

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Edition No. 2

Free - but donations accepted

Wick drains

Bypass opponents at forum say drains are unlikely to 'de-water' the valley, but other effects are unstudied

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The approximately 55,000 wick drains planned for insertion into the northern portion of the Willits Bypass footprint will likely impact only adjacent wells in Little Lake Valley, according to Bob Whitney, one of the panelists at a symposium held at the Little Lake Grange on Sunday afternoon.

About 125 people were gathered at the grange on that painfully beautiful Sunday afternoon for the forum moderated by Sheriff Tom Allman.

Whitney gave a humorous, almost tongue-in-cheek lecture on wick drains, which he illustrated with projected images that he gleaned from wick drain sales brochures he had found on the web. The pictures that Whitney shared portrayed the drains as producing a lot of water. In one photograph, a wick drain field in what appeared to be a desert area on a dry, sunny day had rendered the field into a waterlogged swamp. However, when asked how wick drains would affect wells in the valley, Whitney said: "There would probably be a localized effect for wells that are adjacent to the construction site."

When asked if oak trees in the valley are going to dry up because of lack of ground water, Whitney said, "I don't think so."

Whitney said that his main complaint with the Willits Bypass Environmental Impact Report as it concerns wick drains is that the impact of wick drains on the surrounding area wasn't studied. Whitney said that the use of wick drains is a technology that is "used throughout the entire Western world to accelerate the drying up of the construction site." When asked what the life expectancy of wick drains is, Whitney said: "Wick drains are made of plastic, with a fabric woven in. The plastic will be underground so it won't deteriorate in the sunlight but there are micro-organisms in the soil that will eventually decompose the plastic but that will take, well, I don't know how long it will take exactly. The plastic will be there for many, many decades. That whole area, that 1 mile, will be affected. It will be a localized impact. What I don't like about wick drains is that it wasn't studied. I looked all through the EIR and the supplemental EIR, and I couldn't find anything, nothing. You wonder, is there a problem? Did I miss

Wicks |
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Above: The Ukiah Shamrocks and Potter Valley 4-H Knitting Group. From left, back row: Ava Mortier, Ella Rozelski, Ericka Boesel, Marishka Gourn, Lindzey Rozelski, Briley Penry and Katie Penry. From left, front row: Noah Penry and Maggie Nelson



Soon-to-be 90 years old, Chris Keiffer enjoys a bite of cookie at the tasting booth. His son, Bob Keiffer, is Superintendent of the Field Station



Below right: Mendocino County First District Supervisor Carre Brown speaks

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

Centennial Celebration

4-H'ers young and old celebrate 100 years of program in California

A sea of green and white filled the great room of Rod Shippey Hall at the Hopland Research and Extension Center last Sunday, when around 250 guests, 4-H alumni, friends and family gathered to celebrate the program's 100th year in California.

Maureen Moore
Designer & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Three Ukiah Shamrock 4-H emcees – Shannon Whetzel, Tea Greene and Adriaan Boer – did a wonderful job presenting the program, which ran from 2 to 4:30 pm. Preceding the event, a lovely array of hors d'oeuvres, prepared by Beth Keiffer and Melissa Smith, were available to the gathered crowd.

The event not only showcased the talents of many current members with select performances and the large feature exhibit display that lined the entry hall, but was also rich with stories, memories and tales of years gone by and those who still remembered the early days of the program.

Alexis Davis of Redwood Valley-Calpella 4-H sang "The Star Spangled Banner"; Keely Adhens of the Willits 4-H played the piano; Rory Beak of the Mendocino Spartans 4-H demonstrated his violin – or was it fiddle? – skills in his presentation, "Is it a Violin or a Fiddle?"; and the Coast Taiko 4-H project gave a performance of traditional-style Japanese drumming.

Several families were honored by 4-H Program Representative Linda Edgington for their cumulative 100-plus years in 4-H, including: Sandy Cohen and family with 170 years; the Babcock family of Fort Bragg with 107 years; the Dempel family of Hopland with 118 years; the Smith family of Hopland with 125 years; the Elmer family of Potter Valley with 129 years; the Keiffer/Lyon family of Hopland and Kelseyville with 134 years; the Evans/Bergmen family of Lower Lake and Ukiah with 135 years' and the Whetzel/Passof family of Ukiah with 138 years.

Centennial | Over on Page 11

'Reconfiguration'

May not cost Willits Kids Club state funds

When the Willits Unified School District board of trustees voted 4-1 last week to start "reconfiguring" which grades go to which schools in Willits, one of the issues in question was how the move would affect funding for the Willits Kids Club.

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

A handout presented at the April 24 community forum explained that Kids Club funding from the state's After School Safety & Education program was tied to schools, not to students.

The plan to teach third-grade classes at Brookside Elementary School next fall, instead of at Blosser Lane Elementary School, would shift students, but not necessarily Kids Club funding.

But Kids Club director Kris Wagner told Willits Weekly on Wednesday that the club got paperwork that day to apply for a "site substitution," so that the third-grade portion of the ASES funding could be transferred to Brookside school.

"This is great news," Wagner said. She is

optimistic that there will be no glitches in the funds transfer process.

After the school board voted last week to start reconfiguration this fall, Wagner immediately contacted the Willits Kids Club representative at the California Department of Education, looking for some kind of "waiver" so that funds could be shifted along with the kids.

"I wish the school board had made a different decision," Wagner said. "I did think waiting a year [to start the reconfiguration] would've been better. But we'll do everything we can to work together, whether it was our first choice or not. This is our ninth year of being partners with the school district, and we're working together."

Surveys sent out to parents of Brookside and Blosser lane schools found "overwhelming support" for keeping kids at Brookside for the third grade, the district office said. But parents and others speaking at recent meetings – and school board member Saprina Rodriguez, who was the lone vote against starting configuration this fall – have expressed concern that the plan was being implemented too fast.

Interim Superintendent Debbie Pearson's

initial proposal to the school board also included moving the sixth-graders, currently taught at Baechtel Grove Middle School, to Blosser Lane, leaving Baechtel Grove as a "true junior high" with only seventh and eighth grades. The school board decided last week to wait until fall 2014 to implement that phase of reconfiguration.

The move to reconfigure Willits schools, Pearson said, was spurred because the "biggest problem" in the Willits school district is declining enrollment. Enrollment is down 21 percent in the district.

Yes, "outside factors" like a decline in population, including fewer children overall, play a part, Pearson told the school board last month, "but our charter schools have had a dramatic effect on our district."

Average daily attendance dollars lost to the district because of students attending the new Willits Elementary Charter School instead meant a loss of \$400,000 to the district this year. "That's huge," Pearson said. "What can we do better?"

WKC |
Over on Page 9

CTC funds mitigation for bypass

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

The California Transportation Commission voted Tuesday to fund \$26 million in mitigation funds for the Willits bypass.

Some Willits residents opposed to the current design of the Caltrans bypass of Willits attended the CTC meeting in Los Angeles to speak against the funding, to no avail. A May 7 press release from Caltrans emphasized the "significant environmental improvements" the transportation agency would make on more than 2,000 acres of lands it purchased for the Willits bypass route, using the mitigation funding.

"Caltrans takes seriously its responsibility to preserve the species and habitats on these lands," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "We will protect these wetlands and fisheries in the Little Lake Valley while preserving grazing on much of these lands."

But funding for one mitigation project, designed to improve fish passage for Coho salmon at Ryan Creek, scheduled to be finished by October 2013, was delayed at the request of Caltrans.

The request to delay completion of the project until December 2016 was "due to the required extensive environmental and design re-work for the highway realignment project," which has "significantly impacted" the "delivery of this project," the CTC agenda packet said.

Representatives from Save Our Little Lake Valley also traveled to Sacramento

Bypass |
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For the Foodies

COLUMN | Cat About Town

The dish on tasty treats and more



Visiting Willits

Via My Stomach

I've been in/on retreat for about a year-and-a-half now. What that means is that I've been staying home as much as I can and only going to town once a week or so.

Filling my days with homeschooling kids and caring for critters and gardens has been quite satisfying and rejuvenating, but life is never static for me. There's always gonna be something new entering my life as I leave other parts behind.

Cat Lee
Reporter
cat@willitsweekly.com

Reporting for Willits Weekly is what's new for me now, and this project has me venturing into town more often.

Having lived here for more than 14 years now, I'm seeing Willits with fresh eyes. I see how habitual and somewhat rigid I have become in my patterns. I shop at the same stores and only those stores. It's the same with our restaurants. There are many I have not visited in years and some newer ones I've never tried.

That's changing now as I re-enter the world that is Willits, and so far I'm 2-for-2 with my experiences at Mexican food restaurants.

I recently hit up Taqueria Jalos and Taqueria Bravo, and I was fully satisfied with both.



I don't eat meat, but I do eat some dairy, and I know I can always get veggie Mexican food. I spent about \$10 to \$15 including a tip. I could have gotten by cheaper, but I have a healthy appetite and I love a beer with my Mexican food.

At Taqueria Jalos I went for the \$5 special advertised in the window, which includes two soft tacos, rice and beans. I didn't think that would be enough to fill me up, so I ordered a tostada as well.

The food was fresh and warm and the beer icy cold. The salsas were zingy, zippy, and tasty, and the service was great. The atmosphere was clean and pleasant too, but I could do without the TV. I gave it up a decade ago.... My tummy was perfectly happy and satisfied following this meal. It was just right for me on this day.

My visit to Taqueria Bravo Monday left me just as satisfied in all ways. I had a tostada and two tacos again - with a beer, yes. They have "vegetable tacos" here that I just love (at least the two times I've had them now). They are made of hot, fresh seasonal veggies like zucchini, yellow squash, and broccoli grilled or sautéed with onions and garlic and peppers. Yum!

I also really like that the tostada comes with guacamole, and even cooler is that the guacamole is very fresh and yummy and agrees with my taste buds a lot!

No worries, my old tried and true food haunts of Willits. I'm not abandoning you, but I am expanding my horizons to experience more fully what the wondrous world of Willits has to offer.



At top: The \$5 soft tacos lunch special at Taqueria Jalos, plus a tostada

Above: Vegetable tacos at Taqueria Bravo are made of hot, fresh seasonal veggies like zucchini, yellow squash, and broccoli grilled or sautéed with onions and garlic and peppers.

Photos by Cat Lee



The Taqueria Ramirez taco truck on Blosser Lane across from the Willits Redwood Company sawmill

Photo by Zack Cinek

City's Revitalization committee:

What food truck policy would work in Willits?

Willits' code book says it is against the law for mobile businesses to be on Main and Commercial Streets - or anywhere within one block of those streets. Continuing talks by city government indicate that Willits will be looking at other communities as examples for any potential changes to its food truck ordinances.

"What works in San Francisco is not going to work here," Councilman Ron Orenstein said at a Monday meeting of the City's Revitalization and Economic Development Committee.

A conversation about Willits' food truck and mobile vendors began at the last city council meeting where it was placed on the council's agenda for discussion. The council took no action at that meeting.

The Revitalization committee made no decisions, but members talked about what kind of policy would work or be supported in Willits.

"I have not been contacted by many interested in continuing a ban on mobile food places," Mayor Holly Madrigal said.

Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez spoke at the meeting, saying

he thinks the city would do best to narrowly define food trucks, looking to other towns as an example.

Willits stated policy is to ban food trucks and mobile vendors, but some actions taken by the city show a policy contrary to the code book.

In a letter to the city, Vittorio Senerchia of Senerchia Bakers says that he is looking to do business in town from a wood-fired oven on weekend evenings this summer. Senerchia Bakers sells pizza and calzone at the Willits Farmers Market.

"We are planning to add a mobile, wood-fired oven this summer, and after talking with Alan Falleri (former community development director for the City of Willits) last winter, it was clear to me that while there was a body of older local code that conflicted, it was current practice to overlook this conflict in actual practice," Senerchia wrote in a May 6 letter to the city.

Senerchia also told the city: "We look forward to opening our weekend evening business this summer on the traffic corridor, and hope you can resolve the disconnect between the code and the desired current practices of code enforcement."

Justin's Spiced Chocolate Fudge

Ingredients:

- 3 cups sugar
- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 1 7oz jar of marshmallow cream
- 2/3 cup evaporated milk
- 1/4 cup vodka
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 10oz bag of bittersweet chocolate chips

Directions:

Combine sugar, butter, marshmallow cream, evaporated milk, vodka, cinnamon and cayenne into a 4 quart sauce pan.

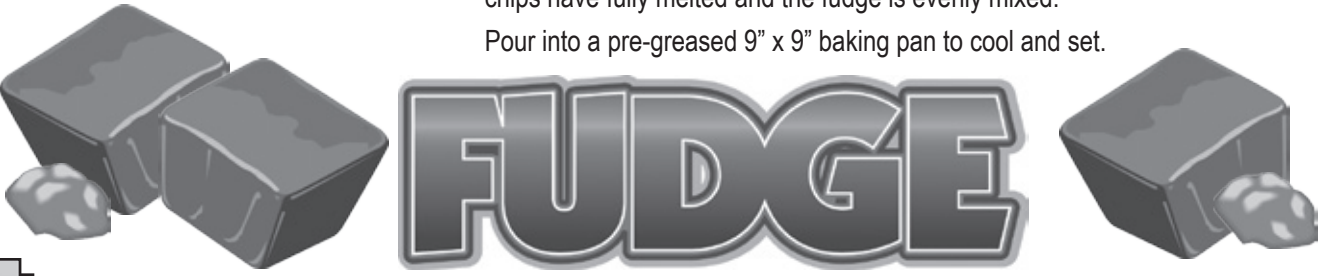
Stirring constantly over medium-high heat, bring mixture to a rolling boil.

Still stirring, continue to cook for 4 minutes.

Perform a soft-ball test or check that the mixture has reached 235°-240°F. If it fails the soft-ball test or is below the desired temperature continue cooking, retesting every 20-30 seconds. During this time the mixture will rise and bubbles may pop. If this happens frequently, slow your stirring to reduce the risk of sugar burns.

Remove from heat and quickly mix in the chocolate chips and vanilla extract until chips have fully melted and the fudge is evenly mixed.

Pour into a pre-greased 9" x 9" baking pan to cool and set.



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Adults \$7
Children \$5
& Members
(with card) \$6

INFO:
459-6826

Mom & Prom

Mother's Day and WHS Prom are this weekend

Full of



Left: The Flower Lady of Willits owner Arcelia Duran and her son Steven, and (right) Annette Pinon, owner of Flowers By Annette, are ready for your orders for prom and Mother's Day.

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

Flowers

Every year, florists around the country work hard to make beautiful arrangements extra special for all the moms on Mother's Day. This year the holiday falls on Sunday, May 12 and both Flowers by Annette and The Flower Lady of Willits are ready to help deliver a special bouquet to moms near and far. Contact Flowers by Annette at 707-459-6588 and The Flower Lady of Willits at 707-459-9075.

PROMinees



King Nominee: Jacob Bailey



King Nominee: Kailer Collicott



King Nominee: Wyatt Sanderson

Willits High School announces Senior Prom King and Queen Nominees in preparation for this Saturday night's event, from 9 pm to 1 am. Attendees will dance the night away to the theme of "Forever in the Twilight" held at the Little Lake Grange. King and Queen winners will be announced during the event.

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



Queen Nominee: Natalie Rose Grossman



Queen Nominee: Alicia Mehtlan



Queen Nominee: Kayla Schnitzius

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Congratulations Column

Rowdy William Lamprich



Rowdy William Lamprich born January 10, 2013 at 9:31 pm. He was 9 lbs even and 22.5 inches long. He is welcomed by parents Chris and April Lamprich, his sisters Charley and Brodey and grandparents Celeste Potter, Chris & Marisela Lamprich and great grandparents Charles & Billie Lamprich and Leonardo & Luce Rodriguez and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

TOOTHLESS
Rylee Gamble



Six-year-old Rylee Gamble became a member of the front toothless club on May 4th when playing with a friend helped coax out her second top tooth. "The tooth fairy will be coming tonight!" parents Brandi and Logan Gamble laughed.

Heather Blough
Turned 50



Heather Blough recently celebrated her 50th birthday. "Happy 50th Girl! The new 30! We all love ya!" her friends said.

Brian Huddle
Turned 16



Happy Birthday to Brian Huddle who turned 16 years old on May 8th.

WINNER
Andrew Hosford



Willits-raised Andrew Hosford placed in the top 5 for the Poster Competition at the Plains Nutrition Council Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX.

The Plains Nutrition Council (PNC) is an organization that brings together farmers, ranchers, veterinarians, academics, and private companies to talk about current issues that industry is facing. There were attendees from all over the world.

The poster competition is open to graduate students from any university. The panel of judges pick the top 5 posters based on a number of factors but most importantly, if the research will have an impact on improving the way that the animal agriculture industry is currently doing things.

The title of his poster was "Effects of Supplemental Lysine and Methionine with Zipaterol Hydrochloride on Feedlot Performance, Carcass Characteristics, and Tenderness in Finishing Feedlot Cattle." For the trial, he selected the live cattle, fed them at the TTU feedlot, then harvested them at a commercial facility, collecting muscle samples to analyze tenderness.

"This research will make up the majority of my dissertation," explained Hosford. "It will result in finally achieving my goal of earning a Ph. D. in Animal Science with a concentration in Muscle Biology and Meat Science."

Send us your congratulatory notes!
willitsweekly@gmail.com

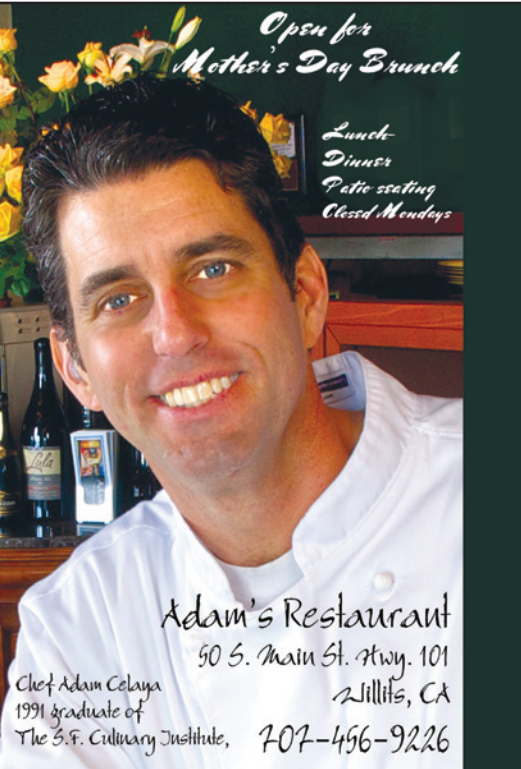
The Rules: CONGRATULATIONS

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.

If you're sending a digital photograph you'd like us to use in the paper, a high-resolution photo is best.

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

Facebook 707-972-7047 maureengetsmail@gmail.com



What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Thursday, May 9

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

Registration Closes Today: for Family Gardening Workshop taught in Willits, Saturday, May 11, 8 am to 5 pm, by master gardener John Jeavons. Benefit for Waldorf School. \$110; 40 percent discount for members of Little Lake Grange and WELL. Register at: www.johnjeavons.info.

Benefit "Dead Man's Cell Phone": A special benefit performance for Soroptimist International of Willits tonight. Includes hors d'oeuvres and beverage for \$15. Contact Marilyn at 459-5649 for tickets to this event. See Ongoing listing for more information about the play.

Shanachie Pub: Lincoln Andrews & Company Jazz Jam, 8 pm. A new open jam format, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, featuring a variety of jazz musicians. Local and traveling "jazzies" are encouraged to bring their instrument of choice for a night of improvised genre-spanning jazz music.

Friday, May 10

Shanachie Pub: Mendozone, rocking reggae power trio featuring the rhythm section of veteran original roots reggae band Rootstock, Ellery Clark on bass and Lex Krauss on guitar, plus Christian Freeman on drums. Check out Mendozone at <http://www.myspace.com/mendozone>.

Saturday, May 11

Stamp Out Hunger: Letter Carriers' Food Drive. Help fight hunger by collecting non-perishable goods and placing them in your mailbox (or in a box/bag beside) for your letter carrier to pick up this Saturday.

Shanachie Pub: 8 pm, featuring Malakai & Greg Schindel playing together. No cover. Greg is well-known as the "Train Singer," performing popular and traditional train songs on guitar, harmonica and whistle on the Skunk Train since 1989 and at fairs and festivals. Malakai, currently performing with bands Schindig and The Dirt Floor Band, sings and plays the silver flute, pan pipes, didgeridoo, guitar and hammer dulcimer.

Sunday, May 12

Pancakes for Mother's Day: 8 to 11 am at the Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, any style of eggs, choice of bacon, ham or sausage, orange juice, coffee and mimosas. \$7 adults; \$5 children; \$5 members with card. Info: 459-6826.

Save the Date Ongoing Events

May 19:

Poet Linda Noel/Open Reading, the Muse

May 19:

Sober Grad's Ducky Derby, Brooktrails Golf Course

May 24, 25 & 26:

Friends of the Library Book Sale, Willits Library

May 25:

Mini-Maker Faire, County Museum & Masquerade Ball

May 25:

Willits Community Walk for Health

May 25 & 26:

Community Car Show, Rec Grove

June 8:

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

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.

Monday, May 13

Community Alliance meeting: with Ellen Drell, 6:30 pm in the Willits Library meeting room. Drell, a founding board member of Willits Environmental Center, went to her first Caltrans bypass meeting in 1988, and will be sharing a history of the Caltrans bypass. Community Alliance More info: Jed Diamond at 459-5505.

Tuesday, May 14

Rides on a Historic WWII Aircraft: Willits chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association sponsors the local tour stop of the B-17, named "Aluminum Overcast." Rides are \$475 and tours are from 2 - 5 pm are \$10, \$20 for families and free for veterans at the Ukiah Regional Airport today and Wednesday. More info: www.b17.org/media/press_release.pdf.

Wednesday, May 15

History Day at Willits Charter School: The community is invited to view History Day displays at the Charter School from 4 to 6 pm today. Students from grades 6 through 11 will be presenting their research in the form of display boards, posters, skits, video, electronic presentations, oral histories and art. Many students will be dressed as their favorite historical person, or in the garb of their favorite historic era, today and Thursday during the school day.



Malakai and Greg perform Saturday at the Shanachie Pub

Thursday, May 16

"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.

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 the Willits Shakespeare Festival, "'The Complete History of America, Abridged'" (the only Willits showing after a successful run in Ukiah); music by The Dirt Floor Band, and an Italian dinner (gluten free and vegetarian available. Little Lake Grange, 7 pm. Tickets: \$30, available at Goods' Shoppe.

"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

"Bass Buffet" featuring Jillian Ann: 10 pm to 4 am at the Brooktrails Lodge. A new multi-genre, future bass music show every second Saturday, from local promoters Figure 8 Sound, Mountain Lion Hi Fi, GruntWorthy, and ZooKeepers. Multiple rooms with multiple DJs, light & laser crews AuroraScope and HyTyePromoteam, and custom visuals by Seeing Sounds. Los Angeles multimedia artist Jillian Ann (DJ, electronica producer, singer/songwriter) has just released the "Passes Away" EP on Simplify Recordings. \$10; 21+; full bar; dinner served until 9:30pm; rooms available: 459-1596. For more info, check "Bass Buffet" on Facebook.



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 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.

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.

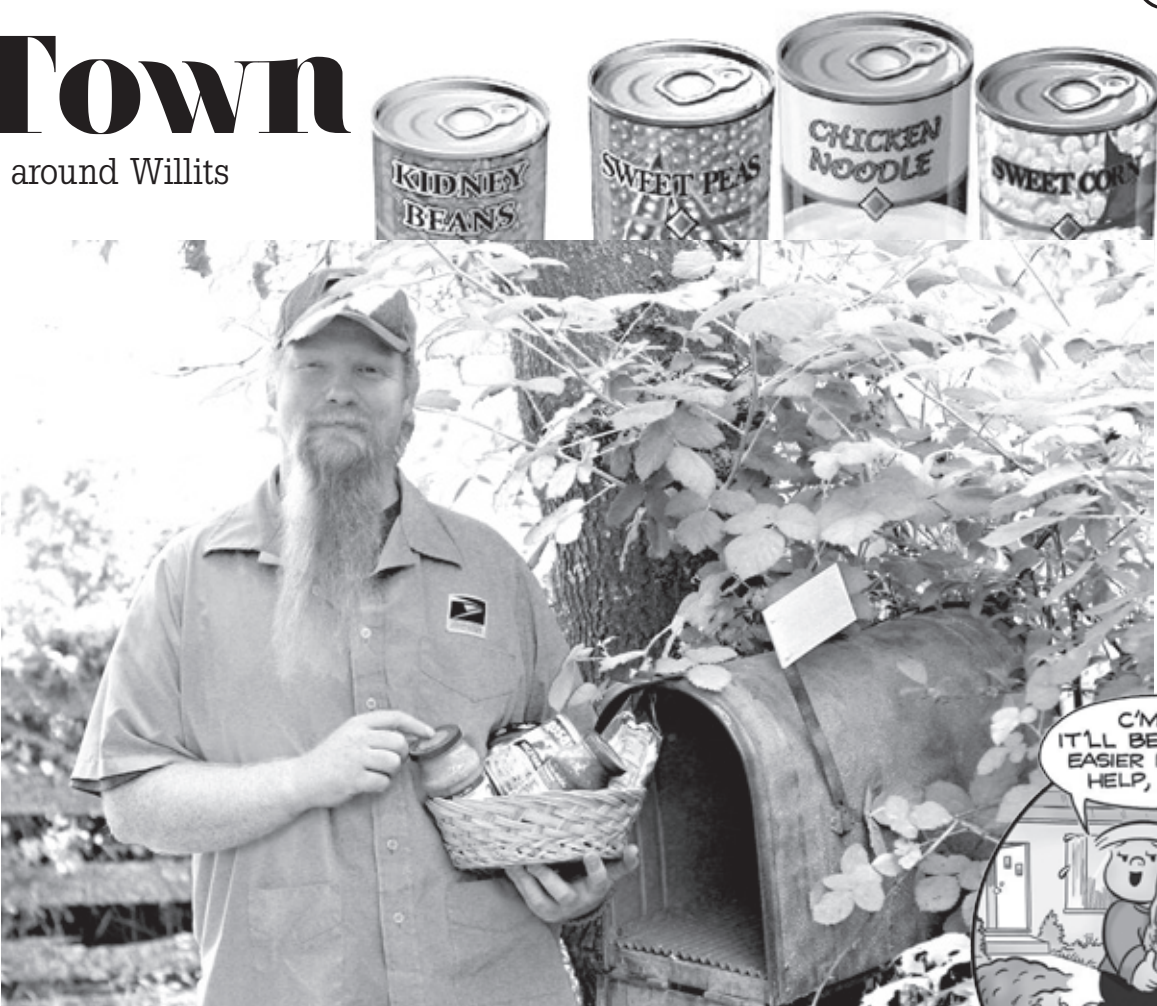
Jungle of Fun



Redwood Empire Fair exhibitor guide books are already out on the streets.

Even though the July 5 deadline for entries seems a ways away, now is the time to plant your veggies, start looking at sewing patterns, build your quilt blocks, test out recipes, and more. The fair will be here before you know it!

Books are available at the Willits Chamber of Commerce or at Gateway Realty. More info: 462-FAIR or 459-5363



Letter Carrier Matthew Jennison picks up canned goods from a local mailbox

Photo by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

Stamp Out Hunger

Annual Post Office one-day food drive this Saturday

For the 21st year, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Campbell Soup Company will partner to Stamp Out Hunger with their canned food drive. The Stamp Out Hunger Drive is the largest single-day food drive across the country with 70.5 million pounds of food being donated in 2012. This brought the grand total of the entire drive to over 1.2 billion pounds of food.

This year, donations are needed yet again to help supply food

to the rapidly increasing number of Americans struggling with hunger. You can help by placing non-perishable goods in your mailbox or bagged or boxed alongside for your letter carrier to pick up and add to the drive this Saturday.

For more information ask your letter carrier, contact the local post office, visit either www.helpstampouthunger.com or www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger, or follow the drive at www.twitter.com/StampOutHunger.

Mini Makers Needed for May 25 Fair

Deadline for applications is May 10

Saturday, May 25 is the date for the Mini Maker Faire at the County Museum in Willits, 10 am to 5 pm, and the Maker Masquerade Ball that evening at the Little Lake Grange.

Maker Faires are family-friendly showcases of invention, creativity, and resourcefulness, and tinkerers and vendors interested in having free booths at the faire, or in doing displays, demonstrations, and workshops, are welcome to apply by going to www.MendocinoMakerFaire.com.

com, and click on "Makers" to download an application. Deadline is May 10. Volunteers also needed: to sign up, please call Barbara Willens at 459-2736, or email Info@MendocinoMakerFaire.com.

Tickets (a limited number will be sold) for the Maker Masquerade Ball, \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door, are also now available at the museum and at Mazahar, and also online at Brown Bag Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/382929>

Spring Plant Sales

Get your veggie and flower starts and help out a great cause

First Steps Daycare Plant Sale:

Saturday, May 18, from 10 am to 3 pm at Sweetwater Station on Highway 101. Aloe plants, 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.

Junior Giants Sign-Ups



The Willits Redwood Little League teams are winding up their season. At Saturday's game, above: a batter connects with the ball and at right: the team huddles and talks strategy

Photos by Kathy McKee

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.



Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

In the Stars...

ARIES | Mar 21 - Apr 20

Aries, something irresistible keeps grabbing your attention. Don't overindulge too much or you will regret the decision later on. Exercise moderation.

TAURUS | Apr 21 - May 21

Taurus, you may be tempted to run away from a challenging situation, but it is in your best interest to hunker down and face the problem. You won't be going it alone.

GEMINI | May 22 - Jun 21

Gemini, you seem to quickly conquer tasks that others struggle with. It could be thanks to your ability to focus, but look over your work to make sure it's correct.

CANCER | Jun 22 - Jul 22

Cancer, while many things come easily to you, there is one particular situation that continually proves problematic. You might have to scale a few mountains to handle it.

LEO | Jul 23 - Aug 23

Leo, this week you might be better off tackling things on your own instead of looking to others for support. This will help minimize any potential distractions.

VIRGO | Aug 24 - Sept 22

You have a few secrets you are not willing to share just yet, Virgo. That's alright. Keeping some of your agenda private will inspire curiosity and be to your advantage.

LIBRA | Sept 23 - Oct 23

Libra, you may be trying to get a certain person alone so you can have some one-on-one time together. A rendezvous is possible this week.

SCORPIO | Oct 24 - Nov 22

Scorpio, you are at an impasse because you are second-guessing some of your most recent decisions. You may need to shift your focus to get back on track.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov 23 - Dec 21

The old adage that if you want something done right you have to do it yourself rings especially true this week, Sagittarius. Your skills are put to the test.

CAPRICORN | Dec 22 - Jan 20

Capricorn, there is a certain window of time this week when you will be extremely efficient and effective. The other times you may as well throw in the towel.

AQUARIUS | Jan 21 - Feb 18

Aquarius, you have to work out a few loose ends before you are free for a much-needed vacation or just time spent doing whatever it is that makes you happy.

PISCES | Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces, sometimes love can cause pain, but this is the way to grow and learn from mistakes. There are lessons to be learned in a few days.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

ANSWERS
ON PAGE
11

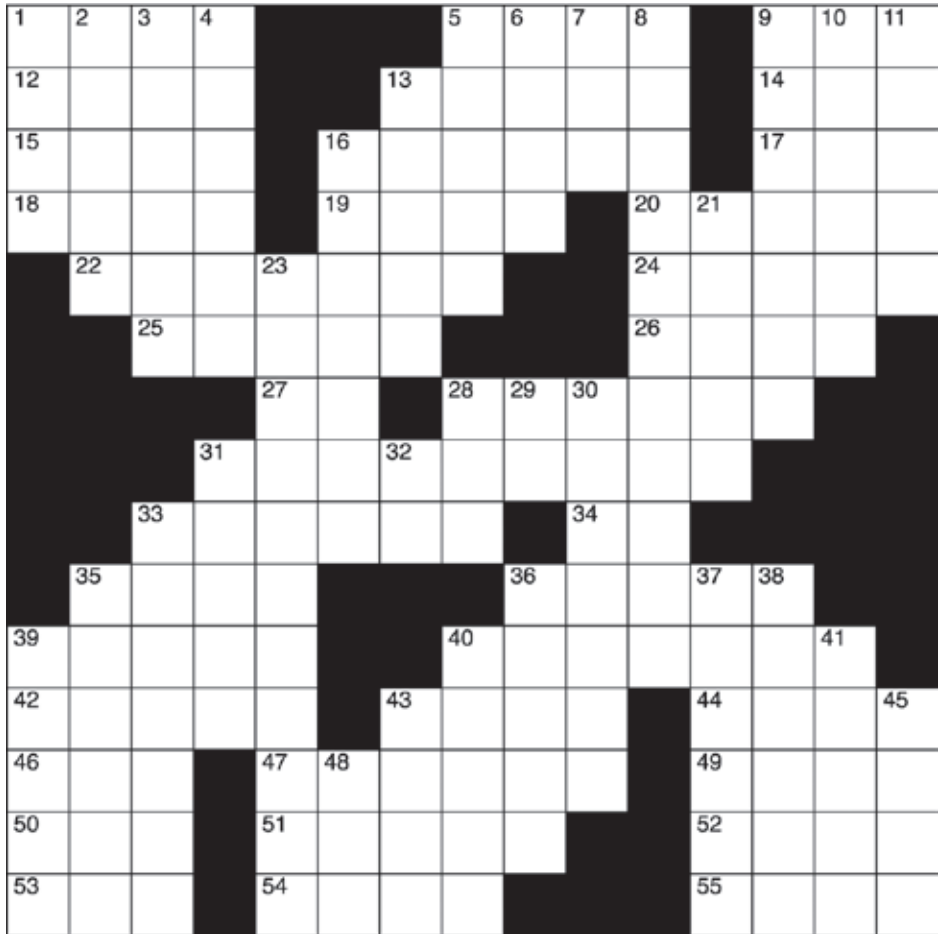
NOW
WITH
CLUES!

CLUES DOWN

- Lyric poems
- Hungarian sheep dog (var. sp.)
- A pad of writing paper
- Lists of candidates
- Base, basket and foot
- Samoa capital
- Mythological bird
- Urban row houses
- Sensationalist journalism
- Carried on the arm to intercept blows
- Estrildid finch genus
- PA 18840
- S.W. English town & cheese
- Runs disconnected
- Mourners
- Old world, new
- Atomic #25
- Sweet potato wind instrument
- Legend
- 3rd tone of the scale
- Russian jeweler Peter Carl
- Capital of Mali
- Extremist sects
- Violent denunciation
- Tooth covering
- Music term for silence
- Churns
- Smoldering embers
- Writer Jong
- Actor Kristofferson
- Adam and Eve's 1st home
- Fish eggs

- 3rd largest city in Zambia
- 18th Hebrew letter (var.)
- Coasted on ice
- Libyan dinar
- Displayed exaggerated emotion
- Andalusian Gypsy dances
- Material
- Article
- Ballplayer Ruth
- 5th largest Greek island
- Hand drum of No. India
- A style of preparing food
- Former ruler of Afghanistan
- AKA Cologne
- Not generally occurring
- Auto
- Print errors
- Interspersed among
- Electrocardiogram
- Churns
- Ice hockey feint
- Drive obliquely, as of a nail
- Dried leaves of the hemp plant
- Arduous

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Selects
- A cutting remark
- Teaspoonful (abbr.)
- Having two units or parts
- Quality perceptible to the sense of taste
- Expression of surprise

- Italian Island
- A coarse cloth with a bright print
- Propose a price
- Sedimentary material
- Tree toad genus
- Passed time agreeably
- Custodians

Heart Health Word Search

WORDS

ABDOMEN
ALVEOLI
ANGINA
ANGIOPLASTY
AORTA
ARTERY
ATHEROSCLEROSIS
BIOPSY
BLOOD PRESSURE
BRADYCARDIA
CARDIAC
CARDIOVASCULAR
CHOLESTEROL
CIRCULATION
DIASTOLIC
DIURETIC
EDEMA
ENDOCARDIUM
ENZYMES
HYPERTENSION
INFARCT
ISCHEMIA
LUMEN
PALPITATION
PLAQUE
SATURATED
SEPTUM
SHUNT
STENT
THROMBUS
VEIN

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

A. 14 25 11 23 23 21 25 11

Clue: Continuous force

B. 16 13 25 4 1 8 6 13 23 16 21 2 13 25

Clue: Relating to the heart

C. 22 11 13 25 7

Clue: Body muscle

D. 23 13 2 7

Clue: Seasoning

Solve the code to discover words related to blood pressure. Each number corresponds to a different letter. (Hint: 13 = a)

CRYPTOFUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Congratulations, Willits Weekly

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Green Burials

Editor's Note: We thought this column by Marc Comer was a good follow-up to last weekend's "Are You Ready?" workshop in Willits about the process of death and dying.

Burials and cremations can be hard on the environment. Embalming chemicals, metal caskets, concrete burial vaults, and cremation facility emissions take a surprising toll.

It's not difficult to make funeral arrangements that are easier on the earth. Some green choices are surprisingly simple, like asking that your body not be embalmed and choosing an environmentally friendly casket or urn.

What's more, many of these options bring an additional benefit that interests almost everyone – saving money. You may save thousands of dollars for your inheritors by making a few careful choices.

Here are some things you can do: Choose a green cemetery. The Green Burial Council, a nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable after-death practices, has developed a certification process for cemeteries that want to go green. These cemeteries agree to avoid toxins and earth-adverse materials (including metal caskets, concrete burial vaults and traditional grave markers) and to help to preserve land. You can learn more and locate facilities at www.greenburialcouncil.org.

Say no to embalming. Embalming fluid contains toxic chemicals – including up to three gallons of formaldehyde – that can seep into soil and ground water. It's also hazardous to the funeral industry personnel who have to work with it. Embalming rarely serves a legitimate purpose and is almost never required.

Ask for a biodegradable container. You can use a simple wood casket, cardboard box or shroud for burial. There are also biodegradable urns for ashes that will be buried. By law, you are allowed to use whatever type of container you like – even a homemade one. This is a great opportunity to save money, because elaborate caskets and urns carry a huge mark-up and can cost a bundle. (The average casket costs almost \$2,500. Fancier models may cost more than \$20,000.)

Avoid in-ground vaults. Vaults are large containers, usually made from reinforced concrete, that are placed in the ground before a burial. They're not required by law, but many cemeteries demand them because they make it easier to maintain the landscape. The result is that, every year, more than 1.5 million tons of reinforced concrete are buried along with caskets and bodies.

You can look for a cemetery that doesn't require vaults. In a few states, you can even refuse a vault on religious grounds. You may be required to pay an extra fee for grave maintenance, but you will avoid the cost of the vault itself (\$500 to \$10,000 in most places).

If you must use a vault, you might consider one of the following: Use a concrete grave box with open bottom or turn a concrete grave liner upside down and find something else to do with the lid. These options offer two advantages. First, they use slightly less concrete. Second, they allow the body to be in contact with the earth, which makes for a much quicker and cleaner decomposition process.

Cremation conservation. Cremation uses the fewest resources, and it's less expensive than burial, but it's not entirely clean. It burns fossil fuels and carries the risk of mercury pollution from incinerated amalgam fillings. Newer cremation facilities are more efficient, using about half the fuel. If you have amalgam fillings in your teeth, you can ask that they be removed before cremation.

Consider a home funeral. An increasing number of people are choosing to care for their dead at home, reducing the funeral industry's involvement or avoiding it altogether. Though home funerals are more work, many find them to be a satisfying and helpful part of the grieving process.

Most states do allow individuals to act completely on their own – or with the help of funeral "midwives" who are now available in many locations. But there are rules about how people may proceed. And a few states throw up roadblocks to acting independently, requiring that a funeral director handle the disposition of a deceased person.

Tell others what you want. Careful thought and planning won't do any good if your loved ones don't know what you want when the time comes.

If you want to take an independent approach, you may want to do some more research. One good book is Final Passages Guidebook, Creating Home Funerals, by Jerri Lyons. Contact the author at P.O. Box 1721, Sebastopol, CA 95473, 707-824-0268, or email at info@finalpassages.org or www.finalpassages.org.

Marc Comer is a legal document assistant and notary public in Willits. He can be reached at 459-2775 or www.mendolegdocs.com.

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.

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.

Eckankar

AWAKEN TO the divine guidance always within you. You are invited to participate in an ongoing, spiritual discussion every 4th Tuesday at 7 pm at the Willits Library meeting room, 390 E. Commercial Street. Next meeting is Tuesday, May 28. Sponsored by: Eckankar. Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Call 972-2475.

For Sale

1990 Lance Squire 9.4 Camper. Put the convenience of home on the back of your truck. Has stove/oven, refrig, toilet/shower, outside shower & awning. Sleeps 4-5. Fits on 8' truck bed. \$2,400 OBO. 707-459-6729.

Mother's Day Massage

Massage Therapists Felicity Artemis and Suzanne Picetti are available on Mother's Day, Sunday May 12th, to give your mother, sister, auntie, or YOU a fabulous massage! at Body Rituals, Center for the Healing Arts on Main Street in Willits. Also included is a complimentary session in our state-of-the-art infrared sauna! Please call 459-2300 to make an appointment... GIFT CERTIFICATES are also available...

Notice

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

The Rest of the Letters

From Page 2

Still going strong

To the Editor:

I'm writing to let your readers know that the effort to build a better Willits bypass is going strong. A delegation representing a number of groups opposed to Caltrans' current design of the bypass made a trip to Sacramento last week and another to Los Angeles this week.

The trip to Sacramento was the third such trip of delegates representing Save Our Little Lake Valley, the Willits Environmental Center, the Little Lake Grange and others. This latest trip was the largest, with over 25 people from Willits, including Madge Strong, Willits city councilwoman, Amanda Senseman AKA "Warbler," who spent 2 1/2 months in a tree, and Lesa Oswald who has been on a hunger strike in opposition to the bypass since April 2.

Representatives from the various groups spoke to agency representatives in a number of offices, and a demonstration was held on the steps of the capitol. The delegation hoped to impress on both regulatory agencies, planning agencies and Governor Jerry Brown how wasteful and unnecessary the project is. They asked for stop-work orders and a halt to the project while real "least damaging alternatives" are explored, quantified and compared with cost-benefit analyses. Phase 1 of the project costs \$15 million per lane-mile as opposed to the state average which is \$3.5 million per lane-mile.

Another delegation went to Los Angeles to speak at the California Transportation Commission meeting. They

Rosamond Crowder
Willits, CA

The Rest of WKC

From Page 1

The plan to reconfigure schools is meant to offer more attractive alternatives to parents, to "create a program that excites more parents, so they want to keep their kids here," she said.

Pearson said it was in third grade and in sixth grade that "we see kids leave" the district schools most often.

One issue that remains unresolved is where the school district office will relocate too: the office must leave its current location on Pearl Street by July 1. That leased location costs \$30,000 a year in rental costs. Pearson's original idea was that if sixth grade was moved to Blosser Lane, the district office could relocate to Baechtel Grove, but with that plan delayed, the district office is still working on a relocation plan.

Interim Superintendent

Pearson is set to finish up her year in the district on June 30. The district is currently negotiating a contract with a potential new superintendent and hopes to publicly announce their new hire at a May 14 school board meeting.

The Willits Kids Club serves up to 250 school children every day, said director Wagner. There are often 90 to 100 kids from Baechtel Grove attending the after-school program, 70 to 80 kids from Blosser Lane, and 60 or 70 kids that the school district buses over from Brookside School to the Willits Kids Club building, right next to Blosser Lane every day, too. "There's something fabulous happening every day at the Kids Club," Wagner said. "Children having a good time after school, learning and growing and contributing to the community."

The Rest of Bypass

From Page 1

last week for two days to lobby for "an immediate halt to the further construction of the Caltrans Willits bypass project."

Michael Fitzgerrall, tribal chairman of the Sherwood Valley Rancheria, told Willits Weekly Friday that the tribe was in "negotiations and consultations" with Caltrans about protection of Native American cultural and archeological resources. Fitzgerrall said a temporary agreement had been reached with Caltrans to hold off on any earth-moving activities for about a week.

"The tribe is aware of, and gravely concerned about, sacred and village sites that, while known to the tribe, have not been properly identified by archaeologists working on this project," Fitzgerrall said in a media statement released Friday afternoon.

"The archeologist we hired to work with us is gathering information from locals," Fitzgerrall told Willits Weekly. "We want them to slow down on moving any earth until we come up with a good plan."

Fitzgerrall said the Sherwood tribe had not been consulted by Caltrans since 2002.

But on Monday Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie denied that any agreement had been reached. "I spoke with our people working with the tribe," he said, "and there was no agreement."

But, Frisbie said: "We were not planning on moving dirt until Wednesday, after the California Transportation Commission vote."

Asked about a colored version of a map of Little Lake Valley confirmed to be from a 1908 book, "The Ethnography of the Pomo Indians," by S.A. Barrett, that shows Pomo villages scattered throughout Little Lake Valley, Frisbie said he didn't think it showed villages inside the bypass route.

"To me, trying to trace out the current path, to me it looked like some of the villages were near, but there were not any actually within the route," he said.

Frisbie said a representative from the Sherwood tribe would be working with Caltrans out in the field, "to help provide oversight."

If there are any archeological sites discovered, he said, "they'll be right there to help confirm and ID and decide what needs to be done, so that can be assessed and we can continue on with our construction."

Fitzgerrall also mention the tribe's unhappiness with a March 20 letter sent to state Sen. Noreen Evans by Caltrans director Malcolm Dougherty, which cited the Sherwood Valley Rancheria as a supporter of the Willits bypass. "That's not true," Fitzgerrall said. "We were supposed to be in consultation about it so we could get our people out there, but it's never happened."

Pg.8

Willits Weekly | May 9, 2013

Pg. 9

Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Above, left to right: Customer Lois Judson purchases tamales from Team Captain Kim Nailor, team member Jackie Lopez, her daughter Gali Lopez, 7, and team members Alyssa Eaton and Darlene Betts

Relay for Life gearing up

New teams invited to come to May 15 meeting at City Hall

Willits Relay for Life team "Fishin' for a Cure" had a fundraising tamale sale in front of Village Mart Sunday, and team captain Kim Nailor said the team cleared \$657 for the day, selling more than 600 tamales.

The sale, which featured tamales made by Teresa Borjon, started at 10 am, and sold out at 2 pm. "She's so good and giving to help us," Nailor said. Members of the team, made up mostly of employees of Willits Rexall, helped with cooking 800 tamales, some of

which they donated to the Willits Charter School and the St. Anthony's festival. Nailor said she'd heard tamales were hard to make but, she said, "You don't think anything of it until you try it yourself."

Willits Relay for Life, scheduled for July 27 and 28 in the Rec Grove, already has 25 teams signed up, almost as many as the 26 teams participating in last summer's first annual event. But they're still encouraging new teams to sign up.



Above: Little Gali Lopez shakes clacker hands to try and draw attention to the tamale stand



Anyone interested in forming a Relay team – or anybody interested in joining a team or getting involved – is

invited to the next Team Captain meeting, set for May 15 at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. People can register their teams or themselves online, too: check www.relayforlife.org/willitsCA for information and signups.

The Cancer Society's 24-hour Relay is not a race or a marathon. Team members can walk (or roll, people in wheelchairs are welcome) as much or as little as they like. "A lot of people don't realize that Relay is a walk, not a race," Nailor said. "The whole idea of it, the reason why you have a team, is that everybody trades in and out, walking around the track, so that – hopefully, there's at least 1 person from each team walking all the time."

But there's no disqualifying at Relay for Life: "We have one team with only two people, a husband and wife," Nailor said. "They're both survivors; they do what they can." Cancer survivors are especially warmly invited to sign up.

In addition to the Relay for Life website and the Willits Relay page, those interested in more information can call event chair Jennifer Sookne at 707-354-4219 or Nailor at 707-391-8609 or check out the "Relay For Life of Willits, Ca" page on Facebook.

COLUMN | Gardening in Willits

Your Compost Pile

Do you want to start a small vegetable patch? Just before a spring rain shower is a good time to clear off any grass and weeds and to spread some compost or rotted manure on the ground. (You can also use a hose after you've spread your compost, if the spring rains are long gone.)

A. Roebeck
Columnist

Compost is a mixture composed of decayed organic matter used to provide nutrients and improve soil structure.

If you don't have a compost pile and you want to start a small vegetable garden, consider buying some composted organic material. Garden retailers sell bags of finished compost you can use right away to improve the soil in your garden. Adding decayed organic material will get your spring and summer vegetables off to a good start.

When you are choosing bagged compost to amend the soil in your small spring garden, quantity is more important than supposed quality. Don't be misled by long strings of printed sermons on a fancy bag of compost. Your plants can't read and will do better with three or four bags of steer manure instead of one fancy bag of supposed rare bacteria and Latin-named fungi.

The size of your vegetable garden plot, instructions on the bag, and suggestions from the plant nursery person will help you figure out how many bags of material you need to amend the soil. Find a nursery person you feel comfortable with and whose advice you trust. Buy your soil amendments, plants and tools where you feel you will get knowledgeable, honest advice.

A. Roebeck is an experienced Willits gardener who wants to occasionally share his knowledge and tips about gardening in our local area.



The Rest of Wicks

From Page 1

something? Or did they forget?" Whitney asked.

Whitney said that one of his main areas of concern was that the EIRs for the project do not require that a settlement pond for the water produced by the wick drain fields be built before that water flows into Outlet Creek. "These wick drains will drain water from the soil, but without drainage settlement ponds to collect sediment, it is clear that sedimentation from these drains will flow into Outlet Creek, a salmon- and steelhead-bearing stream. That isn't the way these things are supposed to be done," said Whitney, who works as an environmental consultant.

When asked if he feared that wick drains will magnify the effects of an earthquake in our area, Whitney noted that the Mayacama fault line runs right down Main Street in Willits and that smaller, tributary fault lines are ubiquitous. "There are earthquake fault lines everywhere, and the only way you can find out what the impacts of that will be is after an earthquake happens," Whitney said.

When asked if plastics from the wick drains themselves could leach into Outlet Creek and affect the fish, Whitney said, "People should be testing their wells."

When asked if there was a chance that wick drains could mix toxins such as boron or arsenic into the groundwater in various parts of the valley, Whitney said: "It's an unknown. There's never been any study – to my knowledge – of the effect of wick drains on water tables, or naturally occurring toxins, or on aquatic wildlife. If that did happen, the affected landowner wouldn't know for many, many years. Certainly if there is a lawsuit, the city or the county will foot the bill, not Caltrans."

David Patch, another panelist in the symposium, spoke about the amount of water taken up by the wells that Caltrans plans to build during the project and gave his opinion on whether that water loss would be likely to de-water Little Lake Valley.

Patch said that he had calculated that rainfall over what he called the Southern Sub-basin of the Outlet Creek Watershed (that's Willits, Little Lake Valley and the hills surrounding the valley) annually yields 169,000 acre feet of water. Of that, about half is lost to transpiration and a quarter is lost to evaporation. He said that 25.9 percent of that water is available as flows through the sub-basin and would therefore be available for groundwater recharge. Patch calculated that between 23,000 and 48,000 acre feet of water is put back into the groundwater of Little Lake Valley each year, depending on annual rainfall.

Patch estimated that the maximum amount of water that might be removed from Little Lake Valley during the construction phase was 200 acre feet annually. This is water that might be removed by wells from the aquifers underneath Little Lake Valley for the purposes of soil compaction, making concrete and washing off equipment. (For the sake of comparison, this is about one sixth of the water that is available to the City of Willits annually, through Willits' two 600 acre-foot reservoirs.) Patch concluded that this water loss, when compared to the roughly 35,000 acre feet that is available for groundwater recharge each year, was insignificant.

"I am more opposed, or as much opposed, to the bypass as anyone I know," said Patch. "I don't think this project is going to de-water the valley, and I don't think that the de-watering of Little Lake Valley is a legitimate reason to oppose the bypass. And when people give that as a reason to be opposed to the bypass, they are doing a disservice to us, and to our efforts to stop it," Patch said.

In a subsequent conversation with this reporter, Patch said that he thinks that fears that the bypass project will drain wells in Willits are not based on an accurate perception of reality. "Overall, there's no argument that I can see that the construction project is going to drain your well dry," Patch said. He then said that there could be two exceptions to that statement. "One is, if they happen to drop a significant sized well, and it happens to be within 100 feet or 200 feet of your well, then your well could be impacted.

"The other case is, if you happen to have some very weird, uniquely bad geology underground, and there is some kind of rare but still possible connection between your well and the Caltrans well, then I guess it could impact you. It's a possibility but it's a remote possibility," Patch said.

Little Lake Valley rancher John Ford and his wife Charline were present for the symposium and after moderator Sheriff Allman left the room, Ford was asked to come up to the front of the hall and answer questions. Rosamond Crowder asked Ford about the impacts of the lack of channel maintenance on hydrology and fish populations.

"Rosamond and I disagree about this," Ford said, referring to the fact that the mitigation plans don't call for channel maintenance on that portion of the wetlands upon which grazing will be permitted. "What I have to say about that is, if that's their plan, you may as well forget about your fish populations.

"Because, okay, yes, Rosamond likes those winding wooded channels and that's great, that's the way it was say 200 years ago, fine, but you have to remember, the environment you have upstream is different now than it was 200 or 100 or 50 or even 20 years ago. You have all that blacktop there now; you have more streets and parking lots and roofs; you got a lot more runoff now; there's a lot less recharge; and so it's different now. And when you let those channels go, the valley is gonna lose its definition as a fish passage. 'Cuz if you don't maintain 'em, it won't work," Ford said.

Puzzle Answers

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

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

Answers: A. pressure B. cardiovascular C. heart D. salt

Willits Weekly | May 9, 2013



The Whetzel/Passof Family of Ukiah received an award for 138 years of 4-H involvement: Mike and Tascha Whetzel with children: Shannon and Tanner and parents: Pete and Flo Passof

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

The Rest of Centennial

From Page 1

Several key speakers told of the importance of 4-H and their personal connections to 4-H, including Mendocino County First District Supervisor Carre Brown and Christine Anderson, constituent representative for U.S. Representative Jared Huffman, who represents the Second District in Congress.

Longtime 4-H alumni and supporters also spoke to the benefits and enjoyments of their time in the program, including Pete Passof, UC Cooperative Extension Forest Advisor Emeritus and a current 4-H project leader; Bob Dempel, one of Mendocino County's 1951 4-H All-Stars and long-time 4-H supporter; Sid Harper of Mendocino County Savings Bank, and 4-H alumni and sister to the hall's late-namesake, Arlene Shippey, who gave a theatrical and lively demonstration of the "Lion Hunt" dance, commonly enjoyed by 4-H camp attendees through the years.

The fashion review gave everyone a grand laugh with vintage sewing projects though modern tailoring challenges, including duct tape and under \$20 makeover classes.

Ukiah and Potter Valley's knitting group, self-dubbed The 4-H Sweaterettes and Company, also modeled their handmade sweaters, baskets and hats, and even

a wallet made by the group's male knitter, Noah Penry.

"He started knitting because he watched his sisters do it for two years and wanted to knit with them," explained Nadine Boer, vice president of the Mendocino County 4-H Council and intermediate knitting leader. "He is just about the cutest, most active kid ever."

Sectional Presentation and Gold Medal awards were handed out to winners, along with awards given to the hall's exhibits, as well as to the cookie contest winner Ariel Anton of the Mendocino Spartan 4-H Club who won People's Choice for her Apple Pie Cookies.

The evening concluded with the cutting of a giant birthday sheet cake made by Melissa Smith.

"The Centennial Celebration was a smashing success," said Boer. "4-H members from all over the county came together to proclaim and demonstrate the skills they have acquired through the 4-H program.

"The day was spent enjoying visiting with friends, meeting alumni and hearing the words of wisdom from past 4-H'ers," she said, "all in the new building on the Hopland Research and Extension Center named after the beloved Farm and 4-H Advisor Uncle Rod Shippey. It was a great day."



Alexis Davis sings the National Anthem



Entries for the Cookie Contest



Above: Roger, Heidi and Keeley Adhars at the welcome table during Sunday's event.

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in 2D & 3D
(PG13)
Runs: 2 hr. 10 min
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Sat & Sun 2D: 12:15
Sat & Sun 2D: 3:45, 6:30, 9:15
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Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



More than 20 volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Willits pose in front of the dedication plaque at the Mendocino County Museum

Photo by Roni McFadden



Above: Nick Patterson helps sweep up the Engine House

Photo by Jennifer Poole

‘Helping Hands’

Volunteers from the Mormon church deep clean the Museum



Above center: Andrew Konradi, Terry Patterson and Robert Stewart at the front of the Engine House they helped “de-grease”

Above: Roni McFadden and her son, Corey McFadden, bishop of the Willits LDS church, in front of the Seabiscuit display Roni just cleaned

Photos by Jennifer Poole

The Willits ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints spent a day doing 10 years’ worth of extra cleaning at the Mendocino County Museum on Saturday, April 27. The deep-cleaning extravaganza was part of the Mormon church’s annual, worldwide “Helping Hands” event.

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

More than 20 workers, from young to older, tackled clean-up projects inside the museum and out. The list of accomplishments includes power-washing the front of the museum, dusting exhibits (and under exhibits) and ceilings, de-greasing and cleaning the Engine House, limbing and trimming trees, organizing the storage workshop, and cleaning the bathrooms and the gift shop.

“My 4-year-old grandson Marcus got to clean the caboose,” said Roni McFadden, whose son Corey McFadden is bishop of the Willits ward. Roni got to dust the Seabiscuit exhibit. “Service is a huge part of the church,” McFadden said.

Volunteers were joined by museum staff and Judy Pruden, chair of the Museum Advisory Board. Pruden, who was hard at work cleaning underneath the horse carriage when Willits Weekly arrived, said she’d first

contacted Corey McFadden back in January about cleaning the museum for “Helping Hands” day.

The grateful museum director, Alison Glassey, said the thorough clean-up, which focused on the public areas of the museum, was sorely needed: “The latest conservation assessment said the museum needed a deep cleaning,” she said.

Mike Myers from Roots of Motive Power came, too, to help clean the museum’s Engine Room. “It’s wonderful Roots had someone here to help,” Glassey said.

The Mormon Helping Hands program was started in 1998 in South America, and since then, hundreds of thousands of volunteers have donated millions of hours of service to communities “in nearly every corner of the world,” the LDS church says.

Other volunteers included: Jordon Scott (with her 7-month-old Paxton Scott) and Kacee Tyler, 14, who cleaned the gift shop; George and Claudia Burton, who brought their power-washer; Scott Lebo, Cindy Kester and Jeanni Colwell, who worked trimming trees and hedges; Nick Patterson, Andrew Konradi, Terry Patterson and Robert Stewart, all part of the Engine House crew; and many others, too.

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Come see us at the Farmers Market on Thursdays in City Park, 3 to 6 p.m., to be sure to get a copy of Willits Weekly every week.

Check each of the 12 convenience stores in town (Brown’s Corner, Village Mart, TnT, and Sherwood Market & Deli, to name a few) for a fresh supply of papers on Friday and Saturday mornings.

Businesses up and down Main Street are getting papers every Thursday and Friday but they are disappearing fast. A few good places to check are J.D. Redhouse, the Book Juggler and Ardella’s on the north end of town, Country Skillet, Gateway Realty and Willits Power Carhartt mid-town, and the 101 Donut Shop and Gribaldo’s to the south.

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1 WILLITS Local

I ride MTA

Angela Harrington moved to Willits from Corning nine years ago. She explains: “I moved to be close to my family and because it is so beautiful here.”

A single mother of three, she started to use Mendocino Transit Authority’s bus service after her car broke down and repairing it became just too costly. Angela has been a student at Mendocino College majoring in Early Childhood Development and is very proud she has only one more class to finish her AA degree. She is a regular rider on MTA’s Route #20, going to college, visiting friends and running errands in Ukiah.

Along with going to school and raising her family, she also works three days a week for In Home Support Services. Angela uses the local bus service in Willits, 1 Willits Local, to get to work and run errands for her clients. “The service is pleasant and the drivers are so nice and helpful and go out of their way to make me feel safe,” she states. “I truly appreciate having the bus system in our little town, it really makes my life so much easier,” she concludes.

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