

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Edition No. 3

Free - but donations accepted

WHS principal to move to UHS

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Willits High School Principal Gordon Oslund will be leaving the Willits school district on June 30, to become principal at Ukiah High School next year.

Oslund said he'd had "15 incredible years" as principal at WHS.

Read the rest of Oslund
| Over on Page 9

Patricia Johnson

New superintendent for Willits schools

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Willits has a new superintendent of schools: Patricia Johnson, former senior director of student services in the Victor Valley Union High School District in San Bernardino County.

The Willits school board formally appointed Johnson at the school board meeting Tuesday night.

As superintendent, Johnson's annual salary is \$132,000, with a contract starting July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.

Read the rest of Johnson
| Over on Page 9

Vehicle Abatement Vote

Willits City Council to decide about joining county program

Willits City Council members are set to vote next week on whether to join a county abandoned vehicle abatement program that could give the city a chance to recover costs from removing junk vehicles.

The abatement program includes county code enforcers and the towns of Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Willits, a draft of the agreement stated.

In November, the people of Mendocino County voted to continue funding this program for the removal of abandoned vehicles in the county.

Voters bound for the polls probably did not know that the program, which removes junk vehicles from roadsides and private land, stopped months prior and remains inoperative today.

Back in November, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors decided to move forward with restarting its abandoned vehicle program by seeking cooperation from Willits, Fort Bragg and Ukiah.

"What we are doing now is waiting on the City of Willits to pass a resolution," Ryan

Read the rest of Trailer
| Over on Page 12



Aerial photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



Arrest photo by Rick Shreve

Read the rest of Bypass | Over on Page 2



Brooktrails board won't rescind Caltrans letter

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Despite nearly two hours of public comment, which was almost totally against the planned construction of the Willits bypass, the board of directors of the Brooktrails Township voted 3 to 1 against rescinding its March 26 letter to Caltrans supporting the bypass.

Voting against rescinding the letter were directors Tim Ramming, Rick Williams and George Skezas. Director Ralph Santos voted in favor of rescinding it, and Director Tony Orth abstained from voting.

About 19 members of the public spoke in opposition to the Willits Bypass and only one person, Steve Grable, spoke in support of it.

The arguments against the Willits Bypass were familiar. Freddie Long said there are too many unknowns associated with it, and therefore, local governments – especially the Brooktrails board – should adhere to the precautionary principle in

connection with the bypass: that is, take the course that will be least damaging to the environment and to the community. "No matter how far you travel down the wrong path, it is never too late to turn back," Long said.

Marilyn Boosinger said Caltrans wanted to build the bypass to serve other ends than the people of Willits and Brooktrails. "The whole purpose is – they don't care about us – they care about moving humongous trucks throughout California," she said.

Christopher Martin was concerned about sound. "The generation of sound by traffic is exponential," he said. "Going 60 miles an hour over that bypass is going to be very noisy." His view was echoed by Tom DeMarchi, who warned the board: "We're gonna hear it. We're gonna hear those trucks when they come down the hill. You're gonna hear it as they go all the way across the valley. You're gonna hear it."

John Wagenet said that he was concerned about

the loss of agricultural land that will happen as a result of the mitigation plan associated with the bypass. He said that John Jeavons, a Willits-based, world-renowned expert in sustainable gardening and in trends in resource supply, had told him recently that there is going to be a major, widespread water shortage in 11 years.

"We are going to need that land to grow our own food," Wagenet said. "Consider the future. Consider a green America and a green California," he pleaded. "Consider the lean, green future."

Judy Berdis told the board that in her opinion one of the best statements against the bypass was made by Board of Supervisors Chair Dan Hamburg on March 26, when he told his colleagues on the board that the bypass was a vestige of an obsolete paradigm.

"In 1962, when this bypass was conceived, the idea of progress was bigger cars, electric kitchens and freeways everywhere.

Read the rest of Brooktrails
| Over on Page 9

Breaking news:
Willits City Council has hired Adrienne Moore as permanent city manager

A view from Above

Work proceeding on the Willits bypass is evident in these aerial photos taken Sunday along the bypass route

Test pile-driving set to start Wednesday has been delayed a bit, though, due to transportation issues, according to Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie. Drivers who delivered 87-foot and 103-foot piles Monday morning to the test site off East Commercial Street (see middle picture) said they expected the giant pile-driver to come in Tuesday.

But, Frisbie said, contractors found out Friday afternoon the weight capacity of one of the bridges on the planned delivery route had been lowered, so they were looking for a different route.

Above: This view of the bypass route shows the roundabout at the northern interchange of the bypass (see the green circle of grass on the right side of the photo). The visible mowed pathway shows the footprint for the bypass around the north east corner of town.

Middle: The broad swathe of the bypass route on East Commercial Street, between the Willits Skate Park and Bray Road. The new Willits Horsemen's arena is visible across the street.

Bottom: Save Our Little Lake Valley organizer Sara Grusky, 57, of Willits, being arrested Monday at the entrance to the pile-driving test site. Two other protesters, Robert Chevalier, 68, of Willits and Ellen Faulkner, 73, of Redwood Valley were also arrested Monday.

Bridge Repair Planned

The temporary bridge on Hearst-Willits road is to be repaired soon

The Mendocino County Department of Transportation plans to begin repairing a washed-out culvert and removing a one-way bridge on the Hearst-Willits Road when the ground dries up.

Heavy rains in early winter washed out two culvert pipes at the crossing, and crews hustled to assembled a temporary bridge after the washout.

"We will work on that this summer when it gets good and dry," said Howard Dashiell, head of county transportation, last week.

The Transportation Department estimates that the repair work will cost about \$100,000. Local road funds and maintenance funds will be used to repair the washout, Dashiell said.

Crews previously assembled the pieces of a temporary military-style bridge, named a "Bailey Bridge," at the crossing.

Surplus from the U.S. Army, Bailey Bridge material can be spliced together in different configurations.

"We [the county] own a couple hundred

Read the rest of Bridge
| Over on Page 12

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Mother’s Day present

To the Editor:

Today my 7-year-old son took some of his birthday money to Safeway to get me a Mother’s Day present. Somehow between the flower shop and the checkout, he lost his money. A few other customers who saw he was upset rallied around and bought it for him.

Maybe they will see this letter and know that they made his (and my) day. Thank you all so much for showing him caring people do still exist. ♥

Nina Smothers-Goodson
Willits, CA

Thank you to Caltrans workers

To the editor:

I would like to thank the two Caltrans workers who helped me find my three mules, who got loose, and who also helped me find the spot where the fence had been cut. Thanks again, and I am so thankful for your help and concern.

Debbie Watson
Willits, CA

Best year ever

To the Editor:

Well here we go again with a huge thank you to this community for making Sober Grad’s recent Tri-Tip Dinner for 4 another resounding success!! This was our best year ever, because we not only sold all of our 200 dinners, we received so many donations for all of the fixings!

First, we must thank Shauna Martin for coordinating all of those fixings – the potatoes, the salads, the rolls, the condiments. Your organization and energy made it all run smoothly. Another huge thanks to Linda Matz and Cat’s Meow/Trillium staff for tracking and making sure all 200 of the tickets were sold!! Not an easy feat!

And then, of course, the dinner would not be so scrumptious without the experience and expertise of the tri-tip crew headed by Dan and Annette Pinon, Doug and Kathy Goss, Art and Annette Cooley, Fred and Ann Nava, and Rick Crowder. Thank you all! Thanks also to John McKee for letting us use your great barbecue.

More thanks to Tam Adams and Emandal for the yummy rolls and to MaryEllyn Arana for the delicious cookies!! (The BBQ staff and the servers really enjoyed the “seconds”!)

Another big thank you goes out to businesses and individuals who made generous donations of goods and time: Mariposa Market, Flowers by Annette, LoBucks, Cattlemen’s Restaurant, Loose Caboose, Brown’s Corner, Brewed Awakening, Northbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation, Gribaldo’s Restaurant, Willits High School kitchen staff, Willits Charter School kitchen staff, Sanhedrin High School, Holli and Rose in the Willits High School office, Peg House/Trillium Delights, Brooktrails Golf Course, Torch Time Glass, and the Class of 2013 and their parents!

It is truly rewarding to live in a community who supports us and who cares about keeping their kids safe. Thank you for helping to create a safe and sober Grad Night Party!!

Joyce Waters, Willits, CA
for the Willits Sober Grad
Party Planning Committee

Ringed Turtle-Dove

To the Editor:

I read a copy of your new newspaper in Willits yesterday. Good job! And, good luck with your undertaking.

If you don’t mind, please pass this message on to Sandy Strong. Thanks. Hello Sandy:

I read your little article about doves in the May 9 Willits Weekly. I thought you might find it interesting that the bird in your photo is actually, I believe, a Ringed Turtle-Dove (also called the Eurasian Collared-Dove or African Collared-Dove). I’m certainly no birder, and I apologize if I sound like a know-it-all. I happened to have recently looked this bird up because we have been seeing a few this spring at our place here in Round Valley.

I read in my old bird books that they descend from caged birds and are generally found only in Los Angeles and around Miami and Tampa, Florida. I guess they have really flown the coop now!

Here’s a website that shows a comparison photo:
http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/AboutBirdsandFeeding/EucodvRitdovID.htm

Thanks for your article!

Michael Mills
Round Valley, CA

The Rest of Bypass | From Page 1



At top: Looking south towards Highway 101, showing the logged area around where the Warbler sat for two months in the Ponderosa pine
Above: The planned roundabout area at the north end of town
Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

Bypass Debate

Going to work?

In the effort of awareness, these aerial photographs were taken Sunday to help give a clear visual of the path of the Willits Bypass.

Has seeing these images helped you understand the plans?

Willits Weekly wants to hear from you with your take on the progress.

Send letters to:
willitsweekly@gmail.com



Cartoon by local artist Victor Herendez

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The Rules: COMMUNITY NEWS

Community News: Willits Weekly welcomes articles about community news, events and activities. Each week’s deadline is end of day Monday for Thursday’s edition.

Please send community news articles via email: willitsweekly@gmail.com. Community news 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 digital photographs to accompany your article, high-resolution photos are best. Call 459-2633 with any questions about submitting community news.

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters from area residents, focusing on Willits issues, activities, events and people, have priority. Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred.

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author’s name and city of residence will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.

Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits

SOLLV Benefit Friday

At right: Billy Hetherington, left, Bryan Arnold, center, and Christopher Martineau rehearse Tuesday night at the Little Lake Grange for their Friday evening performance of “The Complete History of America (abridged).” The Willits Shakespeare Company actors are reprising “Complete History,” which had a successful run at the Ukiah Players Theatre earlier this year, for a benefit performance for Save Our Little Lake Valley, the local group opposed to the Willits bypass.

The colorful backdrop depicting (sometimes slightly altered) historic and contemporary figures was made by Bob Currier, director of the show at the UPT. “Some of the props are on loan from the UPT, too,” Arnold said.

“We’ve messed around a bit,” Hetherington said, “catering to the issue at hand [the Willits bypass]. No one is saved we’re not pulling punches for anybody.” Check calendar listing for May 17 for more information.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

Below: Jackie Herz and Iliana Mora, associate behavior specialists for MCOE

Better Behavior

Submitted by Eric Herz-O'Brien, Mendocino County Office of Education

Informational videos made for parents and teachers titled, “Getting Better Behavior from Your Child,” made for parents and teachers, are now being broadcast on Willits Community Television (channels 3, 64 and 65) and are also viewable online at www.betterbehavior.webs.com.

The videos were made by two associate behavior specialists with the Mendocino County Office of Education, Jackie Herz and Iliana Mora.

They are short 30- to 90-second videos that offer quick, simple information on how to improve your child’s behavior. Some teach techniques to get your child’s cooperation (including “Transitional Warnings,” “The Grandmother Technique,” and “Catching Kids Being Good”).

Other videos provide useful information such as the difference between anger and aggression, and why it is important to recognize this difference.

For more information, access the BRONCO website at www.sshsbronco.org, or contact Herz and Mora at 459-5314 ext. 1113

Junior Giants Sign-Ups

It’s time to sign up for Willits Junior Giants, a noncompetitive baseball program for boys and girls of all skill levels. Two leagues: 4-10 years old and 12 to 18 years old.

Stop by BodyWorks, 1511 South Main Street, to sign up (hours: Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm or Thursday and Friday evenings from 7 to 8 pm).

This is the 18th summer for the Junior Giants program in Willits. \$5 donation includes a baseball hat and glove. Practice and play on Tuesdays and Thursdays (no weekends). League play begins June 18.

More info: Keith or Cynthia at BodyWorks, 459-0594.

Basket Winner

Linda Walker was chosen on the day-before-Mother’s-Day drawing as the winner of the Sober Grad Raffle Basket.

Raffle baskets work as fundraisers for the annual alcohol-free party on graduation night.

The Ducky Derby is this Sunday - see the calendar on pages 6 - 7 for more info!

Phoenix Hospice Bereavement Group

A new series of facilitated bereavement support groups is starting Thursday, May 23 at the Phoenix Hospice office in Willits, and will continue Thursdays through June 27 from 4:15 to 6:15 pm.

This 8-week group “gives an opportunity for the bereaved to explore the normal symptoms of grief, as well as recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration,” Phoenix Hospice writes. “With fuller understanding of the grief process, and effective techniques to manage stress, we can move toward recovery and affirmation of continuing life.” This program is offered free of charge as a community service, but pre-registration is required. For more info, contact Linda at 456-3244 or 1-800-606-9596.

OSCAR-NOMINATED FILMMAKER COMING TO WILLITS

MENDOCINO FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, May 30

Film & Reception - \$15 5:30pm at Willits Art Center

Film only \$11 - 7:00pm at Noyo Theatre

Willits Premiere THURSDAY, MAY 30

Director Mark Kitchell will appear with his Sundance film, *A Fierce Green Fire*. This film explores grassroots and global environmental activism spanning fifty years with vivid and inspiring stories of people fighting and succeeding against enormous odds.

Robert Redford and Meryl Streep narrate this important film.

Tickets limited and going fast! Buy early at Noyo Theatre or online www.MendocinoFilmFestival.org

Reception catering by The BISTRO. Wine by PARDUCCI and BARRA.

2012 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL
2012 NEWPORT BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AT VAIL
2012 BEAKSHIRE FILM FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL SELECTION ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL AT VAIL 2012
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OSCAR-NOMINATED DIRECTOR/PRODUCER MARK KITCHELL

A FIERCE GREEN FIRE
THE BATTLE FOR A LIVING PLANET

ROBERT REDFORD, ASHLEY JUDD, VAN JONES, ISABEL ALLENDE, AND MERYL STREEP

OFFICIAL SELECTION SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Pg.2

Willits Weekly | May 16, 2013

Willits Weekly | May 16, 2013

Pg. 3



Bring Your Relationship Into Full Bloom and Keep it Healthy and Vibrant

We now can be connected to one another through many social media sites. We can get an instant thumbs up or down on our actions and gather hundreds of friends in a very short period of time, most of whom we will probably never meet. It is so easy to click a button or touch a screen in order to get the desired results – instant relationship. We may forget that taking care of a non-virtual relationship follows other principles.

You might be surprised how much gardening and taking care of a relationship have in common.

Like a garden, a relationship needs regular attention. It is best to know what you want to cultivate in it and what you do not. For example, do you want to cultivate your fighting skills or do you want to improve your skills to love? Do you want to learn from each other, or do you want to build up resentments around your differences?

In gardening it is helpful to have the right tools, strong seeds or starts, enough sun and water, and a healthy soil. Like a garden, sometimes your relationship may need extra fertilizer, and you need to keep toxic chemicals out of it. A relationship, like a garden, can also have disappointing and unsatisfying moments. You may not get what you envisioned and may be unhappy with some results. Having an open and curious mind will come in handy in finding out what works and what does not. It will help you find solutions. Commitment is as essential for a garden as it is for a relationship. Being patient and trusting your own good work is needed as well.

If you can provide all I mentioned in the garden analogy above, the resulting relationships in your life can go beyond your expectations. There will be so much to enjoy! However there is one major difference between a garden and a relationship. While you can easily garden on your own, it takes two committed gardeners for a relationship to make it thrive, blossom and produce sweet fruit.

In this monthly column I will be sharing some important tools with you that I am using in my work as a relationship system coach and in my personal life. Tools that will help your relationship bloom and thrive. I will be writing about "relationship fertilizers," toxic communication styles, and behavior that can stunt a relationship's growth or even kill it.

I believe all these relationship tools and concepts should be common knowledge.

Although my main focus will be on intimate relationships, a lot of this information can be transferred and applied to any relationships: with your children, colleagues or friends. Even bosses and their employees can profit. I hope I have piqued your interest.

Until next month.

Doris Wier is a certified life and relationship system coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples and teachers and offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution. Info: www.embraceconflicts.com.

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Hometown Business

All about commerce, life, and the need-to-know info

Autos at the Arch

Auto Mart gives midtown Remco building a new lease on life

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com



drive trucks, Auto Mart's selection includes hot rods and classic cars, too. Montalvo has been involved with the Willits Shifters car club over the

"Everybody in general is excited by something going on here," Montalvo said, not long after Auto Mart's move from its former location on the south end of town was complete. Montalvo has been selling cars in Willits since 1988: "I have a lot of repeat customers," he said.

The new lot is smaller, with about 20 cars and trucks displayed initially, but, "I'm pretty crafty," Montalvo said, "and I hope to come close to doubling that."

Most of Auto Mart's inventory is used cars from the Bay Area, as the local area's dirt roads are hard on vehicles, Montalvo said. "I'm really fussy about low-mileage, too," he added.

In addition to regular cars – "I sell a lot of regular sedans" – and trucks, including 4-wheel

years, including serving as president, and has won his share of awards in the Willits 4th of July parade, most recently last year with his 1937 Chevy coupe. The current selection of classics on display includes a red Gran Turismo 6, a yellow Corvette Stingray and a red Sunbeam Alpine.

The Montalvos did some work inside the building, taking out three big walls to open it up and "make it friendlier," and plan to repaint the outside, too, with a dark green color to match the Willits Arch.

Auto Mart's new address is 934 S. Main Street, and the phone is still 459-3039. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am - 5:30 pm, and Saturdays from 8 am - 3 pm. Info: 459-3039.



At top: Autos now line the old Remco Building's parking lot.

At left: Jim Montalvo, owner of Auto Mart.

Above: Lots of choices make car shopping locally a possibility.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Auto Mart Auto Repair, also in a new location at 101 North Lenore, is now owned by longtime manager/partner of Auto Mart's repair service, Bill Carter. "He has built quite a following, and will do quite well," Montalvo said. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 am - 5 pm. For info and appointments, call: 459-1344.

Hometown Celebration

Sign-up
Deadline
June 1

There's a June 1 deadline for businesses, clubs and organizations to sign up for the 6th annual Willits Frontier Days Hometown Celebration, set for Thursday, June 27, during the 87th annual Willits Frontier Days Celebration. This year's Hometown Celebration also kicks off festivities for the City of Willits' 125th birthday, or "quasquicentennial," 1888-2013.

All businesses and organizations within the greater Willits area are welcome to participate in the Hometown Celebration, which is sponsored by the Willits Chamber of Commerce as part of its ongoing "Shop Local" campaign.

Local downtown businesses will stay open late, with many offering special discounts and sales from 4 to 9 pm. Event activities include live music, vendor booths, games, food, the famous prize wheel at the Chamber of Commerce booth, and more.

The chamber, along with a team of business owners, non-profit organizations and city representatives on the chamber's Local First Committee, are dedicated to providing independent business owners with opportunities to reach locals and visitors alike.

To have a booth, to become a sponsor, or to register your downtown business as a store-front participant, download forms on the Willits Chamber of Commerce's website, www.willits.org. Info: 459-7910.

Do you have business tips or info?

Contact Willits Weekly at 459-2633 or willitsweekly@gmail.com to give us information about what's happening with your greater Willits area business. If you're a new business owner, we're happy to do a new business story, but Willits Weekly is also interested in informing our readers about established businesses in town.



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Forever in the Twilight

WHS Prom held last Saturday night

Willits High Schoolers danced the night away at the annual prom last Saturday to the tunes of DJ Ken Steely and the theme "Forever in the Twilight."

Though the Little Lake Grange was slightly smaller than venues of the past, attendees seemed to enjoy the cozy, full ambiance the newly updated room provided.

Jacob Bailey and Natalie Grossman were crowned Prom King and Queen and other nominees Kailer Collicott, Wyatt Sanderson, Alicia Mehtlan and Kayla Schnitzius took home Prince and Princess titles.

Donations from parents and Safeway accompanied tasty nibbles made by the Willits High School Cooking Club.

"There were lots of people there to help set up and clean up too," explained Junior Class President Kalie Shuster. "We all had a great time!"



Photo courtesy Kalie Shuster

Above: Newly crowned Prom King and Queen, Jacob Bailey and Natalie Grossman share their first dance.

Photo courtesy Levi Phillips



Above left: Dancers enjoy the prom songs by DJ Ken Steely.



Above right: WHS Junior Will Betts and WHS Freshman Tiara Grey.

Photos courtesy Levi Phillips



Above: Pre-prom guys photo moment: Tyler, Luis, Chris, Kyle, Kyle, Sam, Christian, Wyatt, Brent, Kailer, Danin, Mike, Dainen, RJ, Jake, Casey, Jon, Palmer, Brendon and Shivan.

Photo courtesy Kalie Shuster

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Congratulations Column

Goss Family
40th Wedding Anniversary



Doug and Kathy Goss were married in Willits on May 11 and celebrated their 40th anniversary last weekend with family and friends.

"We've lived in Willits most of our lives and loved that we could share this event with so many of our friends and family," said Kathy. "A few will recall attending our wedding - and as with most wedding celebrations - there was a lot of hugging and kissing! Doug came down with hepatitis B 4 days later which required all celebrants to get a gamma-globulin shot! Jon Sterngold was our physician then and can likely remember it well, too!"

All of the couple's sons and grandsons came to celebrate along with many who came from out of the area.

Photo: Left to right: (top row) Grandsons Brody and Chance, wife Kathy, grandsons Austin and Cody; (bottom row) son Bo, husband Doug and sons Eric and Tim.

Baby McCoy
Number 3
on the way



Ricco and Michelle (Tobin) McCoy are excited to announce another addition to the family, baby McCoy #3 who will join brothers Connor, 3, and Coltin, 10 months, on his due date: December 20, 2013. Grandparents Mike and Kathy Tobin are excited to meet the new one already.

Phlebotomy School
GRADUATE



Congratulations to Rahaya Willens for graduating from Mendocino County Office of Education-Medical Assistant Class of 2013 and Phlebotomy Certification! Your hours of study and diligence have paid off. Good job - we are all so proud of you.

Send us your congratulatory notes!
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Rules: CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Column: Willits Weekly is pleased to publish small congratulatory notes to locals in this column. Each week's deadline is end of day Monday for Thursday's edition, and notes should be no longer than 100 words.

Please send notes on births, engagements, weddings, milestone birthdays, job promotions and other appropriate events via email: willitsweekly@gmail.com. They may also be mailed to: Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits 95490, but email is preferred.

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noun: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

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What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Thursday, May 16

Sherwood School Open House: 5:30 pm. 32600 Sherwood Road. Traditional full day program, K through 8th grade, plus K-8 partial independent study, and K-8 independent study program. Info: 707-984-6769.

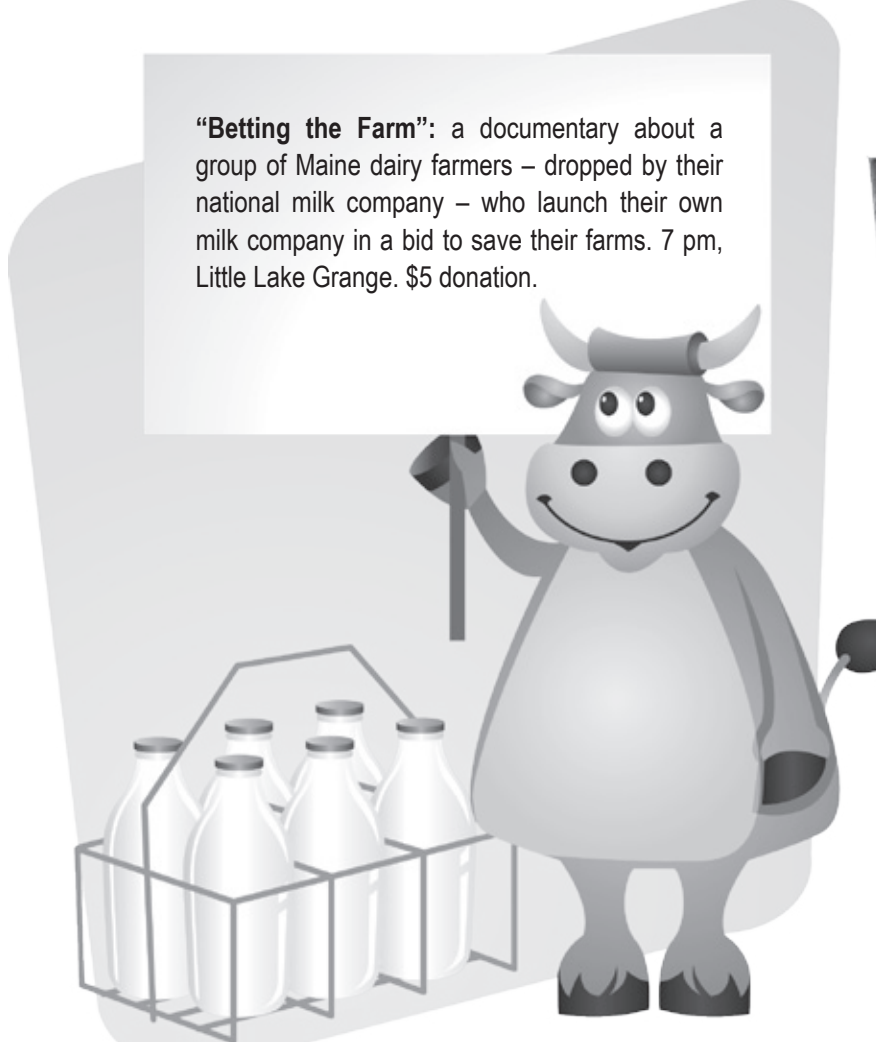


Ventura Perez, Associated Student Body President 1939, portrayed here with ASB President Alicia Mehtian; Site Council members Christian Carrillo and Wyatt Sanderson; ASB Historians Kailer Collicott and Pelon Arreguin

Photo courtesy WHS Facebook Page

Willits High School Open House: 5:30 pm. 299 North Main. Will be celebrating of the great athletic facility improvements afforded by Ventura Perez' generous donation of \$200,000 to WHS Athletics and \$1 million to our community! Our hearts are with you, Mr. Perez. Info: 707-459-7700.

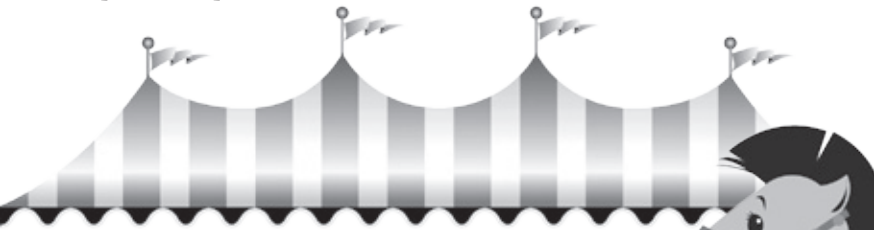
Shanachie Pub: Solo coastal guitarist Steven Bates, 3rd Thursday of every month. 6 pm, no cover. "When playing acoustic Bates delivers a fast-paced strumming technique that has a rock and roll vibe unto itself." Visit www.myspace.com/stevenbatesmusician



"Betting the Farm": a documentary about a group of Maine dairy farmers – dropped by their national milk company – who launch their own milk company in a bid to save their farms. 7 pm, Little Lake Grange. \$5 donation.

"Dead Man's Cell Phone": Last weekend for this edgy dark romantic comedy by prizewinning contemporary playwright Sara Ruhl at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse. Tonight (7 pm, \$10), Friday and Saturday (8 pm, \$15) and Sunday (2 pm, \$10). Adult language. The theater is located at 37 W. Van Lane; tickets are available at the Goods' Shoppe or by calling 459-0895 to reserve tickets by credit card.

Friday, May 17



Willits Kids Club Carnival: 4 to 7 pm at Willits Kids Club, 1265 Blosser Lane. Third annual carnival created by Baechtel Grove Middle School students for the younger students and the community. Games, face painting, and lots of fun. Kiwanis Club selling hamburgers (\$2) and hotdogs (\$1) to benefit the Kids Club and other fun and healthy food. Free, except students can pay \$3 to qualify to win prizes.

Save Little Lake Valley Benefit: Dinner theater by Willits Shakespeare trio Billy Hetherington, Bryan Arnold, and Christopher Martineau: "The Complete History of America, Abridged," "a fast-paced show bent on delivering whacky, pun-riddled American history in a hurry; music by The Dirt Floor Band, and a full-course Italian dinner cooked by Chef Peter Norris and crew (gluten free and vegetarian available). Little Lake Grange, 7 pm.

Tickets: \$30, available at Goods' Shoppe.



The Dirt Floor Band is performing at the Save Little Lake Valley benefit Friday night.

Photo courtesy DFB

"The Sound of Music": Opening night tonight and Saturday at 7 pm, plus 2 pm matinee on Sunday. The spring musical from the

Willits High School theater class. Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$5 for students/ seniors.

Saturday, May 18

Tea & Togs Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show: noon to 2 pm at the Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. The fashion show showcases fabulous finds from the Willits Seniors' Thrift Store, modeled by fabulous local models. Bring your own teacup and enjoy a delicious selection of tea sandwiches, scones, cakes, tarts and teas. Tickets, \$10, available in advance at the Harrah Center or at the door. More info: 459-6826.

Free workshop on Alzheimer's/Dementia: with Elizabeth Santos, certified dementia practitioner, Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, across from the Grange, 1 to 3 pm. To teach people about the difference between Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia, diagnosis and progression, challenging

behaviors, communication, and long-term care. All are welcome. Info/reservations: 459-2855.

WHS Boosters Tri-Tip Dinner & Quarter Auction: A fundraiser for the WHS Boosters Club, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Dinner at 6 pm; quarter auction at 7 pm. No host bar. \$20 for dinner and paddle; \$5 for paddle only. Tickets at Scoops and the House Doctor, or call Mark at 489-1250 or Sheri at 272-6163.

Shanachie Pub: 8 pm, featuring Reni Simon & The Dorian May Trio with "an eclectic mix of jazz, blues, swing and Latin tunes." Reni, who recently moved to Mendocino County from Memphis, has performed and recorded with some of the best in the business, including the Elvin Bishop Band, Roy Orbison, Van Morrison, and Steve Miller.

Ukiah Symphony Presents: "Ode to Joy" with Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B minor, Opus 23, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Opus 125. 8 pm tonight, 3 pm Sunday at Mendocino College Center Theater, Ukiah. Featuring Lawrence Holmefjord-Sarabi, piano, and the Mendocino College Masterworks Chorale, featuring a number of Willits residents. \$25, \$20 seniors, \$5 18+under. Info: 462-0236.

Sunday, May 19

Sober Grad's Ducky Derby: 1 pm, Willits Creek at Brooktrails Golf Course. Spectators welcome to watch 750 duckyies along the ¼ mile course. To sponsor a ducky (\$5 or \$20 for five ducks; great prizes), contact a senior, see Holli at the

School office or stop in at Cat's Meow/ Trillium; email WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com, or contact Angi Edgar at 459-2260 or Joyce Waters at 489-8377.

Willits Youth Football & Cheer Fundraiser: Lasagna dinner and no host bar, 4 to 6:30 pm, at Brooktrails Community Center, sponsored by Brooktrails Property Owners Association. \$10; \$5 for 12 and under; available at the door (RSVP to Ginger at 459-5438) or Round Tree Glass, 24 Monroe Street. Questions?: Matt at 841-7052

Linda Noel: Poet Laureate Emeritus for the City of Ukiah and member of the Koyungkowi Tribe will be reading her poetry at The Muse, 30 East San Francisco Street. 7 pm. An open reading will follow. Info: Mike A'Dair at 459-1576.

Tuesday, May 21

Textile Skill Sharing at the Grange: 7 pm, Mini-Maker Faire Playday: glue gun secrets, purse & mask making, with mentor Annie Waters. Bring a \$5-\$10 materials fee or a purse/mask and your trims, and feathers and trimming goodies to share, if you have. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Friday, May 24

4th Friday Fun Night: 6 pm, Methodist Church, 286 School Street, across from the Grange. Fun, games, food (bring a game to play or a dish to share if desired; "tacos" theme; free/by donation meal), raffle for door prizes (everybody gets a raffle ticket), and fellowship. Info: 459-0861

Benefit for SOLLV

MAY 17th - 6pm till Midnight

Featuring *The Complete History of America (Abridged)* & The Dirt Floor Band



Dinner, Theatre & Dancing!

This benefit show for SOLLV partners a pasta dinner presented by the Little Lake Grange (vegetarian & gluten free options!) with a comedic theatrical romp through our varied history and the always rocking Dirt Floor Band.

All proceeds go to SOLLV.

- * Door opens @ 6pm, Dinner @ 7 pm
- * Complete History starts @ 7:30 pm
- * Dirt Floor Band @ 10 pm

Tickets \$30

Available at Goode's Stamp Shoppe

Little Lake Grange @ 291 School St. Willits

For More Information Contact Liam: 456-2470

Friends of the Library

Memorial Day Book Sale, opens today, and continues Saturday and Sunday at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. 10 am to 4 pm. Sunday is \$3 bag.

Shanachie Pub: Redbud, "Mendocino Homegrown Music, original rock, blues, punk, reggae, ska & more," featuring recent addition Hal Wagenet on guitar; Yoli Rose, songwriter/singer/guitar; Bb Dress, bass; and Tobin Hendricks, drummer/percussionist. 8 pm, no cover.

Save the Date

May 30:

Mendocino Film Festival in Willits, Noyo Theatre

June 1:

La Tania flamenco performance & workshop, Willits Community Theatre

June 2:

Willits Horsemen's Playday: 64th annual Beef Barbecue & Rodeo

June 4:

"If Not Now, When?" series, "Medications," Senior Center

June 7-9:

Annual Redwood Run Motorcycle Ride

June 8:

WELL's 1st annual Bicycle Show and Parade, City Park

June 8:

87th annual Little Lake Firefighters' Association Open House

Send us your
CALENDAR LISTINGS!
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Car Show



Saturday, May 25

Willits Community Walk for Health: Registration begins at 9:30 am at JD Redhouse for this 14th annual "Boogie Woogie Walk," starting at 10 am. Five-mile (10,000 step) walk starts in downtown Willits, and winds through the neighborhoods. Free and open to all (including well-behaved pets on leashes). Walk as little or as much as you like, and catch a ride back with the Harrah Center van if you get tired of walking.

Mini-Maker Faire: 10 am to 5 pm at the County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. New this year! A Make-It-Mendocino celebration of artful ingenuity throughout our region. Try do-it-yourself projects at

interactive booths; see technology demonstrations; participate in crafts workshops, and listen to local music. Food and beverages on sale throughout the day to benefit the Mendocino County Museum Exhibit and Education Fund. Museum admission is \$4 for adults; \$1 for youth 6-18 years; children 5 years and younger are free. Participation in the Mini Maker Faire is included in Museum admission. More info: MendocinoMakerFaire.com,

Maker Masquerade Ball: 7 pm to midnight at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. With Zydeco, Latin, Gypsy, Afro-Caribbean, and world beat music guaranteed to make you dance. Music by Tee Fee Swamp Boogie and Quarteto Pura Vida and a belly dance performance by Troupe Satya, in an atmospheric 1920s themed venue. Wine, beer, and Italian sodas for sale along with hand-crafted appetizers and desserts. Costumes and masks are encouraged but not required. Come as you are. Tickets \$25 at the door; advance: \$20 adults; \$15 youth, available at the museum, Mazahar and online at Brown Bag Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/382929>



32nd Annual Community Festival and Classic Car Show events

Sunday, May 26

"Engine Starting" Breakfast: 7 to 10 am, Lions Club "Engine Starting" breakfast at Rec Grove: pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, coffee, tea or milk. Tickets, \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 12, available at the park or in advance at the Chamber of Commerce. (Please note, no pancake breakfast at the Grange today: "please enjoy your breakfast in the park with the Lions Club.")

Classic Car Show: 10 am to 4 pm at the Rec Grove. "Take a stroll down memory lane" and enjoy the lovingly restored pre-1973 classic cars on display. Roots of Motive Power antique steam equipment display. Vendor booths, family activities, food, door prizes and fun.

Memorial Day Ceremony: at noon, the American Legion Post 174's color guard will present the colors at noon at the main stage area, with Jeff Whitby on Scottish bagpipes, leading the procession in remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

Classic Car Awards Ceremony & Raffle Drawing: 3:30 pm

Plant Sales

First Steps Daycare Plant Sale: Saturday, May 18, from 10 am to 2 pm at Sweetwater Station, 425 South Main Street. Fundraiser for new school supplies. Aloe plants, orchid cactus, spider plants, peach trees, veggies and more. Lemonade stand. More info: Lauren at 456-9880.

Commonwealth Garden's Spring Plant Fling: Sunday, May 19, from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. Vegetable, flower and herb starts in prime condition for setting out. At the Howard Foundation and Howard Memorial Hospital's Commonwealth Garden Greenhouse, 90 Haehl Creek Drive. More info: Ananda at 459-2777 or Carolyn at 455-7732.

Grateful Gleaners Spring Plant Sale: Sunday, June 2 at 10 am, corner of West Mendocino and Spruce streets, beginning at 10 am. A variety of plants and starts for sale.



First Steps kids ready for the sale including Trent & Mariah, below.

Photos by Lauren Morris



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.

"Journeys": an art show at the Willits Center for the Arts, hosted by Manzanita Services, for Mental Health Month in May. Paintings, sculptures, poetry, dolls, jewelry, ceramics, metalwork, and the unfinished "Journeys Quilt." Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays, 4 to 7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 3 pm. Through May 26.

Sheriff's Activities League activities below. \$5 per year Contact Body Works Gym to sign up 459-0594 | 1511 S. Main Street

Karate: Thursdays at Body Works Gym. Karate is available for those aged 5 and above and all skill levels are welcome. Classes are on Thursdays. For those aged 5 - 11, class is from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and 12 - adult follows from 7:30 to 9 pm

Boxing: Fridays at Body Works Gym from 6:30 to 9 pm

Teen Gym: Monday to Friday at Body Works Gym. Teen Gym is available to kids aged 13 to 18 who are currently enrolled in school and runs weekdays from 3 to 5 pm

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.



Above: WKC kids pose with their giant Jenga game



Above: Mariah SanDiego and Amaia Hammack show off the new bean bag boards



JENGA!

Baechtel Grove Middle School students who participate in the after school program with the Willits Kids Club helped create handcrafted carnival games in preparation for Friday's event.

Stop by the Kids Club building at Blosser Elementary Lane School and play from 4 to 7 p.m.

Info: Willits Kids Club: 459-9201.



Left: Macie Huddle smiles through the bean bag board
Right: Jenga masters BJ Buzzard and Cody Pedersen

Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

In the Stars...

- ARIES** | Mar 21 - Apr 20

Aries, life might get stressful really soon unless you curb your spending. Although you may feel like you're made of money right now, eventually the well will dry up.
- TAURUS** | Apr 21 - May 21

Making changes is seldom easy, but change is necessary this week. Taurus. You may need to analyze which areas of your life can use the most work.
- GEMINI** | May 22 - Jun 21

Gemini, kick back and have some fun in the next few days. Otherwise, you may waste an opportunity to recharge your batteries. Work responsibilities will not wait for long.
- CANCER** | Jun 22 - Jul 22

Cancer, expect some rejuvenated ambition and energy. Spurred on by this newfound energy, you can successfully tackle many of the things on your to-do list.
- LEO** | Jul 23 - Aug 23

Leo, unless you can focus you will just be puttering around without a goal. Put your mind on one thing and stick with this line of thinking for a few days.
- VIRGO** | Aug 24 - Sept 22

Virgo, once you set your mind to something, it can be difficult to alter your opinions or perceptions. You may need to be a bit more flexible with a loved one this week.
- LIBRA** | Sept 23 - Oct 23

Libra, if you want someone to take you seriously you have to make up your mind. Don't flip-flop on your ideals this week or you may come across as a pushover.
- SCORPIO** | Oct 24 - Nov 22

Scorpio, just when you think you have reached a dead end, a new path miraculously opens up. Don't miss your opportunity because time is fleeting.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov 23 - Dec 21

If practice makes perfect, then you have just about reached perfection, Sagittarius. You have been over and over something from every angle. It is now or never.

CAPRICORN | Dec 22 - Jan 20

Capricorn, there are many things you will not be able to change about this week, so why focus on the negativity? Instead, work around any issues and get the job done anyway.

AQUARIUS | Jan 21 - Feb 18

You often seem immune to the seriousness of certain situations, Aquarius. This week is no different. Try to recognize the gravity of a certain situation and put your best foot forward.

PISCES | Feb 19 - Mar 20

Don't think that your efforts have gone unnoticed, Pisces. A few key people have been keeping track of your accomplishments.

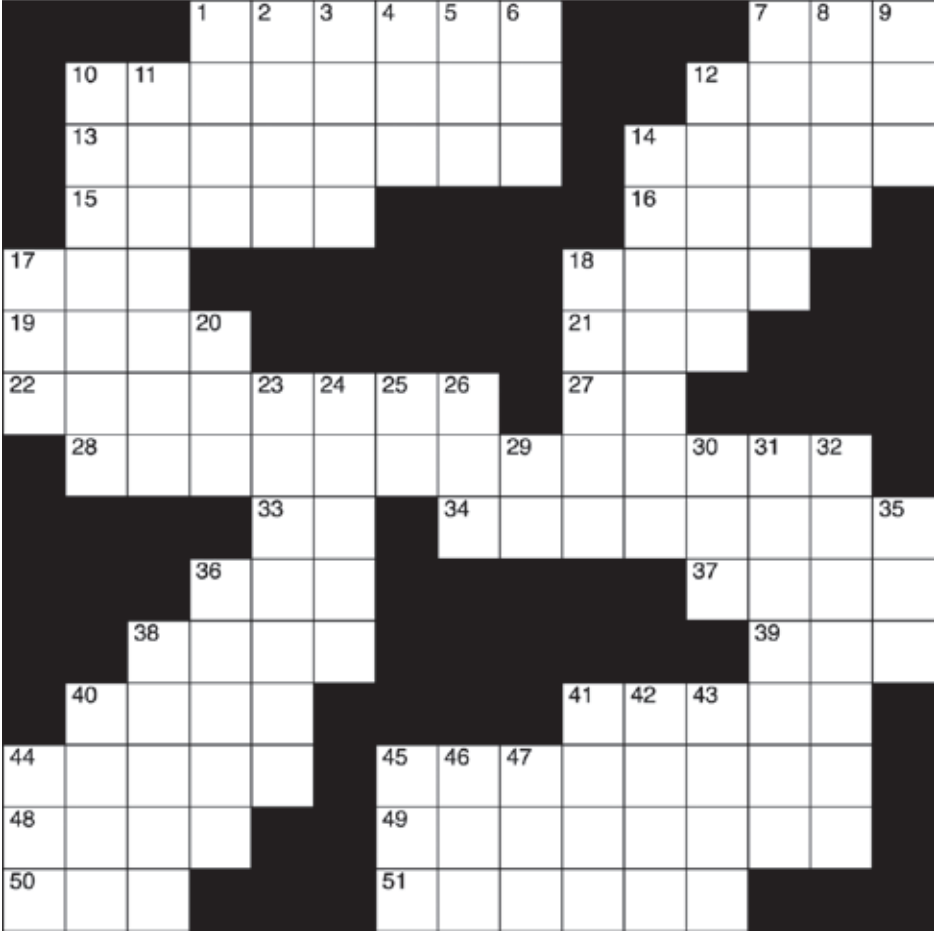
ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Crossword Puzzle



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - Fulmar
 - Maple fluid
- Most saponaceous
 - Icelandic island
 - Stressed pronunciation
 - Ginseng genus

- Seizes
 - Loose Arab garments
 - Title of respect
 - Operatic solo
 - Fleur-de-lis flower
 - Pad used as a floor covering
 - Sine curve
 - In the year of Our Lord
 - Day or sleep away supervisor
 - Carrier's invention
 - Infant bed
 - Fiddler crabs
 - English monk 672-735 (alt. sp.)
 - Precise and prudish
 - The beak of a bird
 - Point that is one point N of NE
 - Blighia sapida
 - Russian political prison camp
 - Unselfishness
 - Arabian Gulf
 - Unsupported
 - Thieving bird
 - Alarm and dismay
- CLUES DOWN**

 - Cigarette bundle
 - Fencing sword
 - Cannisters
 - A way to drench
 - Point midway between E and SE
- Confined condition (abbr.)
 - Yemen capital
 - Actresses Ortiz & Alicia
 - Photographs
 - Exposing folly to ridicule
 - Egg-shaped instrument
 - Established custom
 - St. Patrick's, Macy's or Rose
 - Female sibling
 - Gather lots together
 - Total
 - Allowance for intervals
 - Medieval philosopher
 - Jupiter satellite
 - Invest with knighthood
 - Sodium
 - Women's ___ movement
 - Singleness
 - Saves or delivers
 - The bill in a restaurant
 - Of a city
 - Former name of Belau
 - Class of comb jellies
 - Height x width
 - Pick out from others
 - German port, bay and canal
 - Jacob's 6th son
 - Goat or camel hair fabric
 - One circuit of a track
 - 3X = 1 TBS

WE'RE NOW ENROLLING

at **Sherwood School**
Public School - Free to attend

(707) 984-6769
32600 Sherwood Rd / Willits, CA

Open House tonight at 5:30pm!

TRADITIONAL FULL-DAY PROGRAMS
Available for students Kindergarten - 8th
Spend 5 days per week on site

PARTIAL INDEPENDENT STUDY
Available for students Kindergarten - 8th
Spend only 1 - 2 days per week on site

COMPLETE INDEPENDENT STUDY
Available for students Kindergarten - 8th
Spend all school days off site

ALL STUDENTS are welcome to attend Sherwood School Field Trips & Festivals
Participate in the Garden Nutrition and Arts Theatre Programs

6th - 8th GRADERS are welcomed to join any WUSD sports team for their age group

Families & Students from all over the county are welcome!

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
Times for 5/17-5/23/13

STAR TREK INTO DARKNESS
In 3D
(PG-13)
Runs: 2 hr. 12 min
Fri: 6:00, 9:00
Sat/Sun: 12, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
Mon - Thurs: 7:00

IRON MAN 3
(PG-13)
Runs: 2 hr. 10 min
Fri: 6:45, 9:30
Sat/Sun: 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
Mon - Thurs: 6:45

GREAT GATSBY
(PG-13)
Runs: 2 hr. 33 min
Friday: 6:20, 9:15
Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:25, 6:20, 9:15
Mon - Thurs: 7:15

Coming Friday 5/24: Epic in 3D

Old Cars Wanted

Always looking for Cars, Scooters, & Motorcycles!
'40s thru '60s. Show Car to Parts Car

Please Call Alan: 489-7165
agrossman@pacific.net

Advertise in Willits Weekly!
Call today: 707-972-7047

\$10 for 5 lines
for 2 weeks!

Classifieds & More

Quick ads and extra info

Consignments Accepted

GAVEL DOWN SALES, located at 1611 South Main Street, is open Wed through Sun, 10 am to 6 pm, and is accepting quality home furnishings for consignment. Contact Kapila at 707.459.1300.

Goat Found

If you've lost a goat please call 707-489-5916. It's on Mariposa Creek Road in Willits, just above Redwood Valley.

Eckankar

Join us for a Community HU Song Tuesday, May 28, at 6 pm at the Willits Library meeting room, 390 E. Commercial Street. HU is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and find inner peace. Families and all faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

Help Wanted

Ardella's Downtown Diner now hiring all positions. Apply within. No phone calls please.

Notice

Hey, Willy Willits, what do you think of this?
— "Not a Willy fan"

Football Time!

Football season is around the corner. Anyone interested in coaching football or cheer, please stop by Round Tree Glass for an application.

Old Cars Wanted

ALWAYS LOOKING for Cars, Scooters & Motorcycles! '40s thru '50s. Show Car to Parts Car. Please call Alan: 489-7165 or email agrossman@pacific.net.

Parking Lot Sale

Gavel Down Sales located at 1611 S. Main St. is having a parking lot sale Sunday May 19th beginning at 9am. Lots of Tools, Auto Parts, and much more. Also the store will be having 10 percent off the entire stock at the same time.

Pinball Machines

PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

Timber Framing

GARFIELD CONSTRUCTION, New England Style Timber Framing. Hand cut joints held fast with oak pegs. Homes, Barns, Gazebos and more. Stop by our shop and see the display. 299 Highway 20, 841-7429.

Volunteers Needed

Harrah Center is looking for people, any age, with a heart for service. We can use all skills and coordinate for your free time. Call us 707-459-6826 or come in 1501 Baechtel Rd, Willits

ADVERTISE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE!
459-2633 | 972-7047
\$10 for 5 lines for 2 weeks!

Caltrans relinquishment agreement on City Council agenda next week

Councilwoman Madge Strong told Willits Weekly Wednesday afternoon the Willits City Council will discuss – and possibly take action on – provisions of the relinquishment agreement with Caltrans at its meeting next week.

The June 27, 2012 agreement states: "A clause has been added in the Willits Bypass Special Provisions restricting the contractor from using City streets to haul construction materials with[out] specific prior approval of the city."

Strong is putting this item on the council agenda, she said, "as it is apparent city streets are already being used in conflict with this provision."

Strong said the city has not approved any hauling of construction materials using city streets. "It seems Caltrans anticipated the contractor would use haul roads on the footprint of the bypass, but this has not occurred," she said. "Using city streets raises serious questions."

Strong said the bypass contractors' use of city streets had been discussed by the city's ad hoc committee on Caltrans issues, "but there has not yet been an opportunity for public input or policy direction from the City Council." The Caltrans ad hoc committee includes councilmembers Bruce Burton and Ron Orenstein as well as staff.

This item on the May 22 agenda, Strong said "will allow for public comment and council discussion and potential action focused on this issue."

The Rest of Brooktrails

From Page 1

Now, the idea of progress is tillable land, breathable air and potable water," said Berdis, quoting or perhaps paraphrasing Hamburg. "We all want a better bypass. We don't want to lose our way of life here," she concluded.

In spite of the public opposition to the bypass as it was expressed on Tuesday night at the Brooktrails Community Center, the Brooktrails board remained committed to allowing its letter of support to stand.

Director Rick Williams noted the bypass would have at least two major benefits for Brooktrails. Williams said that Caltrans has recently signed an agreement with the City of Willits to improve the intersection at Highway 101 and Sherwood Road, rendering a horrible and dangerous intersection less so. He also pointed out that the northern interchange of the bypass could conceivably become convenient for Brooktrails residents sometime in the future, if the county Board of Supervisors decides to select the northern route as the Brooktrails second access road.

The northern route, called Alternate Route B, would start from Brooktrails Drive at Sherwood, cross the northern lobe of the subdivision and connect with Highway 101 near the northern interchange of the bypass.

In other business, the Brooktrails board named three people to the county Board of Supervisors' ad hoc committee to deal with issues related to Brooktrails. Tony Orth was appointed to the committee to occupy one seat, and Tim Ramming and George Skezas agreed to be alternate members and to take turns filling the second Brooktrails seat on the committee. The Brooktrails board also ordered General Manager Denise Rose to sign an agreement with the county's Department of Transportation so that preliminary engineering surveys can begin on the other proposed second access route to Brooktrails. This route, called Alternate Route A, is proposed to run from Primrose Drive near Acacia Court to Highway 20 near the KOA campground.

FINAL WEEK!

The Willits Community Theatre Presents

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE

A Darkly Romantic Comedy By Sarah Ruhl
Directed by Bill Barksdale Produced by Lynn Dee Johnson
Starring: Karla McDonald Damian Sebohian
Gay Sibley Anita Benzing Samantha Guida

May 3-4, 9-12, 16-19
Fri/Sat 8:PM \$15
Thurs 7:PM \$10
Sun 2:PM \$10

Thurs. 3-9 Receptionist's Benefit
Reception 6:PM \$45
Contains Adult Language

Willits Community Theatre
37 W. Van Ln, Willits, CA
Underwriters: Les Schwab Tire Center of Willits
Poster design: Creek Norris

Tickets at Good's Stamp Shoppe
56 So. Main St., Willits
For credit card orders, call 459-0895
WillitsTheatre.org



New Willits superintendent of schools, Patricia Johnson (left), with Maria de los Angeles Munigua, principal of Baechtel Grove, and Olga O'Neill, principal of Brookside

Photo by Jennifer Poole

The Rest of Johnson

From Page 1

"I'm excited," Johnson – who goes by "Pat" – told Willits Weekly. "This is a great opportunity. We've done a lot of RV traveling up here – to Petaluma, Benbow and Garberville – and I am looking forward to making it permanent."

Johnson's husband, Rocky, a retired administrator, is excited about enjoying the area's outdoor life, she said, including kayaking and learning how to fly fish.

The Victor Valley school district, in Victorville, is a 7th through 12 grade district, with 10,000 residents. Victorville is a city of 100,000. Johnson, who was with the Victor Valley district for 11 years, said her job blended involvement in curriculum, instructional and budgetary issues, along with "making sure things got done."

Johnson said Victor Valley was also experiencing declining enrollment, with challenges from charter schools encouraging the district "to rethink how we do business" and to explore alternative programs and take a more creative approach.

"I've gotten a good sense from the board about their concerns," Johnson said, "and as long as we keep student achievement at the forefront, we should be great."

Pat and Rocky Johnson have three grown-up children.

The board also approved a memorandum of understanding Tuesday night with the Middletown Unified School District in Lake County, to hire (at least temporarily) Sherrie Ebyam, director of business services for the Middletown district, for 10 days a month through June 30 "to get through budget development" for next year.

VALLEYFORGE & WELDING

JERE KIRKPATRICK
Ph: 707-459-2523
Fax: 707-459-5645
www.jerekirkpatrick.com

651 E. Valley St.
Willits, CA 95490

Mendocino Film Festival Comes to Willits

The Mendocino Film Festival is coming to the Noyo Theatre in Willits on Thursday, May 30. For six years, the festival has been held exclusively in the coastal village of Mendocino. In 2012 the Festival expanded to Point Arena and Fort Bragg.

This year the Festival is making its first foray into Willits and Philo, in Anderson Valley. The charm of these Mendocino County towns and the hospitality of their businesses has proven increasingly attractive to the public and film professionals alike.

Filmmakers and actors have found the Mendocino, Fort Bragg, and Point Arena experience to be a welcome relief from the hustle of big city production pressures and industry demands. They appreciate the rural sophistication of our citizens, and many of them have been pleased to travel to our seacoast to talk in person with their fans about their cinematic works.

With the encouragement of Visit Mendocino County, Inc., and the strong support of local sponsors such as Barra of Mendocino and Parducci Winery, citizens of Willits, Covelo and Laytonville will now have the opportunity to enjoy the same presentations in the Noyo Theatre. Hosting the festival is another step toward making Willits a destination point for travelers and for our community. With the addition of Willits and Anderson Valley as hosts for film events in 2013, the Mendocino Film Festival is truly countywide.

"A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet" will screen at the Noyo Theatre at 7 pm on Thursday, May 30. Narrated by Meryl Streep, Robert Redford, and Ashley Judd, A Fierce Green Fire is the first big-picture exploration of the environmental movement – grassroots and global activism – spanning 50 years, from conservation to climate change. It focuses on activism, people fighting to save their homes, their lives, and the future – and succeeding against all odds.



Recipe | from Jennifer Poole

A satisfying dish: the carrots and onions cook into a sweet broth that contrasts well with the spicy hot polenta

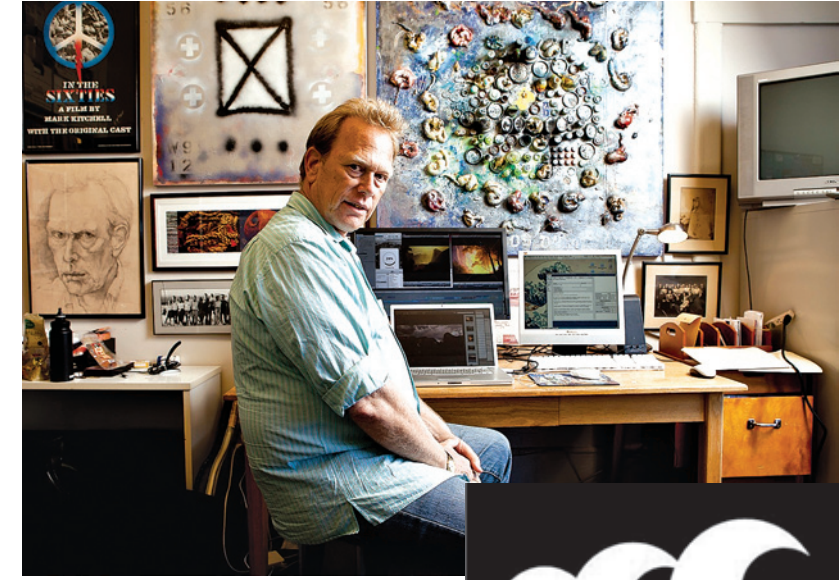
Jennifer's braised HICKEN thighs with habanero jack polenta

INGREDIENTS

- Chicken Thighs
- Butter / Olive Oil
- Onions
- Carrots
- Chicken Stock / Bouillon
- Dry Polenta
- Salt
- Water
- Habenero Jack Cheese

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willitsweekly@gmail.com



Mark Kitchell, director of A Fierce Green Fire" Photo courtesy Mendocino Film Festival

From Love Canal to the fight to prevent dams in the Grand Canyon, the fight to save the Amazon forest to saving whales and baby harp seals, it's no wonder "A Fierce Green Fire" was an Official Selection in 2012 at the Sundance Film Festival. View the film's trailer at www.afiercegreenfire.com.

Academy Award nominee, Director and Producer Mark Kitchell will be present for the reception and for Q & A following the movie to talk about every aspect of this important work on environmental activism.

The Willits event kicks off at 5:30 pm with a reception at the Willits Art Center catered by The Bistro and featuring wines by Barra and Parducci.

Tickets are \$11 for the film and \$15 for the package that includes both reception and film. Tickets may be obtained at the Noyo Theatre box office or online at www.mendocinofilmfestival.org/tickets.htm. Select the Brown Paper Ticket link. Seating is limited, so film lovers are encouraged to get their tickets promptly.



Film Review:

"Salmon Fishing in the Yemen"

"Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" isn't just about fish and fly casting. The salmon are a metaphor, and the Yemen is the geographical context for a romantic drama with beautifully executed comedic nuances. The film is British, set primarily in both Scotland and Yemen, and directed by Lasse Halstrom.

The dialogue is rich with subtext and dry wit, and Ewan McGregor is in his element – definitely not a fish out of water. Emily Blunt as his hesitant, conflicted love interest is anything but blunt. Kristin Scott Thomas embodies the political cliché of a cold fish with ice water in her veins. The Sheikh, Amr Waked, is mesmerizing as a man in love with two worlds, and whose passion for salmon fishing nearly costs him his life.

That same passion also changes the lives of everyone around him, and viewers will leave the movie feeling fully satisfied.

In terms of plot, it is McGregor whose job with the Institute of Fisheries is threatened if he doesn't find a way to ship 10,000 salmon to Yemen with an outlandish budget of 50 million pounds, gladly paid by the Sheikh to the British government which desperately needs to produce a positive spin on British/Yemeni relations.

While at the Sheikh's Scottish castle to discuss details of this ambitious if not ridiculous project, McGregor and the Sheikh share an afternoon fly casting for salmon, and the Sheikh offers an observation which captures symbolically the underlying theme of the movie: "Under there lies a fish much cleverer than I.... Fishing is the great equalizer among peoples of all races and castes."

Later that evening over dinner, the Sheikh offers his toast, which is indeed the key to the main characters in the film: "To faith and to fish."

Then there are the women in McGregor's life: an ambitious wife whose only passion is for advancement in her career; a British journalist whose new boyfriend has been shipped off to Afghanistan only to be declared missing in action and then presumed dead; and the icy politician who sees everyone – including her own family members – as pawns in her political chess game.

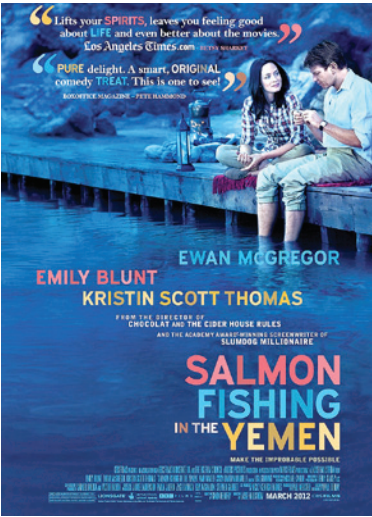
There will be tears, there will be laughter, there will be love lost and love gained, there will be dreams that come true and dreams that quietly die, there will be death and resurrection. Mostly, there will be a cinematic reminder that faith in one's dreams must never be abandoned for the sake of comfortable security.

Photographically, the fish and fishing scenes are especially evocative, in particular when contracted with McGregor's quiet little koi pond back home in Surrey. Also dramatic are the photographic contrasts between the Sheikh's castle in Scotland and his native Yemen.

The movie is based on the British bestselling debut novel of the same name by Paul Torbay. It is rare when a movie is able to capture the power and subtlety of words on the printed page. This book-to-film conversion absolutely delivers, and as a book lover, I was so inspired by the movie that I had to order the book.

Editor's note: "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" can be rented from Main Street Music and Video.

Nancy Ellis-Bell is a former professor and current literary agent/author who has lived in Willits for the past 20 years. Aside from her passion for the sharing of ideas, she is also addicted to parrots, koi and a garden that just won't stop growing.



Rock Retaining Walls

Advertisement for Gene Wixson Enterprises, featuring a photo of a retaining wall and contact information: (707) 354-0282, 24251 Sherwood Rd, Willits, CA 95490.

Advertisement for The Longest Trail by Roni McFadden, featuring a photo of the book cover and text: "Ride along with Roni as she discovers the lessons of the ancient spirits of mountains, deserts and horses - a wonderful coming-of-age tale in a magnificent setting."

County to continue budget austerity



Despite signs that both the county economy and the county government's fiscal situation are improving, the county will hold to an austere approach in crafting the county's 2013-2014 budget.

According to County Assistant CEO Kyle Knopp, his office plans to use the "baseline net county cost budget that was adopted in 2012-2013," carrying that forward into the next fiscal year, with "the departments picking up the extra cost."

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

Knopp spoke at the board of supervisors' meeting Tuesday, when the administrative staff presented its annual third quarter report on the county government's finances.

Knopp said that the fiscal measures put in place by the county after the 2008 stock market crash, and especially after 2010, when current county CEO Carmel Angelo assumed her position as the head of the county's administration, have had some positive results for the county.

Knopp reminded the board that credit rating company Fitch and Associates reported recently that the county's fiscal outlook was positive. Fitch and Associates had praised many of the fiscal and administrative measures put in place by Angelo and her staff.

Knopp added that two of the county's debts, the Southwest Border Patrol and the Public Safety Microwave debts, have been eliminated, and that the Teeter debt is on the decline, having moved from a high of \$11 million in 2002 to \$6.5 million as of last July 1.

Knopp also told the supervisors that the fiscal picture is so strong currently that the county has decided to not resort to its customary Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRANS) borrowing, the long-practiced financial maneuver by which the county borrows heavily in mid-year so that it can buck up its cash supply between the two high tax revenue periods, April and December.

He also touted what he called the "improved sustainability" of the county's fiscal state by noting that the county's general reserve levels are approaching national standards.

County Auditor Meredith Ford noted several positive trends in the county's fiscal picture as well. She said that sales tax revenues were \$50,000 over projections, and that interest earnings were \$90,000 over projected levels. When asked why, Ford agreed with board Chair Dan Hamburg's surmise that it was because the county had more cash in its bank accounts than in previous years, and so was able to collect more interest on that cash.

"We are in a better cash position now than we have been for several years," Ford said. When Third District Supervisor John Pinches pointed out that the secure property tax over the past four years was flat, Ford said that she is seeing "a potentially small increase in those revenues, but still, it's an increase, and that's good news."

Several times during the presentation Pinches suggested that now would be a good time for the county to direct that the \$769,000 used each year to pay down the Teeter Fund debt, be put into a fund which the county could use to provide services or to implement projects to benefit the public.

He pointed out that the Teeter Fund debt of \$6.5 million is now being dwarfed by the Teeter receivables: funds that are due to the county from the Teeter Fund arrangement. According to County Treasurer Shari Shapmire, those receivables now total \$13 million.

"I don't think it's necessary now to keep payin' that \$769,000, 'cuz now our revenue side is so high," Pinches said. Pinches hammered away at that theme repeatedly, but his pleas did not sway his colleagues on the board.

Second District supervisor John McCowen told the board that the Teeter Fund debt should be completely paid off, and then revenues from the Teeter Fund could be used for projects. His sentiments were echoed by First District Supervisor Carre Brown and by auditor Ford.

"Those receivables are out there, but we don't have it in our hands," Ford said. "Once that debt is paid off, then yes, we can use that income for projects."

Despite this good, or marginally good, financial news, the county will be starting from a negative position as it seeks to create a balanced budget for the next fiscal year. According to Knopp's report, over the next month the Executive Office staff will be considering how to eliminate a projected deficit of approximately \$1 million. Pinches reminded the board that a few years ago, the staff had to deal with projected deficits of \$12 to \$14 million.

Puzzle Answers

	P	E	T	R	E	L		S	A	P	
A	C	C	I	E	N	T		H	A	N	I
S	O	A	P	I	E	S	T		P	A	N
A	C	C	I	E	N	T		P	A	N	A
S	I	R						A	B	A	S
I	R	I	S					M	A	T	
S	I	N		S	O	I	D	A	D		
C	A	M	P		C	O					
U	C	A			B	A	S	S	I	N	E
P	R	I	M							N	E
N	E	B	N				A	C	K	E	E
G	U	L	A	G		A	L	T	R	U	I
A	D	E	N				B	A	S	E	L
D	A	W					A	P	P	A	L

CRYPTO FUN Answers: A. tomatoes B. cilantro C. onion D. peppers

From Page 8

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

Ellen Drell on the

History of the Willits bypass

It's 8:30 Monday night, and I just got home from town. I'm thinking to myself: "And so begins another week in Willits.... Three protesters arrested today, tree-sitters still in trees, gotta drive by two or three CHP every trip into town and every trip back home, and Ellen Drell's packin' 'em in at the library to hear about the history of the bypass."

Cat Lee Reporter cat@willitsweekly.com

This is not at all how I had envisioned 2013 would be playing out for me or for the community of Willits. How strange it all seems, yet the bypass is a topic that has been ever-present since I've lived in Willits. But it was always just a topic, not a reality. And certainly not this reality that I'm (we're) currently living/experiencing.

Monday night May 13 was the monthly meeting of the Community Alliance headed up by Jed Diamond. The featured speaker was Ellen Drell, founding board member of the Willits Environmental Center, who presented a history of the Caltrans bypass.

Drell opened by paraphrasing this quote from Julia Butterfly Hill: "Tree sitting is a last resort. When you see someone sitting in a tree trying to protect it, you know that every level of our society has failed." She took it a step further and said, "when you see a woman like Sara Grusky getting arrested (for the third time in relationship to the bypass issue), you know the process has failed."

Drell then dove in and gave the history as she knows it of the Caltrans bypass project in Willits, from 1962 to the present. As an overview, she said that there were opportunities hit and opportunities missed over the years she has been involved in this issue, and she is "privileged" to live in a community that's willing to take this on face-to-face.

"It may be scarier and harder to stop them," than it was a few years ago, she said: "There still is opportunity, but big challenges."

Drell chronicled in detail a history which begins in 1962 when she says a 4-lane, 68 mph, free-flowing freeway bypass first was proposed to deal with the projected traffic issues in this small town whose main street has a highway at either end of it.

She suggested that environmental legislation such as the California Clean Water Act in 1969, the California Environmental Quality Act in 1970, and the Endangered Species Act in 1973 may have been part of the reason the bypass didn't move forward more quickly in the '70s. "There was a lull. It was not well-supported."

Drell shared detailed information in this hour-and-a-half presentation from her personal experiences as a board member of the Willits Environmental Center and the work they have done in relationship to the bypass itself, as well as on community traffic issues in general since 1988. She packed all of this in and more, with support from charts, graphs, photos, and a few helpers.

1988 was the year of the first scoping meeting for the Willits bypass, which Caltrans is required to do by law. Following this slow beginning, things started picking up in the '90s, Drell said. In 1990, Caltrans began establishing committees, including a "technical advisory group," Drell said, and "we pushed early on for a 2-lane bypass."

In 1992 she said a citizens group worked together and came up with the "Our Town Plan" which included bike-friendly and walking routes using the railroad corridor. "This is still valid and undone 21 years later," Drell said.

In 1994 and 1995, Drell said, permitting agencies got involved, such as the Army Corps of Engineers, the federal and state Fish and Wildlife agencies, and the Water Quality Control Board.

This was a pivotal point, Drell showed in her presentation – with help from Christopher Martin and his explanation of "the fix." It's too convoluted to go into in detail, but it was at this point, she said, when the agencies became convinced that a 4-lane project was the only way to fulfill Caltrans' goal to provide a freeway with level of service "C." There is a new YouTube video from Save Our Little Lake Valley which goes into this "level of service" issue at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEiAu9LXy0.

Moves, counter-moves, politics, money, and on-and-on, and now we are at where we are now. And despite the denial earlier this year of a preliminary injunction to stop work on the bypass until legal issues work through the courts, Drell advises: "We should not quit yet.... We need creative thinking to go forward from here."

The level of interest in Drell's presentation Monday night (the room was full of attendees, including county Supervisor John McCowen); a story last week that got a lot of attention on KGO TV in San Francisco on the amount of money going into the bypass; lawsuits still playing out; and continued activism, fundraising and education efforts by Willits Environmental Center, Save Our Little Lake Valley and other groups all indicate that the fight against the bypass is far from over.

Advertisement for 1Willits Local MTA, featuring a photo of a woman riding a bus and text: "I ride MTA", "Now Mary will either walk or use the new MTA service, 1 Willits Local. She loves having the expanded service back as she works from home in the morning and can use the 1 Willits Local to get to all the places she needs to go in the afternoon, like the Evergreen Shopping Center or the Senior Center Gift Shop."

Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Cars and trucks traverse the temporary bridge
Photos by Zack Cinek



The Rest of Bridge | From Page 1

feet of Bailey Bridge material," Dashiell said.

He said that he expects the roads to be closed for about two to three weeks when the culvert is replaced.

Hard rain at times this winter may have left a mark on county roads, but an otherwise dry winter has been kind to the county road system.

Mendocino County Department of Transportation maintains 1,018 miles of road and 137 bridges in the county. County roads, Dashiell said, are in better shape than they have been in past years with more winter rains.

The Rest of Trailer | From Page 1

Pelleriti, code enforcement officer for the county said.

Pelleriti enforces code in inland Mendocino County for the Department of Planning and Building Services. The number of phone calls he gets on abandoned vehicles varies.

"I probably get maybe a phone call a week," Pelleriti said. "Next week I could get 15 calls."

According to the county, the abatement program has removed nearly 17,500 vehicles from public and private property since it started in 1992.

Correspondence from the Mendocino County Planning and Building Services department stated to county supervisors that the California Highway Patrol would need to charge Mendocino County about \$15,000 to restart collection of the \$1 fee for vehicles registered in the county.

Documents submitted to the supervisors from Planning and Building state that the board of supervisors ended the program in April 2012 to comply with 2010's Prop 26, requiring a 2/3s "yes" vote on taxes.

Mendocino County Solid Waste Management Authority,

also a joint operation including Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits and the county, oversees Mendocino County's garbage business.

To Mike Sweeney, manager of the authority, clean-up of abandoned vehicles is an essential service that cannot be interrupted.

"Trailers and cars are just a big piece of litter," said Sweeney.

On a scenic Reynolds Highway turnout, a travel trailer abandoned on a pullout with scenic views of grazing cattle and oak trees appeared in February. With broken glass, garbage inside, and unlocked doors, the vintage trailer was an eyesore in an otherwise pristine corner of the valley.

At that time, the abandoned vehicle abatement program was expected to be out of order for several months, Planning and Building Services Director Steve Dunningcliff told Willits Weekly.

Although the abatement program is not in operation, abandoned RVs and trailers have been removed and stored until the program restarts, Planning & Building's Pelleriti said.

Participation in the program would give the Willits Police



An old trailer was removed last February

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

Department a shot to begin recovering money for the time its staff spends on abandoned vehicles.

"In the past, the City of Willits would tag and make referrals to the County of Mendocino Code Enforcement Department and receive no reimbursement for time spent abating abandoned vehicles," Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez said, in a report to the Willits City Council.

If the Willits City Council votes to join the program, Planning and Building's Pelleriti said a packet will

be sent to the CHP in Sacramento for approval.

How it works

■ No agency receives money unless a quarterly report is submitted.

■ A tow company is contracted for removal and disposal of vehicles.

■ Vehicles or parts are scrapped unless a vehicle qualifies for restoration.

■ A board of directors will consist of a representative of each participating jurisdiction.



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