

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 98

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Long Valley Fire:

Ambulance service shortfalls lead to fiscal woes

Dan McKee

Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Editor's note: This is the final part of a three-part series examining conditions within north county fire districts.

At first glance, the Long Valley Fire Protection District appears to be in better shape than most other north county fire districts. According to the March 2015 Local Agency Formation Commission Fire Protection Services Municipal Service Review, the district provides satisfactory fire protection to the 3,000 residents living within its 238-square-mile service area.

Read the rest of **LAFCO** | Over on Page 15

Council goal-setting workshop set Saturday

Zack Cinek

Reporter
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Members of the Willits City Council will meet Saturday to decide what the council's goals will be for the coming fiscal year. The public meeting will start at 9 am at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Council decisions on prioritizing goals are part of the city's annual budget process, assisted by consultants and public meetings to ponder finances and receive public input.

The few residents who attended a special meeting earlier this month with hired

Read the rest of **Workshop** | Over on Page 15

2.5% COLA approved for county retirees

Ursula Partch

Contributing Reporter

Current and retired Mendocino County employees attended a March 18 Mendocino County Employee Retirement Association board meeting to express their concerns and frustrations about salary and benefit cuts and inequities.

The stage was set at the February MCERA meeting when approval of the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retirees was on the agenda. This was not

Read the rest of **COLA** | Over on Page 11



Above, from left: Bill Bruneau gets ready to enjoy his meal. Dishwasher crew member Joyce Diane Connors and the fruit station's Nancy Finn smile for the camera. A "Mickey Mouse" special plate.

Pancake master Richard Jergenson holds up plates of hot cakes. Photos by Maureen Moore



Pancakes at the Grange

On the fourth Sunday of the month, the grill is heated and burners lit to prepare pancakes, Beeler's Quality bacon, farm-fresh eggs and more for the hungry folks who come to the Little Lake Grange's Pancake Breakfast. This time, the Grangers raised around \$250, and everyone who came enjoyed their carefully prepared pancakes, including some special Mickey Mouse shaped ones for the little eaters, too. Meals are just \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$4 for children, and monies go to help support the Grange. Make sure to stop by next month, Sunday, April 26, and grab a tasty plate!



Above, from left: Egg master Mike Burgess flips some eggs over easy. Meal prep men Liam Uicearbhaill, Richard Jergenson, and Mike Burgess. Below, from left: Singer Vern Morninglight performs at the breakfast. Tabitha Atkinson collects money at the door. Sky Greystar waitresses with the orange juice tray.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Wowser Works Willits nonprofit asks the community to help it 'go big'

Wowser's top leaders made a pitch to the Willits community for support Saturday and, based on the applause and some envelopes tucked into collection baskets, it looks like they got at least a piece of what they need, which includes raising a total of \$500,000 in seed money. The next steps: to evolve Wowser from a great, nonprofit idea into a series of for-profit businesses that will increase tax revenue for Willits, provide serious skills training and vocational training, and create jobs.

Jennifer Poole

Editor & Reporter
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The Wowser maker space on Commercial Street has been around for a couple of years now: Volunteers have been renovating the space, building a collection of tools and materials, gathering more members, and making a difference in the lives of young people who've found a place they can learn – and shine.

Saturday's event at the Willits High School auditorium started out with short speeches by several of these young

Read the rest of **Wowser** | Over on Page 13



Members of the Wowser crew outside the East Commercial Street facility. From left to right, Tara Logan, Alex Rodriguez (standing), Mike Burgess, Ian Fitzpatrick, Cyndee Logan, Roger Wilson, Joseph Faustina, and James Wilson. Photo by Erin Creekmur

Settlement reached in sewer plant lawsuit

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
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The City of Willits and Brooktrails Township have reached a settlement in their longstanding lawsuit over financial obligations connected with the Willits' new wastewater treatment plant.

The two sides announced a settlement had been reached late Tuesday night, following a 12-hour negotiation session.

The trial in the case, which was filed in 2010 and amended several times in the intervening five years, began in Santa Rosa on March 12.

Asked to comment on the settlement, Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore

Read the rest of **Settlement** | Over on Page 15

City wins post-bypass Main Street planning grant

Zack Cinek

Reporter
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The City of Willits – with help from business owners and area agencies – has garnered itself funding for post-bypass Main Street planning.

An application for Main Street planning funds was submitted to the California Department of Transportation last fall. And last Friday, the city learned it had been awarded a \$170,670 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant for the Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Project.

The city and its partners will develop a Corridor Enhancement Plan for

Read the rest of **Grant** | Over on Page 11

'Road rage' shooter escapes during court hearing

A 39-year-old Willits transient is back behind bars after escaping briefly from the Mendocino County Courthouse last Friday.

Dustin Gabriel Henderson was being arraigned before Superior Court Judge David Nelson at about 9:20 am for allegedly shooting at a motorist on Highway 162 on March 9, when he bolted from the courtroom, ran down a stairwell, smashed a Standley Street glass exit door, and ran down North School Street pursued by bailiffs, sheriff's deputies and Ukiah police officers.

Read the rest of **Escape** | Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

What would improve grades the most?

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to the March 12, 2015 Willits Weekly article regarding the low numbers of students eligible to play sports. It seems clear that many people have different ideas of what the challenges are and few answers at this point: Allow me to share my perspective as a teacher.

I have a handful of parents who communicate with me regularly, are involved in their students' progress and learning, and even help out in the classroom. This kind of active involvement plays a huge role in their child's learning process; however, I am puzzled and dismayed by what I see happening with the rest of the students.

For example, the turn-in rate for homework was so low that I've been sacrificing my breaks to run a daily lunch detention for the simple purpose of compelling students to complete important assignments. It definitely increases comprehension and their grades go up, but shouldn't it be done as assigned, at home?

I also don't understand why, when test scores are so low, there is not encouragement for students to make corrections and improve them? Letters, progress reports, and phone calls home aren't eliciting this support, and even requirements to attend Intervention after school to get additional support are ignored.

Of great concern to me is the number of students telling me their parents don't care about their grades, and this includes student athletes. Recent quotes include "My dad thinks Common Core is stupid, so I don't have to do this stuff," and "My mom doesn't get math, so she doesn't care if I don't either." Both of these quotes are from student athletes who have failing math grades. Maybe this is just kids talking, but from the lack of home support I'm experiencing, I have to wonder.

Please help me to understand what more I can do to assist students in learning the concepts and standards they are required to know for their grade level. I work 10-hour days and another five to 10 hours each weekend supporting and assessing their learning. I write engaging lesson plans with lots of fun activities built in, but many won't even attempt the assignment. Classwork performance is abysmal: Why?

If anyone were to ask me what could help improve student grades the most, I would say, hands-down, support from home. We don't need to spend any money on that; we simply need to get parents, guardians, families, etc. to commit to actively supporting the school experience for these children. Check their progress online, ask to see their planner, know what is expected of them, find out when there is going to be a test or paper due, and follow through in making sure they study and are prepared.

School is a job of sorts, and because students are children, they absolutely need adult support outside of the school environment to be successful. Make it clear that their job is important and the tasks they perform valuable, and please, please, don't undermine the teachers or undervalue their work with negative comments. Thank you.

Tessa Ford, Willits

We all need to eat

To the Editor:

We have a serious need for more local farmers and more local acreage devoted to food production. Our state and national agricultural food system is facing unprecedented challenges, from climate instability to failing GMO crops. Particularly in California, where we are in what could be a long, severe drought, it makes sense that we should increase our ability to locally produce food in our Willits valley.

We have a huge opportunity to add to these resources this

week by helping Matthew and Corinne of Lovin' Mama Farm raise the down payment on a farm in Willits. Perhaps you have bought their luscious produce at our Farmers Market. They are certainly one of the best market gardeners in the county.

They recently lost their land in Potter Valley and are trying to relocate to Willits. Buying a farm is not cheap; this is the first of several fundraising events for Lovin' Mama Farm this summer as they try to raise a down payment for the land.

To help raise money for this down payment, our Little Lake Grange is hosting a dance to benefit them this Saturday, March 28, starting at 6:30 pm, with music by Candelaria, the acclaimed electric-cumbia Latin dance group. The Willits Grange is well aware of how important it is to encourage more food farming in this county.

Here is your chance to support farmers who want to produce food for this valley. Once they have land to farm on again, they are committed to bringing more food farmers to our valley. They are, in fact, a key piece to local efforts at food self-sufficiency.

Helping all of us achieve food independence has never been easier – buy a ticket, come to the dance, have a huge amount of fun with Candelaria next Saturday, knowing that in our future we are another step closer to having enough local food for all of us to eat.

Bill Bruneau, Bob Whitney,
Michael Foley, Gwyn Ware, Willits

If not Roundup, patience

To the Editor:

I sympathize with bypass opponents' concerns about the planned use of herbicides on the bypass mitigation lands to eradicate non-native blackberry bushes. I know herbicides, though widely used in Mendocino County and everywhere, pose at least potential dangers to humans and other animals.

I strongly urge all those concerned to write and call the Regional Water Quality Control Board ("RWQCB," 5550 Skyline Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403, (707) 576-2220, northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov) and the Army Core of Engineers ("ACOE," 1455 Market Street, #16, San Francisco, CA 94103, (415) 503-6795).

Please let the RWQCB and the ACOE know we would rather give Caltrans the time they need to eradicate the blackberry bushes manually, as they had originally planned until bypass opponents successfully pressured the RWQCB and ACOE to hold them to faster timetables.

Life is full of difficult choices, and sometimes our actions have unforeseen consequences. Clearly we were better off with Plan A. Maybe it's not too late!

Randi Covin, Brooktrails

No effort is wasted

To the Editor:

Evidently, doing what one can, where one can, to promote a safe environment is not enough for Jeanne King. If I were to guide my actions according to her rules, I couldn't do a single thing related to the causes I believe in, because if I couldn't do something about EVERY problem related to that cause, I'd be a worthless hypocrite.

And yes, horrors indeed. Ms. King listed the horrors that will be caused by the chemicals Caltrans intends to unleash upon our people and our wetlands. Why are the efforts of dedicated people who work to protect the environment – including our wetlands and the aquifer during a major drought – subject to ridicule? I am thankful not everyone feels as she does, and grateful for those who keep trying to help however they can. No effort, big or little, is wasted.

Mary Burns, Willits

Literacy Volunteers

To the Editor:

A special thank you to the Friends of the Willits Library and the Masonic Lodge in Ukiah for their very generous donations to the Literacy Volunteers of Willits. With their donations we will be able to purchase materials for our tutors and students.

The Literacy Volunteers of Willits is an all-volunteer / free organization organized mainly for the purpose of teaching

English to non-English-speaking adults – 18 years or older. We encourage them to speak, write and read English so they can become better adapted to their local community.

We are always seeking tutors and students. Anyone who knows of someone who might benefit from our program should encourage them to come by the Willits Public Library for a sign-up form. In April we will be holding a training for tutors on Wednesday, April 22 and Saturday, April 25. Anyone interested in becoming a tutor for this program, please visit or call our office (located in the Willits Public Library) on Wednesdays from 10 am to 12:30 pm or call 459-5098 to leave a message. We look forward to hearing from you.

Carolyn Pavlovic, president,
Literacy Volunteers of Willits

'Dear Willits:'

To the Editor:

The Now & Then Film Series wants to thank all of those in Willits who have supported our film screenings over the past 10 years. We had a very special anniversary mini-film-festival Thursday March 19, and the celebration cake was just about as awesome as a film reel could ever look, much less be deliciously made from locally grown flour! Thank you, Rachel Britton.

Thank you to Marilyn Boosinger, who put in many hours devoted to cutting and editing the selection of shorts that gave an overview of our film selections.

Thank you to the Willits Library for hosting us so long ago, and to the Little Lake Health Center as well. We appreciated the use of your facilities and equipment very much!

We especially thank the Little Lake Grange for hosting our monthly series as a grange program, and making the facility so available for community uses.

We also invite any of you who have "intended to come" to please do join us. It is always an interesting, timely topic, and often relevant discussions erupt afterwards that have to be guided towards the door. Besides, where else in town can you get a fresh bag of organic popcorn with real butter for only a dollar?

Here's to the next 10 years!

Richard Jergenson, Annie Waters &
Marilynn Boosinger, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

Due to the hard work of our wonderful volunteers and the support of our amazing Willits community, the Willits Educational Foundation is proud to announce that we made just over \$7,000 on our annual Drive Through Tri Tip Dinner fundraiser! The money earned with this fundraiser goes into the schools to honor teacher and program requests that will be made in September of this year.

The dinner was delicious, thanks to the efforts of Dan and Annette Pinon, Doug and Kathy Goss, Art and Annette Cooley, Rick Crowder, Tom Sleeper and Bruce Smith.

Tam Adams of Emandal donated 185 loaves of her wonderful homemade bread. Jill Persico of Loose Caboose Café donated much of the food at cost. Mariposa Market donated all of the beans, and the Forks Ranch Market provided all of the meat at a much-reduced price. Flowers by Annette donated all of the roses, and Kathy Shuster made and donated all of the scrumptious Caesar dressing. Kathleen and Warren Lewis made (with some assistance) and donated all of the cookies.

Once again, Willits Frontier Days let us use their facility free of charge. Cat's Meow and Goods Shoppe allowed ticket sales in their stores.

Where does one begin to thank our local newspapers for all of the publicity? Willits Weekly, your coverage was beautiful with stories and color photos. You are always there for us, and you are so appreciated!

To the many people who purchased tickets or made monetary donations – thank you! You continually renew our faith with your support of the Willits Unified School District. We are proud to be part of such a fine home town!

Annette Pinon, president, Linda Colvig, Anne Hammond, Nancy Coffman, Kathleen Lewis, Kathy Shuster, Sue Bertsch, Warren Lewis, Angi Edgar, Tom Woodhouse, and Rebecca Smith, Willits Educational Foundation

Little Bunny Cotton Tail, poking on up through the wheel well
wants to invite you to participate in our coloring contest!



Les Schwab Tire Center of Willits 1565 S. Main Street 707-459-5938

COLORING CONTEST

Les Schwab of Willits and Willits Weekly are offering the community a chance to showcase their artsy skills with an Easter coloring contest. Bring your completed entry to Les Schwab of Willits by 5 pm on Monday, March 30. We will print as many as we can in the April 2 edition of Willits Weekly, and they will also be displayed at Les Schwab. A surprise prize will be given to one winner of the "little kids" (under age 9) and the "big kids" (10 to adult). Winners will have their photo in the April 9 edition of Willits Weekly.



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AGE:

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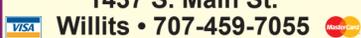
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Fudge
FLAVORS

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Easter Sunday Special: April 5:
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at Hidden Oaks Casino on Easter Weekend
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* See Casino for details - Management reserves all rights

The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and 3rd District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the 3rd District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once a month.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

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EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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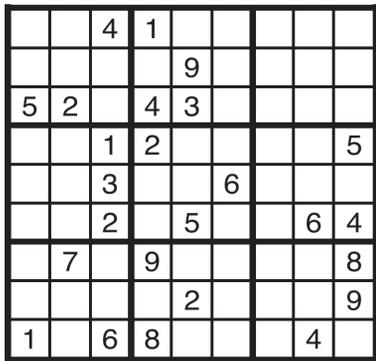
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Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

Sudoku



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

Level: Advanced

CITIZENSHIP WORD SEARCH

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

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|-------------|------------|------------------|
| ALIEN | EQUALITY | PRESIDENT |
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| BORN | HISTORY | RIGHTS |
| CHILDREN | IDENTITY | RULER |
| CITIZENSHIP | IMMIGRANT | STATUTE |
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| COMMUNITY | LEGAL | TRAVEL |
| CONVENTIONS | MAJORITY | VALUES |
| COUNTRY | MARRIAGE | VOTE |
| DEMOCRACY | NATIONAL | |
| DUTIES | NATIVE | |

It's time for another round of: Willits Weekly's 'Phrase Find'

Match the phrases below to their specific advertisement in this edition for a chance at a prize!

Every month, a random week – or multiple weeks – will be chosen for Willits Weekly to run our new Phrase Find contest.

The contest will feature five phrases that can each be found in an ad in the current edition. Each phrase will match only one advertisement.

The first person to **EMAIL** the correct answers to willitsweekly@gmail.com will win a prize.

**For this week's prize,
Main Street Music will provide the winner with
A FREE MOVIE RENTAL!**

Answers will only count as correct if they include the **COMPLETE NAME OF THE BUSINESS**, as shown on the ad where the phrase is found.

Winners will be replied to via email and will receive instructions on how to get their prize at that time. Winners will also be publicly announced in the next round of Phrase Find.

Phrase Find will be run on random weeks at random intervals, so make sure to check often to see if the current edition contains the contest. Phrases will only be pulled from regular display advertisements: not from classifieds, news stories, letters to the editor, Calendar or other editorial content.

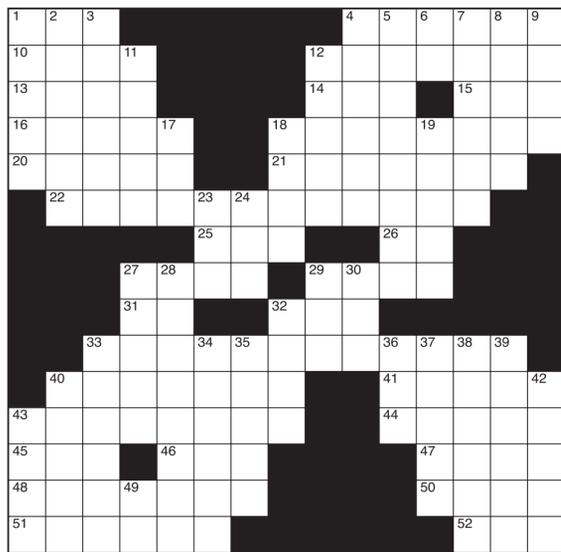
Facebook posts, messages, texts, phone calls, personal conversations or any other form of communication will not be counted as entries. **All entries must be emailed to: willitsweekly@gmail.com only.** Email time stamps/order in inbox will indicate the winner in the event of a tie.

1. Who sells "Melissa & Doug" items?
2. Whose phone number is "459-2237"?
3. Who will let you "Borrow Our Bounce House"?
4. Who is having an "April Fools Day Sale"?
5. Where could you go if you "Love Breakfast"?

Willits Weekly's Phrase Find - March 26, 2015 - EMAIL answers to willitsweekly@gmail.com

February 12 WINNER:
Michele Briggs

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Cycles/second
4. Fit for cultivation
10. Saami
12. Perceived scent
13. Liberal rights organization
14. Female flying fighters
15. Durham school
16. Ancient Scand. poet
18. Charitable performances
20. Siddhartha author Hermann
21. Letter destination
22. P.S. Buck's Pulitzer
25. Feel regret
26. Initials of e = MC2 author
27. From a distance
29. Cronies
31. Forty
32. Printing speed measurement
33. Nutty spread
40. White seedless grape

CLUES DOWN

1. Come into conflict
2. A collection of things wrapped together
3. Bath spatter
4. Gunsmoke actress Blake
5. Direct to a source
6. Cartoonist Capp
7. Somewhat blue
8. 40 weekday periods
9. El Dorado High School (abbr.)
11. Heartbeat
12. Brit. rutabaga

17. Angle (abbr.)
18. Said as a greeting or wish
19. Festivals
23. Rita ____, singer
24. Belonging to us
27. Skating jumps
28. Building at 175 5th Ave.
29. Parts per billion (abbr.)
30. Atomic mass unit
32. Old Spanish currency (abbr.)
33. Insistence on traditional correctness
34. PBS wildlife show
35. Measuring blocks
36. Don't know when yet
37. Ancient city from which St. Paul first sailed
38. Breadwinner
39. Go to bed
40. Highest in degree or quality
42. Tossed, potato or waldorf
43. The trunk of a tree
49. Yes in Spanish



OBITUARY | Mary Patricia Campbell

Mary Patricia Campbell

Mary Patricia Campbell (Patsy Page) peacefully passed away at home, March 9, 2015. Loving wife of Van C. Campbell, mother to Pamela L. Campbell, Rebecca A. Stender (Bob), and Stuart P. Campbell (Jeff Engle). Loving grandmother to Leah Cardona (Roger), and Sophia Janian (Allen). Loving great-grandmother to Micah, Maya and Melody "Ely" Cardona. Dear sister to June Page Banda and Fred Page.

Born November 16, 1930, to Darold & Mary Page, in Willits, "Patsy" graduated from Willits High in 1948, and Santa Rosa Junior College in 1950. At SRJC, "Pat" was president of her Business Women's Club. Working in the insurance office of Charles Tuey, Pat met her future husband, Van. His federal government career took their family to Iran, the Philippines, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Washington, DC, Thailand and Greece before they settled and retired in Santa Rosa.

Back in Santa Rosa, working as "secretary par excellence" at AAA, Pat was the official birthday cake baker, happily baking everyone's cake every year! (100s of cakes!) After retiring, Pat served as the treasurer of the local PFLAG chapter, and volunteered for Face To Face.

Shortly after retiring, Pat suffered a major stroke during heart surgery, and became the world's bravest recovery fighter for the next 16 years. Pat never lost her loving spirit.

Our family wishes to thank the many people who helped care for our mom, including but not limited to the incredibly wonderful staff at Sunset House II; care companions Anna G. and Andee O.; the great group of care providers on 3East at Memorial Hospital; and the awesome folks at Memorial Hospice. Thank you!

"A friend to everyone she met, all who knew Pat loved her." We will always love you, Mom!

You were the very best. A life celebration will be planned for later this spring.

OBITUARY | Pam Kinsella

Pam Kinsella



Pam Kinsella was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a sister and an aunt. She was also a nurse, a friend, a mentor, a co-worker and a teacher to many in our community. She loved freely, and deeply. She touched many lives and could always be counted on to cheer you up and bring a smile with a sarcastic comment.

She was a bright light and a unique and wonderful person. She loved Willits, and chose to make her life and to raise her children in Willits, with her husband, Lawrence.

Pam is survived by her husband, Lawrence Kinsella; their children Jeannie Patereau and James (and Jaime) Kinsella; her grandchildren Tristan, Taylan, Hunter and Brooke; her sisters Pat LeGris and Sandy Wenzel; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James Tate and Bonnie Nichols, her brother, Stephen Tate, and her son-in-law Todd Patereau.

Pam was born July 15, 1949, and left this world on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 unexpectedly, but peacefully. Her light will forever shine down on us, and she will always be in our hearts. We are all greater for having known and been loved by her.

A memorial to honor her will be held on Friday, March 27, 2015 at the Senior Center on Baechtel Road in Willits, from 4 to 6 pm. Please join us in remembering and honoring her. Please contact Tracy LeGris with questions, or for suggestions on what to bring: perhaps a recipe you got from Pam.

Death Notice | Rita Belle Terrell

Rita Belle Terrell of Willits passed away on March 15, 2015 at the age of 93. No services will be held.

James 'Buggs' Bruggere



A tribute by Roots of Motive Power

Jim Bruggere passed away on March 17, 2015 at age 82, while still the acting roadmaster for Roots of Motive Power. The Roots loop track and interwoven yard track is a product of Buggs' incredible energy.

Born on February 23, 1933 and raised on Arch Street in Berkeley, before moving south to Glendale, Buggs began a varied career working in the oil fields in Bakersfield. After a stint in the military near Yakima, Washington, he returned to the Bay Area to work for the East Shore Bus Lines in Oakland and for Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). Buggs was instrumental in the founding of the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association at Rio Vista Junction, now the Western Railway Museum.

Most of us first met Buggs when he arrived in Willits in 1984 to maintain the passenger car fleet for Bryan Whipple's Eureka Southern Railroad and their excursion between Willits and Eureka. Buggs seemed to have a magical ability to maintain the air conditioning systems on the aging Daylight fleet on the smoldering Eel River Canyon route of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad.

When railroading efforts were abandoned on the north end of the NWP, Buggs began to spend more time at Roots and, thankfully, took over our track-laying efforts. In addition to his Roots activities, Buggs and Matt Monson were partners in Dieselmotive Company, Inc., of Turlock, which offered diesel locomotive maintenance for short line operators on the West Coast.

We will all miss Buggs: not just the hard work and sweat, tamping ballast in the summer heat, or repairing the switch that we "railroaders" ran through. Buggs had the ability to see things, even though all of us thought we were looking. His critiques of our performance as railroaders were often painful, but always honest and true, without malice. And, by all accounts, the women of Willits will miss the sparkle of his blue eyes.

Roots of Motive Power plans to hold a celebration of Jim Bruggere's life at the Roots Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 16. After the formalities of the annual meeting, guests can enjoy a BBQ lunch, attend the dedication of the Jim Bruggere Memorial Pit in the Work Building, and ride behind one of the Roots locomotives on the loop track that was Buggs' creation. Please mark August 16 on your calendar.

— Chris Baldo,
Roots of Motive Power



COLUMN | Intuitive Patterns

April



Spring starts with a Libra Lunar Eclipse on April 4. Libra is all about relationships. So there are things that are coming to the surface that can be emotionally challenging and stir up things that you thought were long buried.

There are moments when you know you are at an impasse. You cannot go forward and you cannot go back either. There seems to be no way around a particular situation.

But there is.

It is going to require you to do something unexpected, something different, and something outside of your old box of tricks. This can be that moment when your past no longer holds you back and an unswerving determination to see something through is what will clear the chaos and stress out of the picture.

This month you have no time for feeling reflective or muddle-headed. It is time to choose. No more excuses. You have the power once you decide that you have the power.

Magic happens when you claim it.

Vision happens when you sit in quiet acceptance and ask to see the truth. Wisdom happens when you embrace your beneficial use of will.

You are magic, and magic is your birthright, but your presence in the here and now is what allows it to happen.

You are the answer to the questions you seek. This is a month to examine your motivations and actions. What causes you to respond to certain situations? Does that response work? Is it time to try something else?

When you believe in yourself your energy naturally expands because you give permission to your essence to take up space and to include more of who you are in the external world. There are times to be safe, but this is the month to let go of whatever apron strings you are still hanging on to and become powerfully autonomous and accountable.

When you act with integrity, things do not always go smoothly, but at the end of the day all you have is your integrity to carry you through. If it is right, your heart knows. If it is right, and you act in alignment with that, then you know that even if the universe takes you out of the game you still have your honor intact.

Then you have never lost yourself, and that is very important this month.

Do not act from a place of wanting another's approval, for you may not get it. When you know the truth in your heart, regardless of circumstances, you will always find the way because home is within.

Real magic manifests when you understand that it is the transparency of the power of the magician that shows the light of the will of the Divine. Let go of what you think, and bend to the power of the will of a force much greater than you. Let your spirit become the window that shines the light for all to see. In that surrender there is no you, only a force of love so bright that it heals all that see it.

Expansion is possible, authenticity is who you are seeking, and mastery is the result when you accept all of who you are in this moment. Be gentle with yourself. Take time to go to healers and get energy that you need to shift. You are feeling battle-weary but awake and willing to discover the hidden potential power that is lurking in the shadows.

In the present you will find grounded-ness if you ask for it. Look into the eyes of others, and I mean really look. Let them see all of you and let yourself see all of them. Join energy through the eyes and exchange the wisdom and understanding that comes from whole souls meeting. This will give you what you need to open.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology," which can be found on Amazon.com. To learn more, visit www.suzannewagner.com or call Suzanne at 707-354-1019.

Willits Frontier Days

Firewood Raffle

Raffle will be held on May 6th
PRIZE: 1 Cord of Firewood!

\$1 Each or (6 for \$5)

Firewood Fundraiser

for Willits Frontier Days

Need firewood to restock your woodshed? Dislike tracking firewood down? Like supporting local organizations? Enjoy the thrill of a raffle? Willits Frontier Days has just the solution: a firewood fundraiser. One cord of oak firewood, chopped and ready to stack, is being offered to the winner of the May 6 drawing.

Tickets are only \$1 each or \$5 for six tickets. All the Willits Frontier Days board members have tickets available. Contact Marcy Barry, Willits Frontier Days president, for more information: 272-5395.



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This class will fill in the gap until Suzanne returns for Ballet Barre Session #2 on April 20. (Ballet Barre Session #1 concludes March 30.)
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See our webpage for our full schedule: www.studiojoywillits.com

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MARCH 2015

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Soroptimist International of Willits awards annual winners

All the advertisers on this page opted to continue their support of the Soroptimists by bundling their 2015 Willits Community Telephone Directory advertisement with the women-owned business Willits Weekly. We will continue to pair bundled advertisers with Soroptimist content in upcoming editions of Willits Weekly and encourage our readers to thank all our advertisers for their support.

During their annual luncheon, held this year on St. Patrick's Day, Soroptimist International of Willits members gave two worthy ladies recognition and awards. Shannon Demuth received the "Dream It, Be It" award and \$750. The award recognizes a woman who is going back to school and bettering her life. Elizabeth Hart won the Ruby Award, one that recognizes a woman in the community who helps better the lives of women and girls. Congratulations, ladies!

Above: Soroptimists pose with 2015 winners during the awards luncheon, from left: Linda Posner, Ruby Award winner Elizabeth Hart, Elizabeth Sinesky, "Dream It, Be It" winner Shannon Demuth, Divora Stern, Vicki Ham and Loraine Patton.

Photo by Maureen Moore



Ar left: "Aradan" CDs.
 At right: Malakai Schindel at Brickhouse Coffee.
 At right, below: Malakai Schindel, left, with Kevin Moynahan, recording engineer for "Aradan."
 Photos by Jennifer Poole

'Aradan' by Malakai Schindel

New CD by Willits artist and musician

Malakai Schindel has just released his first CD, "Aradan," with 16 instrumental tracks, all composed and performed by the artist.

"They're all originals," Schindel said, "a collection of various compositions from different times." Schindel plays pan flute, silver flute, different ethnic and Native American flutes, shakuhachi flute, didgeridoo, hammer dulcimer and percussion on "Aradan." The tracks feature multi-instrumental sounds as well as solos.

Comments from fans on Facebook about the new CD include: "Beautiful mind music and meditative sound. Very skillfully performed and recorded. Love this genre of music. Well done. Everyone must hear it!"

"If you love truly beautiful sounds/music I recommend getting a copy asap." "Wow I picked it up at Main Street Music Great Album!" "Amazing artist, musician and Dionysian reveler Malakai Schindel has just released this instrumental album - do your soul a favor and buy one today!!!" and "Malakai Schindel is an incredible musician - he's infinity bound!"

"Aradan" means "noble man" in the Sindarin High Elvish language created by J.R.R. Tolkien, and each track's name is in Sindarin, too, some of the titles taken directly from "The Silmarillion" and others compounded from that language "to evoke the feeling of the ancient world," Schindel said.

The CD took about three months to make, with the help of guitarist Kevin Moynahan and his Willits recording studio. "244 hours," Moynahan said, "to make 53 minutes of music. Beautiful, beautiful music. Have I said 'everybody should buy the CD' yet?"

"It was an incredible process," Schindel said. "My deepest and most immense gratitude to Kevin for making this possible.... He did an impeccable job on the recording and editing."

Schindel has been playing music for about 20 years. "I picked up the flute in high school and fell in love with that voice. It carried me to other voices of wind and breath, focusing on the life source of the breath. And I've been fortunate enough to have been given some beautiful instruments from around the world."

"I've always been fascinated by pan pipes," he continued. "Probably they are my favorite instrument." Schindel has done extensive studio recording for other projects and other bands, plays live with Schindig and the Dirt Floor Band, entertains on the Skunk Train, and does visual art and sculpture as well.

The CD cover features a photo, taken by Moynahan, of Schindel with panpipes, and his wife, dancer Kaylyn Marie, on 10 Mile Beach on the Mendocino Coast.



"Aradan" is available for purchase at Main Street Music, from Schindel personally, or by emailing malakaiart@yahoo.com and sending \$15 plus \$3 for shipping to 861 East Hill Road, Willits 95490, or purchasing via PayPal. A CD release party is being arranged: Watch Willits Weekly's Calendar for the date and more details.

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March 30 is National Doctor's Day. Join us by saying thank you to a physician who has made a difference in your life.

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The rest of
COLA | From Page 1
expected to create any controversy, because since 1971
MCERA trustees had approved the annual increase based
on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers
(CPI-U) for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area.
However, at the February meeting new trustee and
4th District Supervisor Dan Gjerde wondered whether a
different CPI-U to measure inflation was more appropriate
to determine the annual COLA for eligible Mendocino
County retirees.

At the March 18 meeting, retirement administrator James
Wilbanks explained to trustees that the only alternative
allowable by statute would be the CPI-U for the West
Region, comprised of the larger urban areas of 13 states,
including Alaska, Colorado, California, Utah, Oregon,
Washington, and Hawaii. There is no CPI-U specifically
calculated for rural areas.

Wilbanks recommended the choice be based upon
which of the two CPI-U measures trustees deem to more
accurately reflect the rate of inflation in Mendocino County.

A number of trustees were eager to address the question,
with prepared arguments and statistics about why the cost
of living in Mendocino County is comparable to the Bay
Area. On the other side, Gjerde stated it would be "a poor
choice to compare Mendocino County to the Bay Area,
which is driven by Silicon Valley and San Francisco's
Financial District."

Gjerde called a switch to West States CPI-U a "modest
proposal," since the difference between the Bay Area and
West States CPI-U since 1982 has not been large. Trustee
Ted Stephens called the CPI-U decision "chump change in
the big picture," and noted new county hires have no COLA
protection at all.

Members of the public unanimously spoke in favor of
keeping the CPI-U Bay Area. They focused on how much
retirees rely on COLA increases, and on past broken
promises by the county to pay for retirees' health insurance.

They pointed out that county managers with salaries
over \$70,000 a year and elected officials receive matching
contributions of up to 4 percent of their salaries from
the county in their defined contribution retirement plan,
whereas rank-and-file employees do not.

One retired county worker described how he cleans up
the sides of the roads around his home and how he
cleaned up branches left behind by tree trimmers on the
premises of the MCERA-owned office complex since "the
county cannot afford to do it."

Aaron Burton, Mendocino County's SEIU 1021 union
representative, described the debate as "what is best for
employees versus how to save money." Burton asserted
trustees cannot change the CPI-U used for the COLA
increase without union approval, and threatened legal
action in the form of an unfair labor practices claim with the
State of California in case MCERA "unilaterally" adopted
the West States CPI-U.

Ultimately, trustees voted in favor of retaining CPI-U Bay
Area, with trustees Gjerde, Stephens and John Sakowicz
voting "no." This means a 2.5 percent increase in retirement
benefits for most retirees, starting April 1.

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The rest of
Grant | From Page 1
three miles of Main Street from the southern to the northern
city limits in preparation for Caltrans' relinquishment of the
northern segment to the city and the conversion of the
southerly portion to Highway 20, Caltrans says.

According to Caltrans, consultants will translate
community input into design concepts, assess feasibility,
and prepare a prioritized plan with cost estimates.
The city gives a nod to those who headed up the
application or contributed to it: Willits' Main Street
Merchants group, Willits Chamber of Commerce, the Local
Government Commission, Mendocino County Council of
Governments and North Coast Opportunities.

The money funds Main Street planning activities in the
2015-2016 fiscal year that starts in July.
Extensive community engagement process is expected.
The process will generate ideas for immediate and future
projects following the opening of the Willits bypass,
Caltrans stated.

Caltrans said 190 grant applications from municipalities
and government councils asking for just over \$41 million
were submitted for this year's funding cycle.
With this grant award, Willits joins much larger
communities that have succeeded in landing money from
the same grant fund in the previous go-round.

For example, some planning projects that won money
in the previous fiscal year included stakeholder planning
meetings in Anaheim, Fresno to Yosemite National Park
transit, and commuter traffic analysis in the Sacramento
suburb of Elk Grove.

But this year, some smaller neighbors in the region will
receive funds along with Willits, including street planning in
the Humboldt County town of Fortuna; Karuk Tribe planning
for a more walkable Orleans (also in Humboldt County);
and plans for a possible Lake County transportation hub.

The rest of
Escape | From Page 1
"A perimeter was set up just north of the courthouse
and a search of the area began," said sheriff's spokesman
Lt. Greg Stefani. A Mendocino County Major Crimes Task
Force special agent located Henderson hiding in a creek
under a bridge on North School Street.

"Henderson was taken into custody without incident
and returned to superior court where his hearing was
completed," Stefani said.

Henderson had been arrested on suspicion of assault
with a deadly weapon following the alleged Highway
162 "road rage" incident and then freed after posting
\$30,000 bail. But after reviewing evidence in the case, the
Mendocino County District Attorney's Office determined to
charge him with attempted murder.

The new charge would have resulted in Henderson's
original bail being revoked and the Willits man being taken
into custody. Henderson "was not interested in going to
jail and, instead, made a dash for temporary freedom,"
according to DA spokesman Mike Geniella.

Geniella said Henderson had two prior "strike"
convictions, including one for attempted murder in Oregon.
He also is wanted for felony theft in Missouri.

During a search of his vehicle following his March 9
arrest near Dos Rios, sheriff's deputies discovered several
items allegedly stolen in a
Willits burglary, marijuana,
and a substance in a
hypodermic syringe believed
to be methamphetamine,
as well as the pellet pistol
Henderson reportedly used
to shoot at the motorist and
ammunition.

Judge Nelson increased
Henderson's bail to \$1
million, and he was booked
into county jail.
Commenting on
Facebook, Geniella
described Henderson's
escape attempt as "unusual
early morning excitement."

This report was based on
a press release from the
Mendocino County Sheriff's
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Rain Totals in Willits

Station	Location	Rainfall
Townie's	Westside Willits	1.7 inches, Sunday 3/22 through Tuesday 3/24
Mendo College	1,355 feet elevation	1.44 inches, Sunday 3/22 through Tuesday 3/25
3rd Gate, south-facing	2,400 feet elevation	1.7 inches, Sunday, 3/22 through Tuesday 3/24
Willits Water Plant	Eastside Willits	.97 inches, Sunday 3/22 through Tuesday 3/24
Lucky Monkey's Ranch	2 miles west of Willits where Skunk Train tracks cross Hwy 20	1.7 inches, Sunday 3/22 through Tuesday 3/24

Sunday's night's rain was the bulk of the recent precipitation, with just over an inch of rain reported in some locations, more than predicted. Willits Weekly welcomes reports of rain and other weather information at willitsweekly@gmail.com.



Get Ready for Spaghetti

The Brooktrails Firefighters Association is hosting its Annual Spaghetti Feed, Saturday May 2, from 5 to 8 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for those under 12. A no-host bar will be provided by the Willits Lions Club. Ashes the Arson K9, pictured above with Fire Chief Daryl Schoepner, will also be on hand for a demonstration of Ashes' detection skills. This fundraiser will help support equipment and training for your local firefighters. Tickets are available at the door, or at the Brooktrails Fire Station. For further information, please call 459-4441.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Playful Amy

Amy is a 1-year-old spayed female Chihuahua mix. She currently weighs 16 pounds. Amy has a sweet playful personality and really enjoys the company of other dogs, so a home with a canine friend would suit her just fine. She is house-trained, and we know she will be a great addition to her new family.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

Photo by Sage Mountainfire

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The rest of Wowsers | From Page 1

people, inspired by the opportunities they've found at Wowsers and determined to help other people see just what those opportunities could mean to Willits.

Ian Fitzpatrick who, with Wowsers founders Roger Wilson and Cyndee Logan, is part of the three-member Office of the Chief Executive, then showed a video showcasing more young people, what they do at Wowsers, and what they love about it. (You can see the "Jump-starting Willits" video on the Videos page of the WowsersLLC page on Facebook).

"We've come to a lot of realizations," Fitzpatrick told the crowd to conclude his opening speech. "One of those realizations is that this isn't our company. This is a big realization. This is Willits' company."

Wilson and Logan also spoke to the crowd, describing their new plans for producing revenue: "We know Wowsers, as a vehicle for product launches, works," Logan said. "This is a proven model, and used by other maker spaces."

Wilson talked about revenue possibilities: Wowsers functioning as a job shop, as a rental space, as production-line facility, as a host of workshops and classes, and as "Espresso Yourself," a new café for customers age 14 and up, which will be open 6 to 10 pm on weekends (Grand opening: May 2).

And he announced the first major line Wowsers plans to produce: Wowsers Wagons of Willits, "tiny homes" on wheels, otherwise known as Gypsy wagons or micro-houses.

"We looked at a lot of ideas," Wilson said. "We looked for a product that we could build. One that appears to have a large and growing market. We think we have it."

"From 1990 to 2012, the median home price in the United States more than doubled," Wilson said. "There has been a groundswell of interest in small living spaces," including as a way to provide housing for homeless people, "which is being increasingly funded by state and federal dollars," he said.

Wowsers will launch a crowd-funding campaign to help raise its seed money on the Indiegogo website for nonprofits in the next couple of weeks, to pull in investment dollars from outside of Willits and Mendocino County, as well as local funding.

Fitzpatrick described what he called four keys to a successful Indiegogo campaign: a compelling story or project; a meticulous marketing plan; a great video; and creating buzz with the existing community and getting off to a fast start.

"How great of a story this is, you know," Fitzpatrick said. "Hollywood couldn't write this any better. A small community meets in its town's only high school during tough times to figure it out. They hear some audacious plans. They say yeah.... I'm in. And they actually do something about it."

Wowsers is recruiting new members for its board of directors: check out www.wowsersllc.com to learn more.

Update from Wowsers

By Roger Wilson, Cyndee Logan, and Ian Fitzpatrick

Since Saturday's meeting, buzz around Wowsers' plans is astounding.

Our entire focus is on revenue generation, skills training, and job creation. We've been inundated with requests from the community about how residents can get involved. We've received numerous donations, membership inquiries, requests for help with prototypes, and high-quality board member applications. And our video is spreading like wildfire on Facebook.

Over the last several months we've conducted numerous tours, organized open houses, hosted a local economic summit, and we've taken every opportunity to gather feedback. We've assessed all of the input and developed a strategy to sustain ourselves and serve the community.

The biggest realization during this process has been that Wowsers isn't "our" company, rather it's Willits' company. This is a very very big deal.

A lot of Willits businesses are operated in private. We're making our efforts public because Wowsers is for ALL of us. And now Wowsers is sizzling with promise for the community.

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Supes put energy muddle on hold

Supervisors last week rescheduled two linked items concerning potential countywide Property Assessed Clean Energy programs.

The items are the latest wrinkle in which state and local government are attempting to battle climate change and high energy costs using market forces while adhering to a philosophy of a limited role for government.

Efforts to create a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program in Mendocino County are not new. Supervisors approved a PACE program in January 2014, and adopted an ordinance to that effect in February 2014.

Last December 4, the county was notified that an adverse legal decision on an unrelated Community Financing District formed in San Diego had "potentially affected some of the arguments used in prosecuting Senate Bill 555-related validations."

As a result, Ygrene Energy – the organization that has been one of the major players in efforts to build a statewide PACE program – decided to put its validation suit for the Mendocino

County PACE program on hold until its legal team figured out how to overcome the legal obstacle presented by the San Diego decision.

In the interim, Ygrene proposed Mendocino County might want to join its statewide PACE program, which apparently is not subject to the legal roadblocks presented by the San Diego ruling.

On a parallel track, the California Assembly has its own set of regulations affecting PACE programs: Assembly Bill 881, which essentially does the same thing SB555 does.

Now two statewide organizations have been created to create statewide PACE programs. The California Home Financing Authority seeks to implement the statewide PACE program under SB555, while the California Statewide Communities Development Authority seeks to do the same thing under AB881. Each is waiting for a Sacramento Superior Court to decide which law is the more legally defensible PACE framework.

On Tuesday, March 17, Mendocino County General Services Agency Director Kristin McMenomy placed twin-track resolutions for PACE approval before the board, one reauthorizing

involvement in the SB555 California Home Financing Authority model, and one authorizing involvement in the AB881 California Statewide Communities Development, or CalFIRST, model.

The schizophrenia implicit in the twin-track approach to clean energy was too much for the board.

According to Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, supervisors discussed both items for half an hour before deciding they could not reach agreement.

In a talk with Willits Weekly, Woodhouse said supervisors John McCowen and Dan Hamburg were the main antagonists in the argument, with McCowen urging what Woodhouse called "special addendums for our own special area" to the agreement, and Hamburg "wanting to approve it now."

Hamburg is worried about his constituents having to drive from Point Arena and Gualala, sitting through a long meeting where nothing is done, "and then being told they will have to come back another day," Woodhouse said.

According to Woodhouse, both items will be rescheduled for consideration at a future meeting.



Wowsers members, from left to right, James Wilson, Tara Logan (upside down), Alex Rodriguez and Joseph Faustina pose inside Wowsers, with the German wheel and a tricycle Faustina built

Defensible space: Homeowners urged to take action now

State firefighters have responded to "a significant increase in the number of wildfires" during the first two months of winter, according to a March 17 press release from CalFire's Mendocino Unit.

CalFire officials cite "the continuation of dry fuel conditions" due to the state's historic drought as the cause of increased fire activity.

Now, CalFire is urging north county residents to ensure that each residence is prepared for the coming fire season," said Mendocino Unit Chief Christopher Rowney.

Creating and maintaining a defensible space often involves power equipment, so residents are asked to use "extreme caution using this equipment during the heat of the day."

"Clearance work should be done early in the day when it is cool and the humidity is high to avoid a sparking a wildfire," Rowney said. Clearing should be avoided on days that are hot, dry, or windy – and especially on days with high fire conditions like Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag warnings.

The intent of defensible space is to improve safety for firefighters defending a home, as well as to increase the survivability of a "building or structure" that sits in grass, brush, and forest-covered lands within designated State Responsibility Areas.

Defensible space regulations have been updated to include the following:

- Maintain 100 feet of defensible space around all structures of all dead or dying vegetation.
- Remove all leaves and pine needles from rain gutters or on top of roofs.
- Remove dead trees or shrub branches that overhang roofs, and below or adjacent to windows.
- Keep branches a minimum of 10 feet away from chimney and stovepipe outlets.
- Relocate firewood piles outside the 30-foot zone unless covered with a fire-resistant material.
- All exposed wood piles must have a minimal clearance of 10 feet down to bare mineral soil in all directions.
- Remove all flammable vegetation or items that could catch fire from adjacent to or under combustible decks, balconies and stairs.
- Dead and dying woody surface and aerial fuels shall be removed within the 100-foot zone.
- Loose surface litter consisting of leaves, pine needles, and twigs shall be permitted to a maximum depth of 3 inches.
- Cut annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Liquid propane gas storage tanks must have a minimum 10-foot clearance down to bare mineral soil and no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet.

For more information on preparing for wildfires and defensible space visit: www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

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COLUMN | American Legion Willits Post 174 Update

‘Still Serving’

By Commander Robert Ireland

American Legion Willits Post 174 would like to thank everyone in our community for making our 2nd Annual Duane Brown Memorial Saint Patrick's Day dinner a very joyous and successful event. Your support is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to the Forks Ranch Market for accommodating our post on such short notice. The trim and curing of the corned beef was outstanding, and made the cooking crew's job much easier and delighted all that attended dinner.

Speaking of the cooking crew, thank you to Roger Ham, Curtis DeShiel, Barney Saint Martin, and John Frankum for their all-day efforts preparing dinner, to Dominic Favolara and Zechariah Ireland for their efforts setting up before and cleaning up after the dinner, and to Joe and Meribeth Yu for their help with vegetable preparation. Without your help this would have been an impossible task. Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the assistance of the local Girl Scouts: Their help makes the meal much easier for everyone; thank you ladies.



Other than our happy Saint Patrick's Day dinner, March has been a sad month for Post 174. Well-liked and respected long-time member of Auxiliary Unit 174, Pat Pergeau, passed away suddenly on March 10. Her efforts on behalf of our post will be sorely missed, as will her happy smile and demeanor. A memorial service, attended by friends and family, was held at the Veterans Memorial Building on Saturday, March 21. Willits Post 174 extends our deepest condolences to the Pergeau family on the loss of a beloved family member; may the Good Lord lessen your pain with happy memories of Pat.

March also brings another memorial service: Post 174 will conduct a veteran's memorial service for USAF Senior Master Sergeant William Douglas Furia, on Saturday March 28 at 1 pm. The doors to the hall will be open at noon.

On a brighter note, Willits Post 174 had a presentation at this month's meeting by Sons of the American Legion Area 1 Vice Commander Bill Bryant, explaining how Post 174 can establish its own Sons of the American Legion squadron. Post 174 members who belong to the Sons are part of Fortuna's squadron at this time. It is hoped that we will have a functioning Sons squadron established before the 4th of July.

In addition to Bill Bryant's presentation, Post 174 Service Officer George Frosch gave an in-depth report on how and when the new Veterans Choice card can be used. The discussion included several questions from post members; at least one of which inquired where a list of doctors and surgeons acceptable to the Veterans Choice program could be found. While there isn't a list available, at this point in time, veterans were advised to call the 1-866-606-8198 number on their card to obtain this information.

March ends, for Willits Post 174, with our annual Boys State interviews at 9 am on Tuesday, March 31, at Willits High School. We hope to have a good turn-out for our interviews; interviewing these students is one of the high points of serving with the American Legion. I've found that as I've gotten older I seem to have become much more fearful of where our nation is headed. Listening to Willits students, as we interview them throughout the year, restores hope and faith to this old veteran. These young men and women are our country's future, and that future is secure.

April brings spring to Willits and also announces it is time for Post 174 to open its doors to community members needing to retire their American flags. American flags need to be retired whenever they become torn, tattered, faded and/or stained by time and usage. If your flag flies 24 hours a day, it should be lighted at night and will need replacing more often than flags that are occasionally flown on national holidays.

American Legion Willits Post 174 will open the doors of the Veterans Memorial Building from 11 am to 2 pm to receive flags in need of retirement every Wednesday in April beginning April 8 and ending April 22. Flags may also be dropped off at the hall on the evenings of April 7 and 14 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The flag retirement ceremony will be Saturday, April 25 at 11 am.

Tuesday, April 14 is Willits Post 174 meeting night; members are reminded that a potluck dinner will precede the meeting. Please remember to bring something to the meal; the doors will be open at 5 pm. Veterans living here in Willits who are interested in joining the American Legion; sons of veterans interested in the Sons of the American Legion; wives, daughters and granddaughters of veterans interested in the American Legion Auxiliary; please consider visiting us, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 189 North Main Street, at the second Tuesday of every month. The doors usually open at 6 pm, and the meetings begin at 7 pm. Those wishing to join our meetings can call Bob Ireland, post commander, at 707-272-1997 or Dori Grauer, auxiliary president, at 707-459-6535 for information on how to become a member.



Photojournalist award given to Willits photographer

Steve Eberhard

A professional journalism organization honored Willits photographer Steve Eberhard at a San Francisco award dinner earlier this month.

The Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter, awarded its James Madison Freedom of Information Photojournalist Award to Eberhard for his documentation of the Willits bypass freeway project.

"I am blown away," Eberhard said, "I had no idea this was coming."

Eberhard received recognition, along with other 2015 James Madison Award winners and honorees, March 12 at the City Club of San Francisco, "the city's premier business and social club." This was the inaugural year of the SPJ's Photojournalist Award.

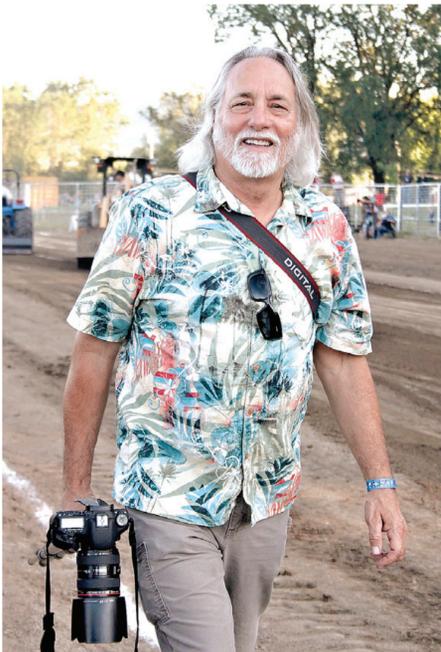
Other honorees included a retired director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a high school journalism teacher faced with censorship of her student's work, investigative reporters, and an attorney from the American Civil Liberties Union.

The SPJ's NorCal Chapter's James Madison Freedom of Information Awards "honor local journalists, organizations, public officials, educators, and private citizens who have fought for public access to government meetings and records, and who have promoted the public's right to know and freedom of expression."

Eberhard's photography of the Willits bypass has been printed in The Willits News, and he is a longtime contributor to that newspaper.

In the text of a speech prepared for the occasion, Eberhard thanked The Willits News, his attorney Duffy Carolan, and his wife Lana Eberhard.

Eberhard says he will still be photographing the Willits bypass, but maybe not as busily as



in the beginning.

"I feel like I am in this for the long haul, and if that is what it takes, I am going to protect the First Amendment," Eberhard said.

He said he never thought that he would get arrested.

During the first season of freeway construction, Eberhard was arrested July 23, 2013, at a morning protest after he asked a California Highway Patrol officer if he could take pictures.

Eberhard said he asked to photograph people who were chained to equipment, and that was when he had handcuffs put on himself.

Booking records show that Eberhard was booked at Mendocino County Jail on suspicion of trespassing. The Mendocino County District Attorney's Office never filed charges against Eberhard, court documents state.

Top: This photo by Steve Eberhard was taken on "Extraction Day," April 2, 2013, when dozens of California Highway Patrol officers dressed in riot helmets extracted "the Warbler" and four other protesters from their tree-sits and arrested eight protesters altogether.

Photo by Steve Eberhard

Above: Steve Eberhard was also the official photographer for Willits Frontier Days for many years, and was photographed here in the arena during a previous year's events.

Photo by Maureen Moore

The rest of Settlement | From Page 1

said she was "incredibly relieved."

"I am relieved for the city council, the city staff, and for the community of Willits – and really for both communities, because we are one community, really," Moore said. "There is no way we ever would be able to be divorced."

"What this settlement represents is that we have laid a basis so that we can move forward," Moore said.

According to Moore, there are six main areas in the settlement.

Immediate financials and logistics

Brooktrails agrees to pay Willits a fixed rate of \$22,000 a month beginning July 1 of this year and going forward until June 30, 2019. During that time, that figure will not be inflated by any change in the Consumer Price Index. The payment is understood to be Brooktrails' share of ongoing plant operations.

Brooktrails and Willits agree to form a committee, with two members from each governing body, to explore the feasibility of creating a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that would oversee the operations of the sewer plant. Both Brooktrails and Willits agree to share equally in covering any costs associated with the functioning of this exploratory committee.

The city agrees that metering of wastewater flow into the plant for purposes of billing shall be measurement of inflow into the plant, not of outflow from the plant.

The city will provide Brooktrails with influent data on a regular basis, as well as provide it with real-time, up-to-the-minute data.

Prior to June 30, 2019, Brooktrails and Willits will establish ongoing rates for Brooktrails' use of Willits' sewer plant. This rate will use American Institute of Certified Public Accountants standards.

Property snafus

Willits agrees to release Brooktrails from its obligation to pay 37.69 percent of Willits' \$750,000 purchase of the Neisen property in 2003. In exchange, Brooktrails surrenders its claims to reimbursement for any other existing real property purchased with co-mingled funds associated with the construction of the new sewer plant.

The two parties agree to consult with each other and to negotiate any future land purchases associated with the sewer plant. The city agrees to Brooktrails' demand for a right to "opt out" of future land purchases. For its part, Brooktrails agrees to negotiate in good faith.

USDA loans

A central issue in the lawsuit concerned U.S. Department of Agriculture loans Willits took out to build the plant. The second and third loans totaled \$18.6 million; Brooktrails' share of these loans was \$8.2 million.

Brooktrails had claimed Willits' performance in adhering to the terms of past contracts was so shabby that the most recent contract was null and void, and therefore Brooktrails was under no contractual obligation to pay anything.

As part of the settlement, Brooktrails now agrees to pay off the USDA loans at a rate of 36 percent, instead of the old rate of 37.69 percent. Brooktrails also accepts responsibility for paying off its share of all of the loans, beginning with the May billing from the USDA.

Willits believes Brooktrails owes Willits \$427,000 on USDA payments. Brooktrails agrees to pay Willits \$213,500 within the next 60 days.

Both parties agree to pay attorney's fees for their respective legal teams. In a recent article, Willits Weekly estimated those fees, already at a total of \$1.3 million before the trial started, would go up to \$1.5 million with a six-week trial, about \$750,000 for each side.

Second lawsuit

Brooktrails filed a second lawsuit against Willits in Mendocino County Superior Court in November 2014. In it, Brooktrails claimed the sewer plant was poorly designed and its capacity was actually smaller than that of the old sewer plant.

In that lawsuit, Brooktrails sought indemnification in case Willits had to spend money to repair flaws in the plant, and also sought to establish financial protection for itself if Willits was sued over design flaws in the plant.

In the settlement, Brooktrails agrees to withdraw this second lawsuit. Both parties agree to the principle of mutual consultation in serious matters like these and if, in the future, negotiation cannot resolve such issues, both parties agree to submit to arbitration.

Plant capacity

The city and Brooktrails affirm Brooktrails has an allowed capacity of .49 million gallons a day and that Willits cannot and will not encroach on it. If Willits needs more capacity, it is free to negotiate with Brooktrails, and if Brooktrails cannot or will not cede some part of its capacity to Willits, then Willits must undertake to expand the capacity of the plant. If it does that, Willits will have to bear the cost of the expansion.

Willits Weekly attempted to get a statement on the resolution of this lawsuit from a representative from Brooktrails. However, because both the city and the township were collaborating on a statement that would do just that, and because that statement had not been released at press time, no one from Brooktrails would comment for the record.

The rest of LAFCO | From Page 1

The district has replaced its

fleet of 10 vehicles over the last 15 years. And while "most of these replacement vehicles were used, and either purchased from other fire departments or acquired under the Federal Excess Property Program," the district has acquired one new structure engine and one new ambulance in the last three years. Its two fire stations – one in Laytonville, one in Branscomb – are relatively new. The Laytonville fire station was completed in 2006; the Branscomb substation built by volunteers in 1988.

District residents are protected by a paid fire chief, a volunteer assistant chief, a volunteer battalion chief and 35 volunteer firefighters, 15 of whom are also trained emergency medical technicians.

Volunteers respond to about 425 calls per year: fires, traffic accidents, medical aid calls, and rescues. The district's three-person, supervisor-appointed board of directors and two part-time clerks provide the administrative support services.

Residents in the immediate Laytonville area enjoy an Insurance Service Office rating of 5, thanks to a local fire hydrant and water system, so – although not cheap – insurance rates remain reasonable. In areas within five miles of the Laytonville station, rates are much more expensive; beyond five miles, residents pay top dollar for fire insurance, according to the MSR.

Revenues for fire protection services have increased over the three fiscal years examined in the LAFCO report, including an additional \$65,000 during fiscal year 2012-2013 in strike team payments.

The department's fire service revenues, primarily derived from property tax and property assessments (\$30 per unit), have increased over each of the past three fiscal years, and the district also generates about \$25,000 per year from rents. That added up to a little more than \$390,000 in revenues for fiscal year 2012-2013, with expenses totaling just over \$161,600.

In addition, the district finished paying for a replacement fire truck and a new ambulance last year, the survey reported, leaving its current annual debt service to one bond obligation of \$29,198 for additions to the Laytonville fire station. That debt is scheduled to be paid off this year.

But there's a fly in the ointment: the district's ambulance service.

In December 1984, the Laytonville Volunteer Fire Department started an ambulance fund; 17 months later it purchased its first ambulance for \$50,000 raised by community donations. In 1993, a second ambulance was ordered, to provide backup in case of multiple calls.

It wasn't Long Valley's first attempt to provide ambulance service. In the early years, the MSR reports, the Laytonville Fire Department worked without an ambulance, taking patients in personal vehicles or revered volunteer Emerson Elliott's 1944 Studebaker sedan, its seats removed so patients could be transported to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits.

In the 1960s, Laytonville businessman Smiley Harmer purchased a second-hand ambulance, but within a couple of years was forced to give up the ambulance due to financial constraints. In 1983, Willits and Laytonville worked out an arrangement for Laytonville to borrow an ambulance and have it staffed in Laytonville, but Willits had to take it back a few years later.

Today, the Laytonville Volunteer Ambulance service operates as a department of the Long Valley Fire Protection District, providing 24-hour advanced life support service, staffed with a paramedic at all times. Volunteers staff the ambulance as drivers and assist the paramedic on calls.

The fire department also operates a basic life support service staffed with a volunteer emergency medical technician.

Laytonville Volunteer Ambulance has six firefighters that are certified paramedics; each is paid one-sixth of one full-time equivalent position.

And while the fire department told LAFCO it generally had "sufficient capacity to provide fire protection services to its current service area" (238 square miles), the ambulance response area "has historically been 500 square miles," and the district "has struggled to provide sufficient levels of service to this much larger and somewhat remote area," according to the MRS.

Ambulance service revenues are derived from services charges and contributions from fundraising activities, the LAFCO report notes. "No property tax or property assessment funds are budgeted for the ambulance service."

However, the reality is "funds are transferred from the fire protection service budget to make up for shortfalls in the ambulance service budget. The ambulance service is not classified as an Enterprise Fund, so these in effect become operating revenues transferred from fire protection to ambulance."

Over the past three years, the district has moved more than a quarter of a million dollars to sustain the ambulance service, but as the MSR notes, "this practice does not appear to be sustainable."

In fiscal 2012-2013, for instance, the ambulance service took in a little more than \$125,000 in charges for services. Wages and benefits for the paramedics, however, cost the district a little more than \$177,000; another \$37,000-plus was paid for supplies and services, as well as more than \$73,000 in debt service.

That left the ambulance service almost \$162,000 in the hole, and the fire protection service had to cover the shortfall.

The district has no agreement for reimbursement with the Cahto Tribe Laytonville Rancheria for either fire protection or emergency medical services. Occasionally the tribe and Red Fox Casino will make a donation to the district.

The department also serves the large Bell Springs area and upper Sprock Road without reimbursement.

In 2013 the district did receive almost \$12,400 to purchase emergency medical equipment from the Mendocino County Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Commission, according to the survey, and last year the commission donated \$8,226 to help the district purchase of a water tender.

Until recently, Long Valley FPD responded to fire and emergency medical aid calls outside district boundaries, primarily for traffic collisions and medical aid responses. However, last October the district announced it would no longer provide ambulance service in response to medical emergencies outside district boundaries. The decision "affects Highway 101 from Bell Springs Road to south Leggett; the Bell Springs area from Highway 101 to the county line; the Sprock Road area; and Highway 162 from Longvale to Dos Rios," according to Fire Chief Jim Little. That leaves fire department personnel worried about residents of the Nature Conservancy's Wilderness Lodge, and the Ten Mile Creek, Woodman Canyon, Jack of Hearts Creek, and Cherry Creek subdivisions.

However, Little noted, "this situation will probably remain in place until Mendocino County establishes exclusive operating areas (EOA) for emergency medical services in the county and a single provider can be established."

While LVFPD reported current financing levels are "adequate to deliver fire protection services, financing paid personnel and operational costs of the ambulance service are ongoing constraints, since the ambulance service does not generate enough revenue to fund its operations."

District officials told LAFCO they may have to ask voters "to approve a new special tax (benefit assessment) when the current assessment becomes inadequate."

The rest of Business | From Page 13

City building activity

Permits from February projects generated \$2,554 for the city, up from \$1,507 during the same month last year.

For the current fiscal year, projects permitted by the city have a total estimated value of about \$1.6 million. Revenue from those permits is \$27,073 on 82 permits.

Estimated value and revenue were higher at this time during the 2014-2015 fiscal year, with projects valued at \$4.1 million and revenue of \$73,142 from 91 permits.

The city building department issued 10 permits for a variety of small projects in February, including:

Roofing work at 1221 South Main Street, valued at \$3,500; a remodel for storage at 101 North Main Street, valued at \$10,500; repairs to damaged exterior walls at 515 South Main Street, valued at \$7,500; house remodel on Fort Bragg Road, valued at \$35,000; roofing work at 500 West Mendocino Avenue, valued at \$3,000; installation of a grease interceptor at 1431 South Main Street, valued at \$2,500; replacement of electrical service at 39 Mill Creek Drive, valued at \$1,000; an addition or remodel at 105 East Oak Street, valued at \$58,960; shower installation at 1056 Poplar Avenue, valued at \$1,500; and remodel of a bathroom at 65 South Main Street, valued at \$1,500.

Beyond city limits

Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services handles permits for work outside incorporated towns like Willits, Ukiah, Point Arena and Fort Bragg.

The county's February report featured some of the following in the Third District: a Covelo home was granted a permit for an addition; a home was remodeled on the Hearst-Willits Road; parking lot lights were installed at Harwood Memorial Park in Laytonville; a Willits-area octagon home was granted a permit for an addition; and a barn is now a studio apartment on Bell Springs Road.

The rest of Workshop | From Page 1

public finance consultants favored post-bypass planning, economic topics and the racquet sport of pickle ball.

The city's previous goals, set by council members in 2013, included the Baechtel Road Railroad Avenue extension, the Brown's Corner intersection, certifying sewer plant employees to work at the water plant, and certifying water plant operators to treat wastewater.

The council also wanted to improve traffic west of Main Street, undertake Main Street waterline work, begin post-bypass planning, and set street paving priorities. Master plans for sewer and water infrastructure made the list, too.

Workshops like city goal-setting routinely start out budget talks to municipalities, and other neighboring small cities and county governments have conducted similar events.

To begin the community budget workshops, the city released its mid-year financial report. The document examined major components of the budget, like water and sewer, the general fund and revenue calculations.

In the 2014/2015 fiscal year, which started in July and ends in June, the city is looking at a decline in sales tax revenue, a report from Finance Director Susie Holmes stated.

The report cited a consulting firm working for the city that concluded Willits' lost sales tax revenue is due to less gasoline tax money.

At this point in the fiscal year, the city expects to spend about \$146,000 from its reserves. That figure is about \$15,000 more than expected, the report stated.

The Government Finance Association recommends 16 percent of a city's general fund spending be held in reserve. The city says it has about 39.5 percent of what it spends from its general fund in reserves.

At the Willits Municipal Airport, expenses and revenue are both up. The airport has received a \$150,000 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration, but the city spent \$20,000 to have a study prepared for an air ambulance company's pending move to the airstrip.

Air ambulance company REACH is expected to repay the city for the study. A public hearing on REACH's move to the airport happens after the budget meeting, starting at 12:30 pm, also at the Center for the Arts.

In the city's water enterprise fund, revenues are \$96,000 less than expected, but a water rate increase that began in December should close the difference, the report stated.

At midyear the city's spending from its gasoline tax fund was \$27,196 for traffic safety, \$47,884 for street administration, \$113,912 for street maintenance, and \$15,358 for storm drain maintenance.

If you care to go, the city council goal-setting workshop is scheduled Saturday, March 28, at 9 am, at the Willits Center for the Arts, between the Noyo Theater and the old Carnegie Library building on East Commercial Street.

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At left, top: Early morning lettuce harvest. At left: The fruits and veggies of their labor, a CSA distribution point. Above: Horsepower at Live Power Community Farm. Below: The crew at Live Power Farm, including Steve and Gloria Decater, top row, at right.

'The Mainline' blog on: Live Power Community Farm

Editor's note: This is the most recent piece, posted March 20, on "The Mainline," the DripWorks blog featuring a wide variety of informative posts on subjects related to farming, gardening and water conservation. Photos – chosen by "The Mainline" – were provided by Live Power Community Farm.

By Leon Springer, DripWorks

Gloria and Stephen Decater moved to the sparsely inhabited but beautiful and fertile valley of Covelo, California in 1973. Years later they formed Live Power Community Farm, an association of involved consumers and dedicated farmers. This farm today is a 50-acre, solar electric and horse powered, diversified, certified biodynamic CSA (community supported agriculture) farm.

Live Power has an active volunteer core group of 10 to 20 members who help organize membership, distribution, communications, website development, member surveys, general meetings, and on-site work days. Members (shareholders who give financial support) give input as to

varieties of veggies to be grown, so that the planting plan can be tuned to the needs of the community.

The farmers provide a weekly basket of fresh, high-quality organic fruits and vegetables that are in season, while the shareholders commit their financial (or volunteer) support. As one of the members of the Live Power CSA, my family pays \$25 per week and meets a weekly delivery truck at a home of one of the members in our town for the food distribution. We then fill our basket with the just-harvested, locally grown, delicious produce. Seeing and talking with the other members (and Gloria or Stephen) is a fun social occasion.

Learning how to use food that is local and seasonal can challenge new members, because the preparation, preservation, and storage of food that comes straight from the land is much different than deciding on a menu and then shopping for it. To help with this challenge, Live Power Community Farm has a bi-weekly newsletter with recipes that we find helpful. My wife and I also go online and Google for recipes using any veggie you can imagine. For us, this has become a favorite way to learn to cook with new and sometimes unusual foods from the farm.

The CSA movement has been defined by its concern

for the small family farmer. Keeping these farmers as part of our national heritage, both now and in the future, for our children and our grandchildren, is our concern. Eating the healthy bounty that they provide is our privilege.

If you live in the inland valley of Mendocino County (food distribution is in Willits and Ukiah), and would like to sign up to be a shareholder and receive a weekly basket of farm fresh food, go to <http://livepowercommunityfarm.csasignup.com>. Deadline to sign up for the 2015 CSA is May 1, but if there are shares available, signups are accepted throughout the season, 30 weeks long, from the first week of May through the last week of November. Shares are available paid fully in advance, or paid quarterly or monthly. Live Power Farm also has CSA members in Covelo, Marin County, San Francisco, and Berkeley. To visit the Live Power Farm website go to www.livepower.org.

The DripWorks blog – www.dripworks.blogspot.com – is written by Leon Springer and Boyd Parmeter. DripWorks has been the premier local source for quality drip irrigation supplies and knowledge since 1992. We offer an extensive selection of products ideal for gardeners, landscapers, farmers and anyone interested in conserving water while nurturing their garden. Installation is simple; anyone can grasp the basics. Please stop by, call or use live chat on our website for answers to your drip irrigation questions. DripWorks, 190 Sanhedrin Circle, Willits, CA 95490; 1.800.522.3747; www.dripworks.com.

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