



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Library Advisory Board

To the Editor:

Are you interested in books, literacy, children's summer reading, seniors, literature, free access to information, and cultural events? Then you might be interested in joining the Mendocino County Library Advisory Board.

The LAB is seeking representatives from the City of Willits and the 1st District. We are a volunteer board that organized and campaigned for Measure A, the sales tax measure that ensured the success and stability of our libraries. LAB members help guide library policy, review the budget, and interface with city and county government. The board meets approximately 10 times per year.

If you are passionate about libraries and are interested in working with a highly motivated and intelligent board, please contact me at 459-2775 or mkomer@pacific.net.

Marc Komer, Willits

## Calling all cancer survivors

To the Editor:

We would like to invite you to participate in the 2015 Relay For Life Willits as our honored guests. This year's Relay For Life Willits will be held at Recreation Grove Park on July 25-26 from 10 am Saturday to 10 am Sunday. Our event kicks off Saturday morning by celebrating our survivors at the opening ceremonies followed by a Survivors Lap around the park. We want to celebrate you! We would like to encourage all survivors from Willits, Fort Bragg, Covelo, Laytonville and beyond to sign up now for Relay For Life Willits.

Early registration is recommended and will guarantee a "Survivor" T-shirt in your size. To register now, visit [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org) and search for "95490" or call 1-877-7848 and an operator will assist you with your registration. Registration is free! All are welcome. We would really love you to join us. ... Thank you.

Sharron Kidd and Liz Gardner, volunteer survivor chairs, Relay For Life Willits

## Just say 'no,' Planning Department

To the Editor:

An alcoholic beverages distillery and tasting room at the rural subdivision of Cherry Creek Ranches, near Longvale, is bad planning – the wrong use for a rangeland-zoned area.

As a property owner at Cherry Creek since 1999, I strongly oppose the recent recommendation by Mendocino County Planning Department's Fred Tarr to issue a so-called minor-use permit "with conditions" to Jeffrey Bord, who plans to open J David Spirits Distillery at 900 Cherry Creek Road at Cherry Creek Ranches.

Last week, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors shamefully followed the Planning Department's recommendation and approved an asphalt plant on Outlet Creek, along our subdivision's southeast border. Please, don't insult and degrade our community again by approving a commercial distillery and tourist attraction here.

What concerns me most about this ill-conceived scheme is the vehicular traffic the distillery will generate, including large trucks, tourist tasting groups and up to 20 employees driving on a dangerous, curvy section of Cherry Creek Road.

Far from creating "no impact or less than significant impact" on "Transportation/Traffic," as Tarr's report states, the plan will have, in the opinion of many residents, a significant impact on traffic. Let me explain why.

The lower section of Cherry Creek Road, where the distillery

would be located, has more blind, wooded turns than any other section of road in our subdivision. Yet *all* property owners here (except those on Helms Road) must use this section of the road to enter and exit the subdivision.

I have been driven off that lower section of Cherry Creek Road once already, when someone coming up the hill too quickly approached on a blind turn as I was going down. I only escaped disaster because a tree on the hillside stopped my truck from sliding all the way down the ravine. This has happened to other residents as well. And many of us remember last summer when a large tractor-trailer truck delivering huge pieces of equipment to the distillery, failed to make a turn and slid off the road, blocking Cherry Creek Road to traffic for much of the day. Had there been a fire here or a medical emergency, community members would have had to exit Cherry Creek on a narrow, rutted logging road that is often impassable and only accessible, when open, to four-wheel drive vehicles.

The proposed building site is indeed isolated from most homes and parcels at Cherry Creek, but the road is used by all of us. A commercial operation with regular visitor vans or buses, supply trucks, and up to 20 employees is a threat to our safety and the community's peace and quiet.

Most of us moved to Cherry Creek Ranches because we assumed a rangeland-zoned area would be protected from commercial development and attending traffic and noise.

I invite concerned citizens who care about appropriate land use and planning to voice their opinions at the Planning Department's April 9 hearing on the proposal, at 10 am, Conference Room B, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah.

Jane Fletcher, Willits

## Always rushing, always behind

To the Editor:

In her March 26 letter to Willits Weekly titled "If not Roundup, patience," Randi Covin gets in a snide chide at bypass opponents, implying they have succeeded only too well in rushing the mitigation schedule, so much so that Caltrans is now compelled to allow the use of herbicides to meet new deadlines imposed after their permit was pulled for noncompliance by the Army Corps of Engineers.

It would be flattering, if ridiculous, to imagine that environmentalists have enough clout with a federal agency to actually influence it. Who knew the Army Corps was listening to our entreaties, much less granting our demands, even ones we never made?

It's Caltrans that's always rushing, yet somehow always behind schedule. That's because they cut corners wherever they can get away with it, skirting laws like the Native American Heritage Act and the International Migratory Bird Treaty, trampling regulations protecting water, soil, fish and wildlife, and now breaking their promise not to use poison on the mitigation lands.

Bypass opponents have always asked Caltrans to slow down and take a good look at the economically reasonable, ecologically responsible alternatives to this massive and unmanageable mega-project it has undertaken without any precedent or prior experience. After three years of construction, a spectacular collapse and \$64.7 million in cost overruns, they are still not listening.

The informed public should not accept Caltrans' latest charade of compliance with Army Corps requirements by shaving a tad off the ramp shoulders and nixing the roundabout on the north end. As usual, it's a lick and a promise, with no other plans considered or cost comparisons made and no significant reductions of impacts to wetlands and Pomo sacred sites. Eliminating the roundabout is a poke in the eye, as it would be built on uplands, not wetlands, and does nothing to achieve the objectives of reducing impacts and protecting archeological areas and sensitive wetlands.

Caltrans should scale back the massively overbuilt north end design by restoring the roundabout and eliminating the diamond interchange. What part of downside don't they understand? It can only be the money: Caltrans is a conduit for tax dollars moving from public coffers to private consortiums like Hochtief, the huge Germany-based international construction conglomerate that owns Flatiron, the Willits bypass contractor. So it's really not a question of what makes sense to us, it's what makes dollars for them that counts.

Naomi Wagner, Willits

## Willits and Brooktrails settle longstanding dispute

To the Editor:

The City of Willits and Brooktrails on Wednesday, March 25, settled all of their claims against each other on the third day of trial. The settlement came after a lengthy mediation session while the jury trial was proceeding in Sonoma County. The settlement was recited in court on Wednesday morning, and the trial was ended after both the Willits City Council and the Brooktrails Township Board of Directors unanimously approved the settlement in late night meetings on Tuesday, March 24.

Although the settlement resolved all issues in the five-year-old lawsuit, the settlement extended well beyond the issues of disagreement into the relationship of the parties moving forward, with both parties committing to a goal of developing a collaborative future relationship. The settlement established lines of communication for consideration of issues of joint interest and concern, as those issues might arise in the future. For example, the settlement put in place a process for considering the establishment in the future of a joint powers agency to administer the wastewater treatment plant.

As the trial unfolded in Sonoma County, representatives of both sides met at the County Museum in Willits in a 12-hour mediation session hosted by prominent lawyer, former judge, and Willits resident James King. The city was represented by Mayor Bruce Burton, Councilmember Larry Stranske and city staff, while Brooktrails was represented by board President Rick Williams, board Director Tim Ramming, and district staff.

Mayor Burton took the lead in reaching out to Brooktrails last Sunday to set up the mediation session, which was hastily scheduled on short notice for Tuesday. The mayor said, "I welcome moving the focus away from the disagreements of the past to the solutions of the future." Board President Rick Williams said, "It is time to put this controversy into the past and look forward to the how Brooktrails and the city can work together in the future."

The settlement brought a sudden end to a lawsuit which had been pending for five years and had festered for years before that. The jury expressed excitement to learn that the trial, which had been projected to extend into late April, was being ended by settlement.

The settlement itself resolved all the complaints and cross complaints of the parties and extended well beyond to putting in place procedures for future cooperation. The settlement put in place a \$22,000 flat rate for Brooktrails to pay each month for four years, which will avoid concentration on the supporting accounting, which had been a source of disagreement. During the four-year period, the parties will consult with each other to review the accounting data to determine the basis for charges in the future.

The four-year period will provide time for the City of Willits to install a functional meter to measure the total flow of the two communities. The parties will also establish a four-person committee to investigate the feasibility of establishing a joint powers agency with a goal of having the agency in place within four years, with each party to equally share the cost of any feasibility studies for such investigation.

The settlement also clarified the relationship of the parties regarding land purchases in the past and in the future. The city will retain complete ownership of all of the land purchased for the plant, without Brooktrails contributing to a disputed purchase in 2003 and with the parties consulting in advance of any future purchases.

The settlement also resolved the participation by Brooktrails in the financing of the \$24 million wastewater treatment plant, with Brooktrails' participation being fixed at 36 percent of the repayment obligation going forward, as well as payment to the city in the amount of \$213,500 for past loan obligations.

For any questions, please contact Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore at [amoore@willitscity.com](mailto:amoore@willitscity.com) or 459-4601, and Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose at [drose@btcsd.org](mailto:drose@btcsd.org) or 459-2273.

Adrienne Moore, City of Willits, and Denise Rose, Brooktrails Township

**Address correction:** Those interested in ordering Malakai Schindel's new CD, "Aradan," should send \$15 plus \$3 for shipping to 881 East Hill Road, Willits CA 95490. Email [malakaiar@yahoo.com](mailto:malakaiar@yahoo.com) for more information.

# Amazing Athletes of Willits High School



## Track | Victoria Silva, Junior, 17

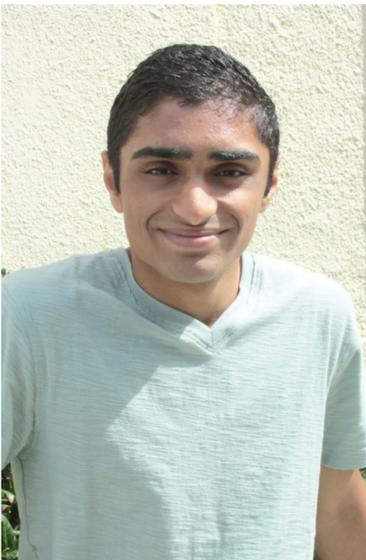
Events: Track, long jump, triple jump

Breakfast of Champions: Hard-boiled egg, 1 cup green tea, and toast with peanut butter.

Love for the Sport: I love track because it's you against yourself, and you trying to improve your own time/score, and it keeps me in shape

Team captain Victoria Silva took 3rd place in the long jump at last Wednesday's meet in Fort Bragg with a leap of 14' 1". She also anchored the 4 x 100 relay team to a 4th place finish.

– Coach Dave Smith



## Track | Ankit Patel, Senior, 18

Events: Track, 400 meter, long jump and high jump

Breakfast of Champions: Milk and any kind of cereal

Love for the Sport: It keeps me in shape

Team captain Ankit Patel ran a gutsy 400 meter race at last Wednesday's meet in Fort Bragg, and took 1st place against six schools.

He scored 10 team points with the 1st place finish, and another 2 team points with a 5th place in the long jump.

– Coach Dave Smith



COLUMN | Seasonal Care of Your Home

Springtime: the most important time of the year

The rainy season such as it was, will soon come to an end, and the temperature will rise. This will trigger subterranean termites to swarm. You may have seen "black ants with wings" coming up out of the ground during the spring. Sometimes they are just ants; sometimes they're not so lucky.

The easiest and most distinguishing difference is that ants have a visible "pinched in" waist area like you might imagine on a wasp. Termites do not have a visible "pinched in" waist area. Good rule of thumb, if you see more than one of any type of insect, check it out and try to determine if it's friend or foe. We encourage people to try and take a good close-up picture and send it to us at [matt@mendolaketermite.com](mailto:matt@mendolaketermite.com), and we will do our best to advise you whether you need onsite help or if the insect is a non-structural nuisance.

In our more rural areas, with houses situated among trees, wood boring beetles may be your most important pest problem. Look for small holes in your siding or framing below your house. If you have active beetles you will notice "frass" (insect excreta) coming out of some of the holes. It will look like powder or narrow pellets. Beetles tend to like wood with high moisture content. So work on ventilation and moisture diversion away from your crawl space.

The most damaging and pervasive damage is not termite damage, it's fungus rot decay. Fungus decay, like any other plant, needs certain environmental conditions to thrive. Fungus thrives in excessive moisture and temperatures in the 65 to 80 degree range. That's spring around here.

The first place to check is your crawl space. Is the ground wet? Even damp can be a problem if ventilation is reduced. If you have standing water now or after periods of hard rain, you should correct immediately with gutter diversion or sump pumps. Inspect your home and subarea below during a hard rain, and try to determine the "flow" of water on your property. In the summer or fall you can work on grading and exterior drainage for the following rainy season.

Check out the subarea framing to determine if your house is

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Mobile: (415) 717-0822  
[nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com](mailto:nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com)  
\*nicholas.casagrande@ceterafs.com  
\*investment email

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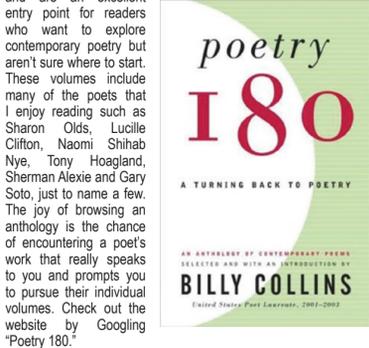
## April is National Poetry Month

Today, I'd like to entice you into the world of poetry in honor of National Poetry Month by recommending some anthologies, highlighting a local radio show, and inviting you to a poetry event to be held in Ukiah later this month.

Let's start with one of my favorite poets, Billy Collins. Our national Poet Laureate from 2001 to 2003, he is the author of many volumes of terse and wryly humorous poems. He created a program for high schools providing a poem a day to be read out loud to students. These poems, written by some of my favorite contemporary American poets, were collected into a volume (2003) titled

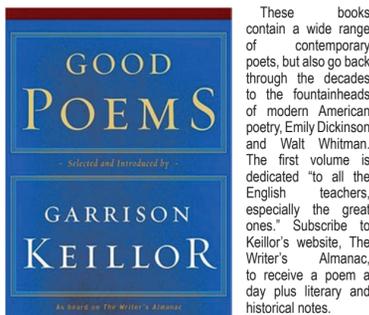
"Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry." This was followed up by a second collection, "180 More: Extraordinary Poems for Everyday" (2005).

These anthologies reflect the wit and the depth of current writing,



and are an excellent entry point for readers who want to explore contemporary poetry but aren't sure where to start. These volumes include many of the poets that I enjoy reading such as Sharon Olds, Lucille Clifton, Naomi Shihab Nye, Tony Hoagland, Sherman Alexie and Gary Soto, just to name a few. The joy of browsing an anthology is the chance of encountering a poet's work that really speaks to you and prompts you to pursue their individual volumes. Check out the website by Googling "Poetry 180."

There's another series of delightful anthologies put together by Garrison Keillor, well known as the host of the long-running radio show "A Prairie Home Companion." Keillor is also a fiction author and the owner of an independent bookstore. His series of anthologies starts with "Good Poems" (2002), continues with "Good Poems for Hard Times" (2005) and, most recently, "Good Poems: American Places" (2011).



If you are interested in a more academic overview try "The Penguin Anthology of Twentieth Century American Poetry," edited by Pulitzer Prize winner and former Poet Laureate of the United States, Rita Dove. She has selected poems which reflect a poetic view of American history.

There are many fine poets living and working within Mendocino County. Listen to them read their work on Dan Roberts' radio show "Rhythm Running River," which airs on local radio KZYX, FM 91.5, two Sundays a month starting at 2 pm (April 12 and 26 this month). Check the station's schedule online.

Last, but not least, I'd like to invite you to enter the delightful world of Japanese haiku as performed at the Ukiahhaiku Festival being held on Sunday, April 26, at SPACE theater, corner of Perkins and Dora Streets, starting at 2 pm, free to the public. Listen to local haiku poets of all ages read their prize-winning entries and then enjoy refreshments.

Whether you read by page or device, please utilize our library system and patronize independent bookstores, both new and used.

Local poet, Fran Resendez, is retired from 20 years of bookselling at the former Leaves of Grass Books in Willits. Getting her first library card was one of the happiest days in her reading life.

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# EASTER SALE!

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# Fudge

FLAVORS

**Cinnamon Crumb Cake & Mushroom Walnut**

**Friday, April 3**

**Easter Bake Sale:** Harrah Senior Center hosts a bake sale to benefit the Outreach Department: "Homemade tasty treats for a great price!" 8:30 am until sold out. 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Easter Bunny at Little Lake Fire:** The Easter Bunny and his "real bunny" helpers are set to visit the Little Lake Fire Department's downtown station, Commercial and Humboldt streets, for a photo opportunity, from 5 to 7 pm this evening. Come meet the Easter Bunny and sit for a portrait. Local "photographers" Maureen Moore will be snapping photos as a half-and-half fundraiser with the fire department. Digital images will be available for \$5 and can be downloaded at <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/easterbunny2015>.

**Sunday, April 5 - Happy Easter!**

**Skunk Train Easter Egg Express:** departs Skunk Train Depot at 9:45 am. Round trip from Willits to Northspur. "A fun-filled day in the redwoods; there's an egg hunt at Northspur and a delicious brunch is served with a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny." All ages ride. \$79 ages 13 and up; \$54 ages 2 to 12; \$10 dogs, under 2 is free. Info and online tickets: [www.skunktrain.com/easter.html](http://www.skunktrain.com/easter.html).

**Annual Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt:** 1 pm at Willits High School baseball fields, 299 North Main Street. Info: 354-8262. Free to attend; hunt is for children 12 and under; kids are grouped by age, so even the littlest hunters are assured a chance to find an egg. Last year, the Easter Bunny brought 2,000 hand-dyed eggs!



## Bunny Butt Easter Cupcakes

These are the cutest Easter cupcakes around, and so simple to create.

- Ingredients:**
- 12 chocolate cupcakes, baked
  - 12 donut holes
  - 12 mini marshmallows
  - 1 jar of chocolate frosting
  - Chocolate cookie crumbs
  - 1 jar vanilla frosting
  - 1 1/2 cups fine shredded coconut
  - 1 package of white & pink candy melts



By Nicole Basler

- Instructions:**
- Frost your chocolate cupcakes with chocolate frosting, and sprinkle the top with chocolate cookie crumbs to look like soil.

Melt some of the vanilla frosting in a bowl for about 15-20 seconds, and roll a donut hole into the melted frosting to coat. Next, place the donut hole into a bowl of shredded coconut, and roll to coat. Then place the coconut-covered ball on top of the cupcake in the center. You will need to do the same thing to the mini marshmallows (roll in frosting and then in coconut), which you will place on top of the donut hole as the tail. If the coconut falls off, you can press some on into the bald spots.

Melt the white chocolate melts (about a quarter of the bag) in a zip top bag for about a minute or so, being careful to not overmelt or they will harden. With a pair of scissors or a sharp knife, cut just the bottom corner of the bag so you can "pipe" or draw your bunny feet into parchment paper with the melted chocolate. You will need 24 feet, plus some extras to be safe.

Then melt the same amount of pink candy melts in another zip top bag, and pipe pink centers in the middle on top of the white feet for the pads of the feet, then let harden for about 3 to 5 minutes. Lean the feet at the base of the donut hole so it looks like the bunny is burrowing down into the bald spots.

You can also use the melted chocolate under the marshmallow "tail" or on the back of the hardened feet to help make them stick better if need be.

Enjoy!

**Easter Sunday Special: April 5:**  
\$5 Match Play - \$100 Hot Seat - Drawing 7-10pm

# SPRING GIVEAWAY

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\* See Casino for details - Management reserves all rights

# EASTER GIVEAWAY

**April 4th, 2015**  
**1:00pm to 10:30 pm**  
**Drawings Twice a Hour**

**Come Win Your Share of \$1500 Worth of Free Play & Prizes**

**Between March 30th to April 3rd 2015 Redeem Your Points For Drawing Entries**

**See Players Club For Details**  
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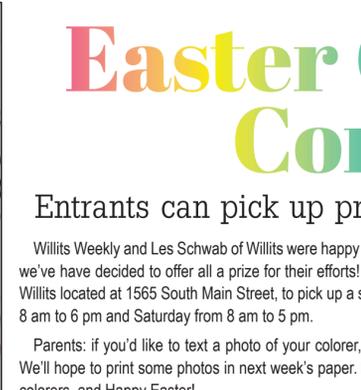
SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

**Thank you to all the kids who entered our first annual Les Schwab and Willits Weekly Coloring Contest**

**Tires LES SCHWAB**

We loved seeing all your creative entries!

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

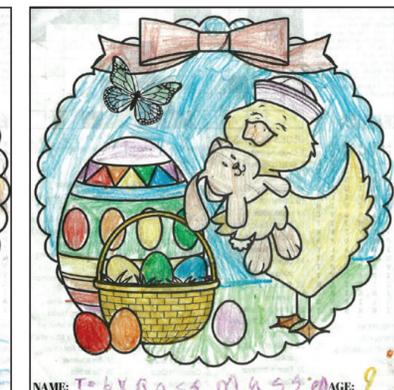


# Easter Coloring Contest

Entrants can pick up prize at Les Schwab of Willits

Willits Weekly and Les Schwab of Willits were happy to see these seven entries colored by Willits community kids, and we've decided to offer all a prize for their efforts! All colorers shown here are welcome to come to Les Schwab of Willits located at 1565 South Main Street, to pick up a special Easter gift. The shop is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm and Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm.

Parents: if you'd like to text a photo of your colorer, holding their entry and Easter gift, to Willits Weekly, please do! We'll hope to print some photos in next week's paper. Photos can be sent to Maureen at 972-7047. Great job to all our colorers, and Happy Easter!



## Egg-coloring alternatives

**Easter egg dyeing kits** emerge in early spring. Consumers have a variety of alternatives to these kits at their disposal. There are some people who desire more environmentally friendly Easter eggs, so here are some creative and greener ideas for coloring eggs this year.

**Wooden eggs:** Visit a craft store and purchase wooden eggs that can be painted and decorated however you desire. The wooden eggs will be durable and can be stored away for use each and every year. Because they are made of wood, a naturally recyclable material, they are easy on the environment.

**Consider natural dyes.** Use different food items to create all-natural dyes for the eggs. Tea, fruit and vegetable juices - even packaged drink mixes - can be used to tint Easter eggs in various colors. Because you're controlling the materials you use, you can ensure they are safe to use.

**Experiment with papier mache.** This

ancient paper crafting technique uses recycled paper and a paste to create a hardened mold. Turn excess scraps of paper into delightful eggs to put on display for the holiday.

**Purchase corn starch eggs.** Corn starch is used in everything from packing materials to children's craft products. Corn starch can be molded into solid forms or foam-type consistencies. Egg kits are sold with this green material. When Easter is over, the corn starch eggs can be put out for composting. Foam-type eggs may be dissolved with water.

**Make edible eggs.** Traditional Easter eggs can be wasteful if the eggs are boiled and used entirely for display. Rather, make eggs that will be enjoyed and are not at risk of spoiling too soon after being on display.

Jello eggs are one fun option, and creative people can try crafting eggs out of meringue as well.

**Dough eggs:** Have the children get out their favorite modeling dough and craft multi-colored eggs as a fun, rainy-day project. Those who want the eggs to last can purchase actual clay from the craft store or whip up their own medium at home. After drying, the eggs should be ready to paint.

**Drained eggs:** Those interested in using the yolks and albumen from the eggs for cooking can poke small holes into the eggs and drain them. Then the remaining eggshells can be decorated and put on display.

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## Thursday, April 2

**Shanachie Pub:** Jason Wright with flamenco guitar music, every first Thursday of the month. 6 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Jason Wright

## Friday, April 3

**Easter Bake Sale:** Harrah Senior Center hosts a bake sale to benefit the Outreach Department. "Homemade tasty treats for a great price!" 8:30 am until sold out. 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Last Day to buy Rascal's Rescue tickets:** Support Rascal's Rescue by purchasing tickets to win an Easter basket! \$1 per ticket, 6 for \$5 and 15 for \$10. Tickets at Willits Power Equipment, 1600 South Main Street, 459-6420. Last day to purchase tickets is April 3, 2015. The drawing will be April 4, 2015.

**Easter Bunny at Little Lake Fire:** The Easter Bunny and his "real bunny" helpers are set to visit the Little Lake Fire Department's downtown station, Commercial and Humboldt streets, for a photo opportunity, from 5 to 7 pm this evening. Come meet the Easter Bunny and sit for a portrait. Local "photographress" Maureen Moore will be snapping photos as a half-and-half fundraiser with the fire department. Digital images will be available for \$5 and can be downloaded at <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/easterbunny2015>.



**Shanachie Pub:** Knocks & Jollies, Indie-Rock featuring Josh and Joe Swarengen and Mark

Last year, the Easter Bunny brought 2,000 hand-dyed eggs!

# What's Happening Around Town

## Tuesday, April 7

**Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre:** All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Insurgent" and "Home." For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

**'Making the Healthier Choice the Easier Choice':** Avenues to Wellness presents "Making the Healthier Choice the Easier Choice: The Community Responds to the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs," a "lively and relevant discussion regarding drugs and alcohol in our community," with area youth, moderated by Tina Tyler-O'Shea. "Cultural shifts and values around alcohol and drug use will be discussed as well as how we can work together as a community to support easier and healthier choices." 5:30 to 7 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Lakeside Room. Free; donations appreciated; refreshments serviced. Tyler-O'Shea, who will be accompanied by special guests from Youth Advocates in Willits, as well as Jamie Laub with students from Laytonville, has worked in the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health, Prevention and Planning Unit for over 13 years. Her work includes working with both middle school and high school youths to bring awareness to community

elsewhere in Calendar for more details.

**Friday, April 10**  
**Baked Potato Bar:** 5:30 to 7 pm at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Huge baked potatoes with all the fixin's. Adults \$9, kids 10 & under \$5, members \$8. Be creative and decorate a potato at home for a chance to win a great prize!

**Auditions for Willits On Stage 3:** this evening's auditions: Friday April 10

issues and to work with partners to create change. Topics: Exploring personal choices and what influences our decisions; abstaining from drugs and alcohol when so many influences promote it; discussing different perspectives and polarizations; and creating a healthy choice as a community. Info: 459-2777 and [www.avenuestowellness.org](http://www.avenuestowellness.org).

**Auditions for Willits On Stage 3:** "Hello, Willits and nearby neighbors! It's time again to come audition for Willits On Stage 3!" Auditions will be held Tuesday, April 7 from 7 to 9 pm, Friday April 10 from 7 to 9 pm, and Saturday, April 18 from 9 am to noon at the Willits Methodist Church, School Street across from the Willits Grange. Willits On Stage 3, a benefit for Willits Community Services, will be held on Saturday, May 7 at 7 pm.

## Wednesday, April 8

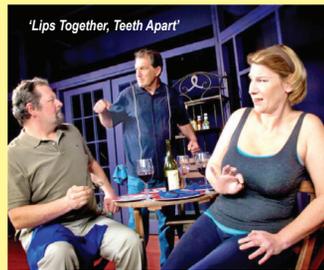
**Aging as a Spiritual Practice:** the first Willits Elder Circle Meeting, 1 to 3 pm, at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Commercial Streets in Willits. "The format is designed for anyone who is approaching elderhood, has arrived as an elder, or is now well into elderhood. The meetings are non-denominational and are open to any spiritual path." To sign up for the monthly Elder Circle or the book study, or both, please contact Ruthanne Volz, M.A. [rav@pacfic.net](mailto:rav@pacfic.net) 707-354-3960. By donation. See article

elsewhere in Calendar for more details.

**Friday, April 10**  
**Baked Potato Bar:** 5:30 to 7 pm at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Huge baked potatoes with all the fixin's. Adults \$9, kids 10 & under \$5, members \$8. Be creative and decorate a potato at home for a chance to win a great prize!

**Auditions for Willits On Stage 3:** this evening's auditions: Friday April 10

from 7 to 9 pm, and again, Saturday, April 18 from 9 am to noon at the Willits Methodist Church, School Street across from the Willits Grange. Willits On Stage 3, a benefit for Willits Community Services, will be held on Saturday, May 7 at 7 pm.



'Lips Together, Teeth Apart'

**'Lips Together, Teeth Apart':** Get ready for the fireworks as Terrence McNally's award-winning play opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, April 10. The Tony Award-winning playwright follows two couples as they spend the 4th of July weekend partying on Fire Island – with unexpected results. Plays Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and Sunday, April 19 and Sunday, April 26 matinees at 2 pm for \$10. This production contains adult language. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com), or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available for all shows at the door. The playhouse is located at 37 W. Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub). See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

## Saturday, April 11

**Relay For Life Fundraiser:** Family Dance & Karaoke Night Fundraiser presented by Relay For Life of Willits and Body Works Gym Relay Teams, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial. Dance and Karaoke, 7 to 10 pm. Featuring DJ Mikey T and the Kilobytes. \$5 per person entry fee; children under 11 years old must be accompanied by



Kathy Tobin and DJ Mikey T

## Senior Center Lunch

Week of April 6 through April 10

**Monday:** Beef Tip & Noodles

**Tuesday:** Ranch Chicken, Bacon Pizza

**Wednesday:** Meatloaf

**Thursday:** Baked Chicken

**Friday:** Cod

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older; \$5.50 per meal; under 55 \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

## 'Aging as a Spiritual Practice'

Wednesday, April 8

'Aging as a Spiritual Practice': Elder Circle Meeting #1 is set for Wednesday, April 8 from 1 to 3 pm at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Commercial streets. "During monthly meetings participants will be invited to explore their own attitudes and concerns about growing older and to create possibilities for opening to the 'inner sage' while building a safe elder group.

The format is designed for anyone who is approaching elderhood, has arrived as an elder, or is now well into elderhood. The meetings are non-denominational and are open to any spiritual path. A five-week book study may emerge from the first meeting that will include reading and some writing. These formats will generally follow the wonderful and successful elder circle and book study activities facilitated by Rev. Elizabeth River in Point Reyes. Rev. Elizabeth plans to attend our first Elder Circle meeting on April 8.

To sign up for the monthly Elder Circle or the book study, or both, please contact Ruthanne Volz, M.A., at [rav@pacfic.net](mailto:rav@pacfic.net) or 707-354-3960. By donation.

## 'Lips Together, Teeth Apart'

Opens April 10 at WCT

Get ready for the fireworks as Terrence McNally's award-winning play, "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, April 10. The Tony Award-winning playwright follows two couples as they spend the 4th of July weekend partying on Fire Island – with unexpected results. Longtime WCT favorite Bill Barksdale brings his directing talents to this comedic drama about four quirky people who divert themselves from their own mortality with food, cocktails, fireworks, charades, and biting jabs at each other. Secrets are revealed and tensions erupt. Infidelities emerge. The fireworks go off in the sky as well as on stage between the characters, as they see into each other and themselves in a series of wonderfully intimate and witty exchanges.

Starring in the production are four WCT regulars, Gretchen Anderson, Mary Burns, Damian Sebouhian and Steve Marston. Barksdale offers nothing but praise for his cast members, who have each done superb work previously at WCT. Sebouhian is still remembered for his remarkable double-role in "Dead Man's Cell Phone." He appears in this production as the manipulative and domineering John. Gretchen Anderson most recently performed as the sassy-mouthed Blanche in last fall's WCT hit, "The Angel of Chatham Square." She appears as John's talkative and neurotic wife Chloe

A veteran of many roles at WCT, Mary Burns puts in a thoughtful performance as the troubled and burdened Sally. Steve Marston appears in his first ambitious centerpiece role as Sally's cuckolded and hilariously husband, Sam.

Director Barksdale is known for bringing forth a true depth of performance from his actors. He says, "We really do have an amazing cast, and we're bringing to life a relentless, comedic drama that features some of the most stinging dialogue ever written." McNally has long been recognized for his many theater hits, his four Tony awards, and his nomination for a Pulitzer Prize. "Lips Together, Teeth Apart" was first staged off-Broadway in 1991. The play was revived on Broadway in 2010 and 2014, and has been widely produced elsewhere, including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

In preparation for the play's run at WCT, from April 10 through April 26, a spectacular set has been created that includes a real swimming pool and diving board. The play begins with a magnificent sunrise tableau by veteran lighting designer Joe Dowling. Performances will run on Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and some Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10. The production does contain adult language.

Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com), or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available for all shows at the door. The playhouse is located at 37 W. Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

— Steve Hellman, for WCT

## Animal Emergency Planning

Come to a free training at the Laytonville Grange, presented by speakers from Northern California animal rescue nonprofit Noah's Wish, to organize an animal emergency network in Long Valley. "Our volunteer network will maintain a storehouse of cages and supplies and set up a shelter for pets and farm animals of all types during a crisis." Learn how to: Plan a rescue operation; organize a shelter; do intake of animals; house different species in appropriate ways; care for animals at the shelter; set up those collapsible cages. Saturday, April 18, 9 am to 4 pm (lunch included), and Sunday, April 19, 9 to 11 am, a drill to practice what the group learned the day before. Please register online by emailing [lin@willitsonline.com](mailto:lin@willitsonline.com). Door prizes and fun galore. 1500 Branscomb Rd Laytonville, CA 95454

## Combined School Bands in Spring Concert

We had the pleasure of attending the 2015 Spring Concert at the Willits High School a couple of weeks ago. Close 100 high school and college musicians from Willits and Ukiah were brought together by their band directors for those of us fortunate enough to hear the performance.

First on the program was the Willits High School Jazz Ensemble, led by band teacher Jered Sherrill in a handsome tuxedo. Three jazz pieces were played, with many individual soloists being given a chance to shine. Next came the Willits High School Concert Band, playing three very rich-sounding concert pieces.

After a major reshuffling of chairs and music stands, the Willits group was joined by the quite large Ukiah High School Advanced Band, under the baton of Luiz Coelho. As Ukiah has been without a band program for four years, many of these instrumentalists are basically beginners, but they incredibly played three complicated pieces, including "Highlights from Harry Potter" and "Guantanamo," like real pros.

The Ukiah High School Band was then joined by the Mendocino College Symphonic Band, under the baton of Les Phutzenreuter. This band is mostly made up of community adults who have played together for years, and they are always good. They played the rousing march, "Strike Up The Band," by George and Ira Gershwin, "Alexander's Ragtime Band," by Irving Berlin and the old classic, "Tuxedo Junction."

Sadly, this event did not draw as much attention as a typical local sports event, but the learned benefits of discipline and cooperation required in learning to read and make music together are worth the effort. The three above-named band directors, as well as George Husruk with his fine 7th and 8th grade band program at Baechtel Grove Middle School, are to be commended. Scientific studies have proven that the playing of a musical instrument can powerfully enhance brain function. Our communities and local youth are all the richer for this.

— Maggie Graham, Willits

## Easter Week 2015 Church Events

Thursday, April 2

St. Francis Episcopal Church: Maundy Thursday, April 2, 6 to 7 pm. 1 North Main Street, at Commercial Street.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church: Holy Thursday, April 2, bilingual services at 6 pm. 61 West San Francisco Avenue.

Friday, April 3

St. Francis Episcopal Church: Good Friday Services, April 3 at noon. The church will be open for prayer and the Stations of the Cross until 2 pm. 1 North Main Street, at Commercial Street.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church: Good Friday Services, April 3: English services at noon; the church will remain open until 3 pm; Spanish services at 6:30 pm. 61 West San Francisco Avenue.

Ecumenical Good Friday Service: A number of local churches, including St. Francis Episcopal Church and Grace Community Church, are participating in this ecumenical service at the United Methodist Church, School and Pine streets, April 3 at 6:30 pm, with a number of pastors speaking.

Saturday, April 4

St. Francis Episcopal Church: Easter Vigil, April 4, 6 to 7:30 pm. 1 North Main Street, at Commercial Street.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church: Holy Saturday services at 7 pm. 61 West San Francisco Avenue.

Sunday, April 5

Multi-Church Easter Sunday Sunrise Service: April 5, at 6:30 am: Multi-Church Sunrise Service in Recreation Grove Park. Immediately following service, Easter Breakfast open and free of charge to everyone hosted by Agape Bible Church, 290 South Lenore Avenue.

Agape Church: After the multi-church sunrise service in the Rec Grove, on Easter Sunday, April 5, Agape will host a free breakfast for everyone. Then, 9:15 am: Bible studies; 10:15 am: Coffee fellowship with breakfast snacks; and 11 am: Service in the Sanctuary at Agape Church, 290 South Lenore.

St. John Lutheran Church: Easter Breakfast Potluck. Sunday, April 5 at 9:30 am. At 10:15 am: Egg hunt for the children (weather permitting). At 11 am: Resurrection Celebration worship service. 24 Mill Creek Drive, 459-2988.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church: Easter Sunday mass in English at 9 am, and in Spanish at 10:30 am. 61 West San Francisco Avenue.

St. Francis Episcopal Church: Easter Morning, April 5, 10 am: "Our service will be followed by our Easter Feast, and Easter Egg hunt for the children. All are welcome!" 1 North Main Street, at Commercial Street.

Grace Community Church: Easter Sunday Service, April 5, at Grace Community Church, 25 Hazel Street at 11 am.

an adult. Concession stand. All funds raised go to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

**'Lips Together, Teeth Apart':** 8 pm. See Friday, April 10 listing for details.

## Sunday, April 12

**Senior Center Pancake Breakfast:** 8 to 11 am, at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon. Adults \$7, members \$6, kids \$5.

## Save the Date

**Shanachie Pub 15th Anniversary Party,** April 17, with Charley Crockett and the Self-Fulfilling Prophecies.

**Brooktrails Firefighters Association's Annual Spaghetti Feed,** Saturday, May 2, Brooktrails Community Center

**Willits On Stage 3,** Saturday, May 7, Willits Methodist Church

COLUMN | At the Movies



Daniel Essman

**'Insurgent'**  
The Story: Tris (Shailene Woodley) is fighting a mini-government of bad guys who, for reasons that obviously border on self-delusion, think that killing the best and the brightest of its citizens will do something to (improve? stabilize?) the community ... but I was never sure what the heck they hoped to achieve ... and yet ... they (including especially Kate Winslet as the demagogue Jeanine) continued to shoot, assassinate and generally terrorize folks.

**My Thoughts:** I enjoyed the movie, but I didn't particularly respect it. There were repetitive computer-generated action sequences that were nice to watch, but were mostly meaningless. Also, the conflicts within the story seemed kind of arbitrary.

**Parents:** Older children and teenagers will probably like the movie. There are a few overly sadistic sequences. Of course, overt sadism is what makes a villain a villain; it's what he or she learns in villain school.

Also, for those especially concerned about non-marital sex, there is some implied sex between the heroine and her guy friend, but no sex acts are ever actually shown.

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



Insurgent movie poster.

## Video of 95490 Town Hall Meeting

The video of the 95490 Town Hall Meeting on February 22, taken by Willits Community Television, is now available for viewing at <https://vimeo.com/channels/884374>. "Many topics in this very active town hall meeting including, safe school routes, vocational education, parks & recreation, clean-up of local rivers, and disturbing high school teen suicide issues. With speakers Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, Mayor Bruce Burton, and Brooktrails manager Denise Rose. Video produced by volunteers Al Rosen & Andy Wright, of Pistachio Films LLC of Willits.

## Tickets for sale for Firefighters Spaghetti Feed

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 will be on hand for a demonstration of her 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, 24860 Birch St, Willits. Info: call 459-4441

## Ongoing Events

**Willits Winter Farmers Market:** from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, with produce, local meats and fish, local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**The Emandal Choral:** this community chorus based in Willits is in its 20th season, and you are welcome to join! Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm. No auditions necessary. The Choral meets upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

**Free Classes for Girls:** The Mentoring Network, under the umbrella of the Youth Grange, is offering free after-school classes on Friday afternoons, 3:30 to 4:30 pm, for girls in Willits area schools, grades 6 through 10. Classes will be on herbs one week, yoga another week, cooking and life skills. Room 4 of the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Questions: call Michelle at 972-1601. No pre-registration is necessary.

**Free English class/Clase de ingles gratis:** Every Thursday at 7 pm / Cada jueves a las 7 pm. At the LDS church, 265 Margie Drive. Info: 707-758-8709.

**Willits Photography Club:** meets at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street, on the second Saturday of each month from 10 to 12 noon. All levels of experience welcome. Come to the back door of the Art Center.

**Willits Frontier Twirlers:** Monday night session at the Willits Center for the Arts. New beginner class runs from 7 to 8 pm, with dancing to follow from 8 to 9 pm. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. Caller/teacher Lawrence Johnson. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. \$20/month (to help pay the caller), with young dancer scholarships available. Questions? Contact Emmy Good at [Emmy@pacfic.net](mailto:Emmy@pacfic.net) or Jenny Watts at [Wattsup@gmail.com](mailto:Wattsup@gmail.com).

**Junior Grange After-School Program:** an after-school program for kids ages 5 to 14, Mondays from 3 to 6 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Membership fee: \$1, plus \$1 annual dues. Info? Contact Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or [zeyny34@yahoo.com](mailto:zeyny34@yahoo.com).

**Mondays at Wowser:** Free events at the Wowser maker space, 330 East Commercial Street. 6:30 pm. Lectures, slide shows, flash videos, guest speakers, demonstrations. Info: 459-9697 or [www.wowserilc.com](http://www.wowserilc.com).

**Al-Anon Meeting:** Every Thursday Night from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. "Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

**Drop-in Knitting Circle:** Due to popular demand, the Willits Library will be holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects – we'll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in."

**Cards and Games at Willits Library:** free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Saturday free bridge classes, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, for new and review students. Info: Donna at 459-9035. "Friday Night Magic": Youth game night, for kids ages 10 to 14, starts April 2 (no games April 10 due to spring break) and runs through June. Bring cards and games to share. Parental contact info required to sign in. From 5 to 7:30 pm, but library doors close at 6 pm, and no admission after 6 pm. Info: the Willits Library at 459-5908. Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm: Chess: bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

**Life Changes:** Discussion and support group with Linda Posner, Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Willits Community Drum Circle:** 7 to 10 pm at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Friday. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

**Smoking Cessation Program:** Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Free Sheriff's Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: [www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague](http://www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague) or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

**Shanachie Pub:** Open Mic every Wednesday, 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room:** Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street 459-2444. With Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

**Open Mic Jam at Al's Redwood Room:** Every Friday night, hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, featuring talented, established local musicians from all over Northern California. Jazz, Blues, Rock. New talent welcome. Al's Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street; starting at 9 pm. Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

**Laytonville Winter Farmers Market:** Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 4440 Willits Avenue, Laytonville. Buy local: vegetables, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, hot soup, baked goods, and more.

# Elemental

## Brush & Lens

April 4 - 26th

Willits Art Center  
71 Commercial St

Opening Reception April 4 7-9 pm  
Gallery Hours Thur-Fri 4-7pm Sat-Sun 12-4pm

Works by Sandy Strong - Maria Steffen  
Michael Steffen - Lydia Sims



## Successful swim meet at WHS

Wolverines swim strong at second home meet at Willits High School



**TUESDAY EVENING CLINICS**

Because getting sick doesn't always happen between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm  
**We're Here Until 7:00 pm!**

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Top, left: Caitlyn Forrester gets ready for her race.  
 Top, right: Swimmers ready to leap into the pool during Thursday's meet.  
 At left, from above: WHS' Chanel Alexander reaches out into the water as she dives off the block.  
 WHS' Damon Niesen takes a breath as he swims down the lane.  
 Lou Meier on the loudspeaker calls the next heat of swimmers to the blocks.  
 Iahloni Clingman swims back toward the blocks during her race.  
 Right: Caitlyn Forrester helps her teammate keep track of laps during the 500 relay.

Photos by Maureen Moore

The sun was shining for the swimmers, timers and cheering crowd last Thursday during Willits High School's second home meet at the city pool. After completing the meet's 12 events, the Wolverines came out on top.

Swimmers from Clearlake and Kelseyville had to combine teams for the team relay races, leaving them with a scratch and official disqualification from the meet. WHS swim coach Mattie Pinon noted, however, that even without this technicality, the times and overall placings from the Willits team left them with a first-place finish. Regardless, the meet gave all the schools a great practice opportunity.

For the WHS ladies team, the 200 Medley Relay race included Chanel Alexander, Caitlyn Forrester, Olivia Cooper and Iahloni Clingman, who swam their way to a time of just over two-and-a-half minutes, clocking in at 02:44.81 and a third-place finish. In the 200 Freestyle race, Kacey Tyler placed sixth with a time of 03:59.60; Destiney Gamez-Webb placed fifth with a time of 03:33.85; and Delayna Corts placed third with a time of 02:58.54.

Olivia Cooper placed third in the 200 Individual Medley with a time of 03:35.29. Caitlyn Forrester placed first in the 50 Freestyle with a time of 00:29.72 and was followed by Iahloni Clingman in third with a time of 00:33.43 and Courtney Humphries in sixth with a time of 00:46.07.

In the 100 Freestyle, Iahloni Clingman won second place with a time of 01:12.42; Chanel Alexander came in fifth with a time of 01:22.79; and Kacey Tyler came in sixth with a time of 01:37.86. Delayna Corts took third in the 500 Freestyle with a time of 07:58.51.

Two Willits High teams competed in the 200 Free Relay. The first team, consisting of Chanel Alexander, Iahloni Clingman, Destiney Gamez-Webb and Caitlyn Forrester, won second place with a time of 02:21.86. The second team, consisting of Delayna Corts, Kacey Tyler, Naomi Ramirez and Courtney Humphries, took fourth place with a time of 03:22.72.

Caitlyn Forrester placed third in the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 01:41.56, and the 400 Free Relay team of Delayna Corts, Destiney Gamez-Webb, Olivia Cooper and Kacey Tyler took second place with a time of 06:00.09.

For the boys team, swimmers including Damon Niesen, Tomas Hardman, Destiney Gamez-Webb and Delayna Corts teamed up for the 200 Medley Relay and took second place with a time of 02:56.81. Relay teams can consist of both male and female swimmers. Tomas Harden took third place in the 200 Freestyle with a time of 03:16.99. Damon Niesen took first place in the 50 Freestyle with a time of 00:27.47 and first place in the 100 Freestyle with a time of 01:03.56. Tomas Hardman took fourth in the 100 Freestyle with a time of 01:24.66.

Come cheer on all the swimmers at the last home game on April 16 at 4 pm. Two divers will also be competing at that meet: Chanel Alexander and Courtney Humphries.

—Maureen Moore

## Willits High School Home Games, 2015

### Varsity Softball

Tuesday, April 14 at 4 pm against Kelseyville  
 Tuesday, April 21 at 4 pm against Clear Lake  
 Tuesday, April 28 at 4 pm against Fort Bragg  
 Friday, May 1 at 4 pm against Lower Lake  
 Thursday, May 14 at 4 pm against Cloverdale

### JV Baseball

Friday, April 10 at 4 pm against St. Helena  
 Tuesday, April 14 at 4 pm against Kelseyville  
 Tuesday, April 28 at 4 pm against Fort Bragg

### Varsity Baseball

Friday, April 10 at 4 pm against St. Helena  
 Tuesday, April 14 at 4 pm against Kelseyville  
 Tuesday, April 21 at 4 pm against Clear Lake  
 Tuesday, April 28 at 4 pm against Fort Bragg

### Swimming

Thursday, April 16 at 4 pm against Calistoga

### Tennis

Friday, April 3 at 3:30 pm against Point Arena  
 Tuesday, April 7 at 3:30 pm against Mendocino

### Track

Wednesday, April 15 at 3:30 pm, against St. Helena, Calistoga, Sonoma Academy, St. Vincent's, and Technology School



## 'Elemental: Brush and Lens'

opens at Willits Center for the Arts

"Elemental: Brush and Lens," an exhibit featuring photographs and paintings by a group of "neighbors, friends and family" from Sherwood Ranch opens this weekend at the Willits Center for the Arts.

Featured artists Sandy Strong, Maria Steffen, Michael Steffen and Lydia Sims have been creating and sharing art together — playing music and kayaking together, too — for 30 years.

"It's tied us together, Michael Steffen said. "We've been emailing photos to each other for the better part of a decade." "It's a kind of a 'photo a day' type thing," Strong added. "And it inspires us: Mike will send something, and then I'll feel inspired to do something along the same lines. It challenges us to go out and look at something differently. We're always taking photos."

Many of the art works are nature scenes: photographs and watercolors, close-ups and landscapes, of local Mendocino County scenes and beyond. All four artists are members of the Willits Photo Club.

Maria Steffens is intrigued by madrone trees as a subject: their peeling bark, leaves, and graceful limbs and trunks. Her "Madrone Noir" looks like an exotic calla lily at first glance, until it resolves into beautiful curled madrone bark. Most of her photos are taken locally: "There's so much beauty around us, it's hard to ignore," she said.

"That's a theme for all us," Michael Steffen said. "The sheer joy of nature, and seeing the natural things."

Some of Michael Steffen's photos are seaside shots: shells on a Florida beach (where his mother lives), a close-up of an intricate sea anemone, and a long shot of 10 Mile Beach showing weathered logs half-buried in sand. "We

got up really early before the sunrise," he said, "to watch the morning light grace the dunes. Thirty years ago, all the beaches were littered with logs; they're not anymore."

Sandy Strong is showing many of her watercolors, as well as photos. "I started taking photos for my watercolors," she said, "thinking: There's a painting I can do, but I can get that shot in a minute."

One of the watercolors, "Wild Azaleas," was based on a photo Strong took on Humboldt Street during one of her regular early morning walks in town. Another painting of a New England village in the fall, with colorful leaves and a church spire, was also done from a photo she took back East.

One wall features a series of eight photos Lydia Steffens calls "Canyon Dreams," taken during Mike and Lydia's regular trips over the last dozen years to the desert, primarily to the Four Corners area in Utah. The couple started visiting the national parks, then the smaller parks, and now "we seek out the back roads and hike the back trails," Lydia said. "The goal is to look for Anasazi ruins. The dryness, the skies, the colors: It's enrapturing. I wake up with Red Rock visions for a week after I get back from one of those trips. It really gets into your soul."

The artists hope visitors to the WCA in April will be inspired, in turn, by their work, as they've inspired each other. "Our life is so luscious," Lydia said. "We live in the best place. We're all photographers and painters in this digital age, and I hope the show inspires others to do the same."

"Elemental: Brush and Lens" has an opening reception Saturday, April 4, from 7 to 9 pm, catered by Lisa Davis of Scoops. The show will continue through April; gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 4 pm.



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At top: Watercolors of wild azaleas and water lilies by Sandy Strong. Above: "Golden Madrones" and "Madrone Noir," photos by Maria Steffen.

Below, left: A photo of Ten Mile Beach by Michael Steffen. Below, right: A desert photo by Lydia Sims.





# Roots rushes into spring

The number of concurrent Roots activities this spring has become dizzying, even for its most energetic members. The group recently returned from three days in Eureka displaying antique equipment at the Redwood Region Logging Conference. With the help of local loggers and truckers, 12 loads of equipment were moved to Eureka for the event. The Willamette three-drum steam donkey, the Buffalo Springfield steam roller, a Caterpillar D-8 15A crawler tractor, an International TD-24 crawler tractor, and a set of Redding Iron Works big wheels highlight the list.

The weather in Eureka in March was uncharacteristically perfect, and the crowds loved the displays. Roots would like to thank the loggers and contractors that helped move equipment to Eureka: McFarland Trucking, Shuster Transportation, Garman Construction, Mendocino Construction, Greg Simpson Trucking, and Redwood Valley Sand & Gravel.

The Roots members no sooner finished unloading the equipment from Eureka before they began preparing for the 2015 Steam Engineering and Safety Class, which was held on March 28-29. The class – which is a requirement for Roots engineers and firemen to operate equipment in public – also brings attendees to Willits from throughout California.

The Roots collection allows participants to not only receive classroom instruction, but also to get hands-on training on several pieces of equipment under steam during the class.

Roots members are also up to their elbows in two restoration projects. The first is their Wednesday work night project restoring a 1921 Kelly Springfield steam roller. Work began in October 2014, dismantling the roller so the required boiler work could be completed. We hope that the Kelly Springfield three-wheel roller can join the Buffalo Springfield steam roller later this year.

Another Roots project is moving the Corley Manufacturing Company circle-saw sawmill from Parlin Fork Conservation Camp to the Roots facility. An agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection provides for the long-term loan of the classic sawmill to Roots of Motive Power. The sawmill fills a void in the Roots collection documenting the logging and sawmill industries that helped develop Mendocino County. While presently operated with electricity, Roots hopes to harness one of its steam engines to drive the sawmill. Roots has been working together with the inmates at the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp to dismantle and move the sawmill to Willits. The sawmill was originally purchased by the University of California Berkeley's Forest Experiment Station at Richmond, California.



Above, left: A Wednesday night work crew on the Kelly Springfield project, from left to right: Carol Jones, Wes Brubacher, Keith Ronney, Troy James, Lee Bryant, Jessie Smith, James Anson, Danielle Smith, Chuck Jones, Jimmy Booth, Bruce Evans, Todd Orton, and Don Ford.

Top, left: Tyler Phillips using an air hammer to drive the rivets out of the tube sheet of the Kelly Springfield steam roller boiler. Top, right: Jessie Smith inside the firebox of the Kelly Springfield boiler, working on the ultrasonic thickness grid of the boiler sheets.

Above: The main drive axle is lifted clear of the Kelly Springfield steam roller at the Wednesday night work party on November 12, 2014, with Wes Brubacher, at left, and Don Ford.

Below, left: A selection of drag saws made in Eureka and several pieces of small Roots track maintenance equipment were popular display items at the 2015 Logging Conference. Below, right: The Port Huron Portable Steam Engine, on display at the Redwood Region Logging Conference.

Below, middle row, left: An inmate at the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp helps move sections of track for the Corley sawmill. Right: Three areas of logging equipment in the Roots display at the Redwood Region Logging Conference; from left to right: International TD-24 crawler tractor, circa 1951; Caterpillar Thirty, circa 1928; Redding Iron Works Big Wheels, circa 1890.

Bottom row, left: Roots of Motive Power equipment on display at the Redwood Region Logging Conference; from left to right: Willamette 3-drum loading machine, 1924 Buffalo Springfield steam roller, and 1949 Diamond T flatbed from Willits Redwood Company.

Bottom row, right: An International TD-14 looks small next to Ernie Burton's Caterpillar D-8 15A, in the lineup of vintage logging tractors at the Redwood Region Logging Conference.

Photos by Chris Baldo

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Free Demo Class April 4, Saturday, 10 am. <http://mysmarthandswithmana.wordpress.com>. Two 8-week semesters, \$125 per semester. Classes begin April 14 at 9:30 or 10:45. Mana From The Muse, 34 East San Francisco Ave; 354-2475.

**Brooktrails Flea Market Vendors Needed**  
2015 Market is Saturday, June 6. Booths cost \$30 each. Vendors check in: 6 to 7:30 am. Market open: 8 am to 3 pm. Call to reserve booth space: 456-0734.

**Business Classes**  
"Taking Your Business On-Line": 10 am to Noon Wednesdays. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd, Willits. 10 two-hour classes, \$20 each. Call for details: 459-6826.

**Computer Help**  
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$35/hr. Tutoring \$15/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email [macamerin@yahoo.com](mailto:macamerin@yahoo.com).

**Spring Cleaning Garage Sale in Brooktrails**  
9 am to 3 pm, Saturday, April 4 Only. 1513 Camellia Place, Furniture, including a 6-foot Mexican desk with hand carving. Housewares, home decor items, clothes, books. 10-foot Rubber Canoe. Coaxial cables, splitters, phone accessories, chargers, etc.

**Easter Bunny Photos! ONE DAY ONLY!**  
Friday, April 3 from 5 to 7 pm at the Little Lake Fire Department station at the corner of Commercial Street and Humboldt Street. Digital images by Maureen Moore are just \$5 each. 50/50 fundraiser for department. More info: 972-7047.

**Easter Rosaries**  
Easter Rosaries. Redwood Valley Flea Market, Saturday April 4, 8 am to 1 pm. Locally hand-made rosaries, prayer bracelets, Bible bookmarks. Perfect Easter gifts! info: 760-954-8189.

**For Rent**  
Westside Willits Home for rent, pics on craigslist. 3 bd, 2 ba, wood/floor tiles, central air/heat. Large decking, drought tolerant landscaping, gourmet kitchen, garage. \$1,750/month. 707-459-4757.

**For Sale**  
Established Curves for sale in Willits. Top Fitness franchise, turnkey opportunity, profitable business, low investment. Listed at \$39,500. Please contact Lisa: 707-391-8098.

**Knife Sharpening**  
Keith Knife Sharpening returns to Willits. Every Thursday at the Farmers Market. Sharpening knives, scissors, garden tools. \$41-297-5378. Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School St, through April.

**Mobile Home for Sale**  
What a yard! Fully lattice-fenced. Low care, including tulips, iris, blackberry, grape arbor and producing peach tree. Bubbly fountain. Hand rails on stairs. Porch with western exposure (cooler). 900+ brick patio under large shade trees. Large single shed. Deer-proof side, rear & separate garden area. Great park location. Located in Seabiscuit Valley. Lovely roses, arichoke plants. The home?? Too many features to list. Call Jay at 459-8570 for details or anytime viewing.

**Preschool Art Playshop**  
April 11: 9:30 - 12:30. Teachers \$35; 1:30 - 4 pm, Kids, Teachers and Parents \$20; All Day \$50. The Muse 34 East San Francisco Ave; 354-2475. Register online at [magicalmovementcompany.com](http://magicalmovementcompany.com); see workshops.

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**Volunteers Wanted**  
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

**Volunteers Wanted**  
The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our Team. Call Marlya at 707-459-6826.

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The rest of REACH From Page 1

Willits group Keep the Code and its attorney Rose Zoia presented concerns about northern spotted owls and the California Environmental Quality Act during the process.

Keep the Code consulted with Richard Tanner of Tanner Environmental to look into the effects of helicopter noise on owls living nearby.

Mead and Hunt's Dietz disputed the use of a Sikorsky S-61 helicopter in the calculations, citing the Sikorsky as a model of whirly bird that is larger than REACH's Airbus EC-135.

"His analysis was not based on the type of helicopter that is going to come there," said Dietz. "That [data] is fatally flawed by having used the wrong helicopter in the noise analysis."

REACH announced its proposed move to Willits last summer. That news was followed by concerns about chopper noise expressed by Brooktrails residents living near the airport.

Brooktrails resident Kay Wright attended Saturday's hearing. She wanted to know if REACH would undertake a trial landing with its helicopter so she could evaluate the noise level for herself. "REACH," Wright said, "is going to be in my backyard, practically."

Ana Blair of REACH responded the company was open to the idea. "We want to work as collaboratively as much as possible," she said.

Leo and Carol Cid own two duplexes near the airport built in 1997. The Cids wrote letters to the city citing their concerns about the project, but noted they are not opposed to REACH's services.

Gail Richards also entered a letter into public comments during the hearing. In her letter, Richards wrote about her husband's medical flight last year on a REACH helicopter, expressing her gratitude to REACH.

In her letter, Richards made a case for what REACH means to her: "Living in the forest as I do, I find that noise a comfort. To me, they are guardian angels. They can see what I cannot and would be a wonderful second pair of eyes."

Richards went on to note how a helicopter may be able to call in suspicious smoke while airlifting a patient to Santa Rosa.

Before the vote, Orenstein, who lives some 500 feet from the new helipad at the future Howard Memorial Hospital, and not far from an existing pad at the Little Lake Fire Department substation on Baechtel Road, offered an upbeat outlook to Cid.

"I lift my head from the pillow, and I say 'some poor guy is being helped,'" Orenstein said. He added the presence of the new helipad has not dampened home sales in the neighborhood.

The Cids, who built their properties as an investment, expressed concerns about losing tenants and a possible decline in property values.

"The airport is not an issue – it is utilized to its potential with what it is now," Cid said.

The hearing was the end of a public comment period that had opened a month earlier. The city received correspondence from Keep the Code and project opponents during that time.

Ralph and Ramona Waldman submitted letters during the comment period that noted discrepancies and questioned findings in the city's initial study.

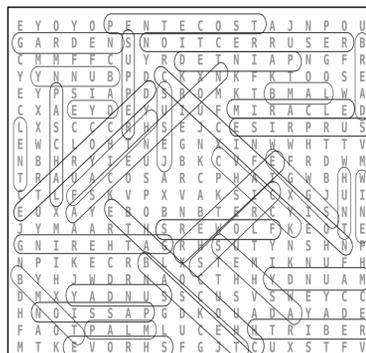
Dietz acknowledged a page in the study had been bogged. "That page was a mess – that is the technical term," said Dietz when responding to a question from Ramona Waldman about distances.

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse offered his help to concerned residents. "My number is the one you call if things are not going right," Woodhouse said. "I expect to hear from you."

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



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The rest of Priorities From Page 1

City Manager Adrienne Moore said.

Moore, Public Works Director Rod Wilburn, Finance Director Susie Holmes and police Chief Gerry Gonzalez were at the meeting, with Mayor Bruce Burton and council members Larry Stranks, Holly Madrigal and Ron Orenstein. Councilwoman Madge Strong did not attend.

Moore talked about how the city is facing some community-wide needs and internal needs, like the city's need to make technology upgrades.

"These [goals] are really about the big, community-wide visible issues," said Moore.

The consultants worked through proposed goals and adjusted the language to get the process started.

For the Saturday meeting, the city relocated to the upper level of the Willits Center for the Arts, a well-lit building and roomier for a meeting than City Hall.

Another meeting was held earlier last month to scope the public for input. The few who attended that meeting favored issues dealing with post-bypass Willits, the economy and the racket sport of pickle ball.

Between that meeting and the goal-setting work Saturday, council members were asked to submit seven high-priority goals.

During break times, or when votes were being entered into a spreadsheet back at City Hall, there was coffee on tap and fresh cookies to eat.

Each of the four council members were allowed 24 points, but could use no more than four points for any single priority.

**The results: Total points – name of goal**

- 16 – Planning for post-bypass Willits
- 16 – Water Security: Water supply, infrastructure and conservation
- 13 – Brown's Corner intersection improvements
- 11 – Comprehensive assessment of circulation needs
- 9 – Assess the formation of a new parks and recreation special district
- 8 – Job retention and creation
- 8 – Bicycle and pedestrian trail system
- 7 – Organizational assessment
- 5 – Support completion of the bypass
- 3 – Planning for a well-rounded community
- 0 – Emergency planning and stockpiling of essential supplies
- 0 – Community energy self-sufficiency

**Individual councilmember priorities: (number of points)**

Burton: post-bypass (4); water security (4); Brown's Corner (4); circulation assessment (4); parks and recreation district (4); and bypass support (4).

Madrigal: post-bypass (4); water security (4); Brown's Corner (1); circulation assessment (3); parks and recreation district (2); jobs (2); bike and pedestrian trails (4); and organizational assessment (4).

Orenstein: post-bypass (4); water security (4); Brown's Corner (4); circulation assessment (3); jobs (3); organizational assessment (3); and community planning (3).

Stranks: post-bypass (4); water security (4); Brown's Corner (4); circulation assessment (1); parks and recreation district (3); jobs (3); bike and pedestrian trails (4); and bypass completion (1).

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Tropic Tails owner Elaine Figg-Hoblyn, standing, and her daughter Courtney Figg-Hoblyn, with some of their own personal animals: Patty the Bolivian Macaw on Elaine's shoulder, Bob the Conure on Courtney's finger, plus Bo, the Shop Cat, and Luke, the German Shepherd. "We don't go out and find these animals," Elaine said. "All these animals come to us."

Photo by Rachel Belvin

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## Tropic Tails: A 'full-boat' pet shop

Tropic Tails is celebrating its third anniversary this week, through Saturday, April 4. Owner Elaine Figg-Hoblyn says she started running the pet shop on April 2, 2012. The celebration includes 10 percent off everything (except for pet food) for anyone who asks for the anniversary discount, as well as a raffle. "Any purchase this week qualifies for entry," Figg-Hoblyn said. The grand prize for the raffle drawing, which will be held Monday, is a 15 gallon column aquarium with a stand, and there will be animal product baskets raffled off, too. Customers are also invited to win a gift certificate by posting their funny animal photos on Tropic Tails' Facebook page.

Tropic Tails carries pet food, aquariums and fish, birds, reptiles, and bugs to feed the reptiles (and live and frozen feeders). Small animals in the store include hamsters, guinea pigs, chinchillas and pet rats. "I raise my own pet rats here," Figg-Hoblyn said. "I'm known for breeding good pet rats." Customers can find all the supplies they need to take care of those animals, and Tropic Tails is doing some limited grooming and bathing now, too.

"We're known as a 'full-boat' pet shop in the business," Figg-Hoblyn said. "I don't specialize. We have some knowledge about every kind of pet you could own." And most importantly, she said: "We love your pets as much as you do!"

Tropic Tails is located at 1661-E South Main Street, across the highway from the Evergreen Shopping Center. Info: 459-4060.

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The rest of Garbage | From Page 1

city council members at the March 25 council meeting. A franchise fee hike is one detail being considered, but not all council members support it.

Mayor Bruce Burton said he felt like there was a way to raise taxes, and Councilman Larry Stranske was also against a franchise fee increase to 15 percent.

Garbage Committee member Strong thinks Solid Waste can handle a franchise fee increase.

"There is enough profit margin for [Solid Waste of Willits owner Jerry Ward] to handle 15 percent without rate increases," Strong said. "I would not want to see rates go up."

Mike Sweeney, head of the Mendocino County Solid Waste Management Authority, offered expertise and advice during the council's talk.

Sweeney said franchise fees, for example, are 18 percent in Ukiah, 21 percent in Fort Bragg and 12 percent in unincorporated areas of the county.

From 2007 to 2013, the city brought in \$875,827, about \$125,118 yearly, from franchise fees it collected from Solid Waste, according to a city report.

"You do have some negotiating power in this situation," Sweeney said, adding council members should be considering rate concessions.

Willits resident Ananda Johnson spoke to the council during time allotted for public questions or comments, asking if council members considered where waste is hauled and if back hauls were taken into consideration.

Like other California cities, Willits needs to divert 50 percent of its waste from landfills. A report from the city says California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery has pressured the city to do more on that front.

Cold Creek Compost, a large-scale locally owned, Potter Valley area mountaintop compost-maker is interested in receiving city waste it can compost.

Cold Creek owner Martin Mileck has told the council he wants the waste, but council members have hesitated to name his business in the contract.

How Willits residents and eateries toss their food scraps could change, depending on what Solid Waste and the city agree to.

A state mandate requires local jurisdictions to have an organic waste recycling program for businesses and apartment buildings implemented by January 1, 2016, the committee's report stated.

Councilman Larry Stranske, who with his wife runs the jewelry store Kimberly's in downtown Willits, does not like the lack of cleanliness he sees on downtown garbage containers.

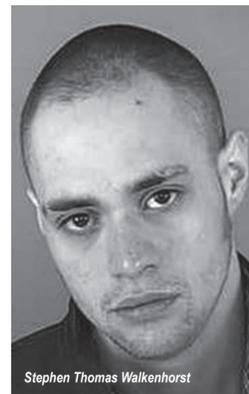
Stranske suggested the tops of the containers be cleaned. "It is so nasty people will not even walk down the street by it."

On a 3-2 vote last week, with Stranske and Burton opposed, the council's preferences on key contract issues included a 12 percent franchise fee and weekly pickup of all bins.

Council members had an option to recommend the city solicit bids for garbage services, but that received little consideration during the meeting.

"If you do not get a better deal," Burton said, "you have played all of your cards."

A final version of a new deal is expected to be heard at the next council meeting.



The rest of Suspect | From Page 1

2004 Ford Expedition shortly before 3:30 pm Sunday. Walkenhorst is said to be wearing black-and-red Adidas tennis shoes, a black hat, and black sweatpants, and carrying a black backpack.

Witnesses to the accident tell officers the SUV was being driven southbound erratically on Highway 101 north of Laytonville just before it veered onto the shoulder of the roadway, ramped up a driveway, broke off a telephone pole, rolled through a creek, and came to rest on its side after smashing through a fence.

Walkenhorst, witnesses say, was thrown from the vehicle during the rollover. The three passengers, state traffic officers add, were pinned in the SUV or were too injured to walk.

Walkenhorst reportedly collected several items from the area before fleeing the crash site on foot, abandoning the injured.

CalFire crews, the Laytonville Volunteer Fire Department, and ambulance and rescue crews extricated the injured from the wreckage.

Walkenhorst was arrested January 12 in Eugene, Oregon, on suspicion of third-degree robbery, third-degree theft, and possession of methamphetamine; on February 11 for criminal trespass; and on December 26 for possession of methamphetamine. He also had several misdemeanor arrests in Utah.

Persons with information on Walkenhorst's whereabouts are asked to contact the California Highway Patrol, at 268-2000 or dial 911. Officers urge the public not to confront Walkenhorst, who "may be dangerous."

The rest of Teen | From Page 1

tree in the parking lot, and the victim fell from his standing position on the back bumper, struck his head on the asphalt surface, and sustained a serious head injury," Anderson said.

Willits Police Department officers and Little Lake Fire Department personnel responded to the accident. The victim was rushed by ambulance to an inbound helicopter at the Little Lake Fire Department substation on Baechtel Road and airlifted to a Santa Rosa trauma center. He was later flown to the Sacramento facility. A Facebook post on Wednesday indicates that despite the serious injuries which are expected to keep him at the Sacramento hospital for some time, the 15-year-old is "awake and talking to us. He's off the sedation and off the ventilator."

Details of the incident are still under investigation by the Willits Police Department. Anyone who witnessed the incident is urged to call Sgt. Anderson at 459-6122.

The rest of Supes | From Page 1

only is the committee rarely consulted by supervisors, it has also had a hard time gaining the ear of the county librarian.

Nevertheless, the LAB has played an important part in the life of the county's library system. It was central in garnering political support for the librarians during the dark days of the Great Recession, when it appeared the entire library system might be on the budgetary chopping block. It also played a leadership role in the Measure A campaign.

Approved by the voters in 2012, Measure A has been successful in providing the library with sufficient funds to survive and even flourish while other county departments languish under a flat revenue stream for county government as a whole.

A 2013-14 grand jury report noted the Library Advisory Board was an important resource seldom used by the board of supervisors, and recommended regular meetings take place between the two boards. The February 18 meeting was held in response to that suggestion.

A fair part of the meeting was spent with LAB members venting their frustration.

"In the 10 years I've been on the board, I have never been solicited by a board of supervisors member for my opinion or advice," said LAB Chairman Marc Komer, who represents the Third District. "My experience was with Supervisor Pinches, and he was very receptive to my comments when I would call him, or run into him. During my talks with him, he would listen and ask questions. But, in every instance, it was my initiative that fostered our conversation."

"We have six constituencies very actively involved in the library, and we don't always get timely information about what is in the pipeline, or what should be done," said Fifth District LAB Representative Michael Schaeffer. "We don't get information soon enough from the county librarian sometimes, we don't get information we can act on appropriately, and we're not able to get it to you and to other people in a timely manner."

"The library ain't broke, and it would be easy to say, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it,'" said City of Ukiah LAB Representative Benj Thomas. "You have other issues on your plate, as a board, that are not going as well, I believe. And I can well understand your desire to say, 'We can let this one slide, and give it attention at a later time.' That would be extremely understandable."

"It troubles us, as people who have taken on being on the Library Advisory Board, when we run across a lack of clarity, a lack of understanding of how things work, and why decisions are being made, and I think that's where we get stuck," Thomas said.

In response to the problem of not having a set of LAB bylaws, Komer wrote a draft set in 2012. It was approved by the LAB and given to the county counsel. Then nothing was heard of the bylaws for two years. Recently they have resurfaced, and several supervisors have rejected them.

This was acknowledged during the meeting, when Komer told supervisors he had gathered that the bylaws needed to go back to the drawing board.

One of the most contentious provisions in the draft bylaws is a provision that the LAB should act as both an advisory body to the board of supervisors and as an advocate for the county library system. Schaeffer highlighted this when he asked, "Why is the idea that the Library Advisory Board is an advocacy group for the library system not suitable for the bylaws?"

"The problem is, you advise, you don't like the answer, you don't stop," said Second District Supervisor John McCowen. "That's where it becomes advocacy. To be a counterforce to the board of supervisors hasn't been all that effective."

The rest of Sewer | From Page 1

to quit, but I didn't want to tell Jim King that I wanted to quit," Burton said.

Burton said no lawyers were present at the meeting.

Williams said actually starting the trial and having a jury sitting in the courtroom was a powerful force, and helped spur him and others to reach a settlement.

In words addressed to the trial jury, Williams said: "We have been fighting with this issue that you were starting to get a glimpse of for years, and it's been very unhealthy for both communities. And I don't think it would have been resolved the way it has been resolved - which ended up on a really positive note and looking forward to a really

Two other important issues hover in the background of relations between the county administration and the county library system. Both were brought out in the 2014 grand jury report. One is: how shall the county librarian be paid? Are his or her wages to come from the general fund, or are they to come out of the library's departmental budget?

According to the grand jury report, state law requires that in counties with a population under 400,000 in 1960, county librarians must be paid out from the counties' general fund. However, according to Mendocino County Auditor Controller Lloyd Weer, in Mendocino County, all department heads are paid out from departmental budgets, and the county librarian is no exception.

All of the supervisors, Weer and county CEO Carmel Angelo have publicly denied the county has done anything wrong concerning this issue, yet it remains a source of concern. During the meeting between the LAB and the board, the supervisors were clear they were not going to discuss the question.

The other looming issue has to do with A-87 costs: funds which state law requires be paid from the various departments back to the central administration of each California county. The costs are intended to compensate administration for the use of county property, as well as for depreciation of county property and equipment.

In the proposed 2015-2016 library budget, these A-87 costs amount to \$181,000. Again, during the meeting, board of supervisors Chair Carre Brown said discussion of library A-87 payments would be off the table.

Komer touched on a third important issue when he reminded supervisors Measure A has a limited life and will need to be reinstated. "Measure A expires in 13 years," Komer said. "It will be for the next generation. We need to keep this in the back of our minds. We all love Measure A, but it will go away."

McCowen reminded those attending the meeting how important it is that the frayed relationship between county government and the library system be repaired.

"What I really heard with my colleague [Supervisor Dan Hamburg, who had just made a speech praising the dedication and talent of Library Advisory Board members] is, you know, the talent. We all - and certainly you - want to make an effective use of your time and talent. What's been clear to me, ever since we began on the Measure A campaign, is we have an incredibly dedicated group of people, incredibly dedicated to the library, and willing to devote their time and talent to this common mission. And I really think we need to refocus on our common mission, and make this the best library system that we can possibly make."

"My concern - because Measure A, the time is slipping by - so it's 16 years from the vote. I won't be here. Dan Gjerde still may be. But most of us won't be sitting here in these chairs when it's time to renew Measure A. But I don't think it's too early to start focusing on how we make sure the voters of that time understand the value of authorizing it, ideally making it permanent, and possibly increasing it."

Asked recently what he thought of the February 18 workshop, Komer characterized it as an important first step. He noted that a second meeting between the LAB and the board of supervisors will be held in Willits on October 18.

*Editor's Note: The Library Advisory Board is seeking a representative from the City of Willits. LAB meetings are on the third Wednesday of every month, at 1 pm, with meeting locations rotating around the county. Those interested can contact LAB representative Marc Komer at 459-2775 or mkomer@pacific.net. To learn more about LAB, visit www.co.mendocino.ca.us/library/admin.htm.*

good future - if you had not taken the time and the trouble to come and get seated on this jury. "It was only when all of you were there, and we were staring down the barrel of what the outcome might be by the 12 of you, that the two communities decided to bite the bullet and do the right thing," Williams said. "And I want to thank you for your service."

After Burton and Williams had spoken, and Judge King and Brooktrails General Counsel Chris Neary had said a few words, Burton lifted up a glass of champagne, which he had smuggled into the restaurant, and proposed a toast to the Brooktrails board of directors. "Thank you for meeting us halfway," he said. Williams then lifted his glass, and offered a reciprocal toast to the Willits City Council. "Thank you for meeting us halfway."

The champagne was quickly quaffed, and the hatchet, as the saying goes, was buried.

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Photo by Sage Mountainfire

COLUMN | Linda on the law

## Commercial drivers and the law

Commercial trucks and buses – the mere presence of these lofty, lumbering transports can create confusion, frustration and fear in your average road user. It may be comforting to know that commercial drivers are some of the best-trained, cautious, and heavily regulated drivers on the road.

For example, a commercial driver (Class A and B) with a speeding violation will see 1 ½ points on their driving record, while those of us who drive private cars (Class C) receive 1 point for the same offense. In fact, commercial drivers receive 1 ½ points whether driving a car

or a truck or a bus. This makes commercial drivers ineligible for traffic school to mask violation points, since traffic school is limited to 1-point tickets.

Linda McNiel  
Columnist

Without traffic school, truck drivers can quickly accumulate the points that will allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to give them a "negligent operator" designation and seize their commercial license. Commercial drivers not only lose their license, but their jobs. Insurance companies can be unforgiving even though employers may want the driver back on the road.

the influence of alcohol. A commercial driver suffers the same penalty if driving their own car as driving their commercial vehicle. That is, a one-year loss of commercial license without any right to a work restriction.

A commercial driver can give up the commercial license for a Class C license during that one-year DUI license suspension, but at the end of the year must re-take all tests associated with a commercial license. For commercial drivers this includes not just a written and driving test, but testing the driver's familiarity with all the features of their vehicle.

To add to these serious penalties, truck drivers lose their commercial license for life if they have two DUI convictions within 10 years, either in a commercial vehicle or a private vehicle. It is important to understand that a conviction is defined as not only a court conviction but also some types of administrative penalties through the DMV.

There's a lot for professional truck drivers to know, but do remember commercial drivers, as well as passenger drivers, have a due process right to a full and fair hearing, before the DMV takes a driver's license. In a criminal case, it is the prosecutor's responsibility to prove the criminal charges against a driver beyond a reasonable doubt.

Linda McNiel is an attorney with more than 35 years legal experience. Since 1992 she's been practicing in Mendocino and Lake counties, with an office in Willits. Her practice is limited to representing drivers before the DMV and representing people accused of DUI. The California DUI Lawyers Association has designated her a "DUI & DMV Specialist."

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