=49170

Graduation ceremonies for local schools



Alternative Schools

Sanhedrin High School / New Horizons / Community Day School

12th Grade: June 11 at 6 pm at WHS auditorium

Baechtel Grove Middle School

8th Grade: June 12 at 6 pm at WHS' Maize Field

Blosser Lane Elementary

5th Grade: June 12 from 2 - 3 pm at school

Brookside Elementary School

Kindergarten: June 13 at 10:45 am in own classrooms

LaVida Charter School

8th & 12th Grades: June 6 at 6:30 pm at school

Sherwood School

Kindergarten: June 11 at 1 pm at school

5th Grade: June 12 at 1 pm at school

Willits Charter School

8th Grade: June 6 at 5:30 pm at Community Center

12th Grade: June 7 at 5:30 at Community Center

Willits Elementary Charter School

5th Grade: June 13 at 5:30 pm at Rec Grove

Willits High School

12th Grade: June 13 at 6:30 pm at Maize Field

FFA Banquet

Main Fundraiser for Willits FFA tomorrow night

The annual Future Farmers of America Banquet will be held at the Willits High School Cafeteria tomorrow at 7 pm. FFA Advisor Becky Bowlds invites the community to come, enjoy a home-cooked meal, watch the installation of the new FFA officers, and help raise money for the chapter by bidding on tasty treats at the dessert auction.

"You don't have to have a student in FFA," noted Bowlds. "EVERYONE is welcome to attend and enjoy the event. We would love to see the community, FFA alumni, family and friends all show up and support the chapter."

The dessert auction is the main source of income for the FFA, which uses monies for attending field days, state and local fairs, leadership conferences and much more.

Bowlds asks anyone interested in attending to please RSVP to 292-5156 to help with food quantity. The event is free to attend.



Art Eck in front of the red sports car (always with the American flag) that he drove in the 4th of July parade for years. The numbers on his State of California POW license plate (below) were the last four numbers of his German-issued prisoner of war ID



Photos by Franklin Darrell Deuel

Remembering Art Eck

“The “Old Geezer” Art Eck left this world Wednesday May 29, 2013. He lived and

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

loved in the Willits community for the last twenty years. He was always active sharing his P.O.W. experiences and writing his “rantings” on politics and other issues. He will be missed by many of us. He is survived by his son, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.”

That is the obituary written by Eck’s family (thank you to his grandson, Alex Eck, for providing it), which also invited the community to come to a “post everlasting” service and party to celebrate Eck’s life at the American Legion Hall last Saturday. A post everlasting is a military service unique to the American Legion – “a very moving ceremony done with style and grace” – said Carol Deuel, a longtime friend of Art’s, along with her husband, Franklin Darrell Deuel.

But Art being Art, laughter filled the hall at moments, along with tears. “Art was so funny,” Deuel said. “He was still conscious when he was admitted to the

hospital – he was admitted in his dress blues – and he told the doctor a joke, a silly little joke.”

The Deuels enjoyed what they called “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” with Eck every Sunday morning for many years: “Most people know ‘Tiffany’s’ as McDonald’s,” Deuel laughed. Some Sundays they might enjoy breakfast at “Tiffany’s South” – generally known as Taco Bell.

The service included a two-page eulogy written by Eck himself, with many funny or moving moments. One excerpt, describing himself: “He wrote members of Congress, the President, numerous government officials, several foreign officials, and many local officials quite often. He was probably a thorn in their posteriors, because he suggested where and why they were, in his opinion, ‘cockeyed,’ and he suggested solutions. These writings have been assembled into ‘Rantings by Art.’ One copy is available at the American Legion Post 174.”

Eck also wrote his war memoirs, “The Cost of Freedom,” for the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project. The Art Eck page, including handwritten memoirs, images and a picture of Eck as a young soldier, can be found here: <http://lweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlhb.afc2001001.01779/>

Eck was born in Homestead, Oklahoma, and was married to his soulmate, Bonnie, for more than 55 years before she passed away on December 29, 2000.

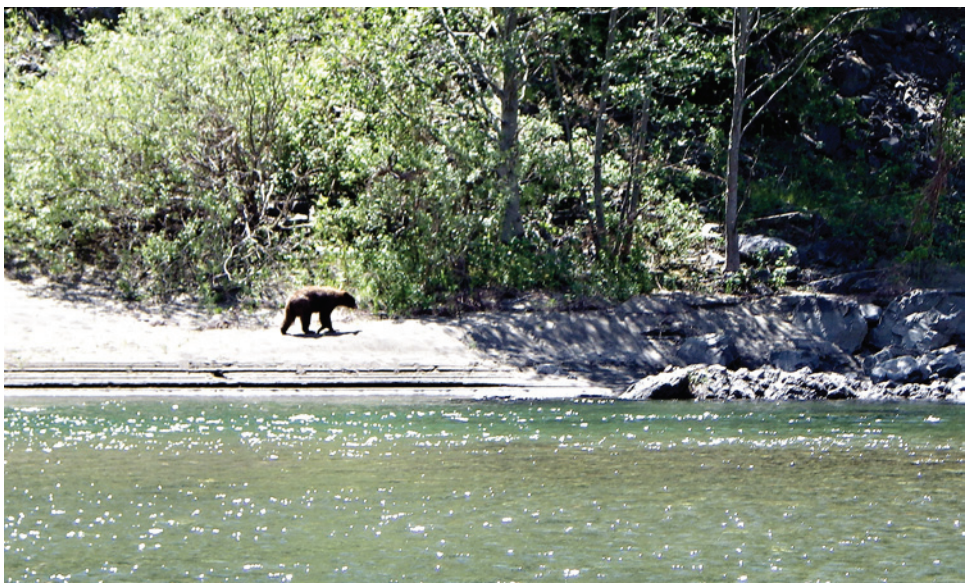
The beginning of Eck’s eulogy, which was read at his service last weekend:

“When my feet and legs can no longer propel me the mile each day I walk my dog, rain or shine; when my arms can no longer hug the ladies; when my hands can no longer pet, scratch or stroke my dog; when my taste buds can no longer enjoy a barbecued ribeye steak or a sip of wine to cleanse my palate; when my nose can no longer enjoy a lady’s perfume or a blossom; when my eyes can no longer focus on the curves of a lady’s legs or marvel at the fluorescent feathers, flaming reds and greens, of the hummingbirds at my feeder, or drink in the ever-changing forms of cumulus clouds against a bright sky or the splashing beauty of sunsets; when my ears can no longer excite my brain at the sound of Tommy Emmanuel’s guitar, probably the world’s best guitarist, or the trumpet of Wynton Marsalis, probably the world’s best jazz trumpeter; and when my remains have been placed in a Folger’s coffee can, to match those of my soulmate of 55 years, four months and 28 days, which are in a Folger’s coffee can, then no one, absolutely no one should be the least bit sad.”

No lions or tigers, but Bears! Oh My!

Photo by Debbie Boone-Harry

Debbie Boone-Harry of Willits spent May 1 up at the Eel River, swimming, sunbathing, and enjoying the peace and quiet. She was startled, however, by the arrival of an unexpected guest across the river: the brown bear shown in this photo. The bear wandered around and “munched on berries and twigs” for an hour before slowly moving away up the hill. “Every now and then the bear would turn and look right at me,” Boone-Harry said. “He wasn’t the biggest bear I’ve ever seen, but I was very glad he stayed on the other side of the river!”





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Times for 5/31-6/13

FAST & FURIOUS 6

(PG13)
Runs: 2 hr. 10 min

Fri: 6:00, 8:45
Sat-Sun: 12, 2:45, 5:45, 8:45
Mon-Thurs: 6:00, 8:45

AFTER EARTH

(PG13)
Runs: 1 hr. 40 min

Fri: 7:00, 9:15
Sat-Sun: 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
Mon-Thurs: 7:00, 9:15

THE INTERSHIP

(PG13)
Runs: 1 hr. 59 min

Fri: 6:20, 9:00
Sat-Sun: 1:00, 3:45, 6:20, 9:00
Mon-Thurs: 6:20 - 9:00

MAN OF STEEL

in 3D on Friday, 6/14

57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-NOVO (6696) www.novoytheatre.com

Help the Skunk Train Get Up and Running Again



A collapsed tunnel a few miles east of Fort Bragg has stopped the Skunk Train in its tracks. With equipment stranded west of the tunnel, trains aren't running out of Willits either. The Skunk Train has started a "Save Our Skunk" crowd-funding campaign on the GoFundMe website to help raise the \$300,000 needed to clear the tunnel.

"The Skunk Train is facing a crisis, and so is our city and county if the train stops running!"

—Lynn Kennelly, director,
Willits Chamber of Commerce

Visit www.gofundme.com/SaveOurSkunk to learn more about the crisis and to donate. Any level of donation is welcome.



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