

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits



By donation

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Edition No. 48

Mend Mendocino: just getting started

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

A dearth of decent, living wage jobs. County employees having to work two jobs to make ends meet. Declining student enrollment in local schools. The ongoing exodus of young people from the county to find work.

These are some of the social and political conditions highlighted at a recent meeting of the Mend Mendocino Coalition. The coalition also discussed what it considers "an opaque local government that intentionally distances itself from the public; a board of supervisors that doesn't listen to county employees."

Since January, Mend Mendocino has held three public meetings to organize a grassroots political movement to reverse Mendocino County's political and social direction. The coalition includes leadership involvement from labor unions, teachers

Read the rest of **Mendocino**
Over on Page 11

Nothing to crow about: Roosters cost chicken-keeper \$100

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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An \$800 fine for roosters accused of crowing before dawn was whittled down to \$100 for Redwood Avenue chicken-keepers.

Willits policy allows residents to keep up to six chickens, but roosters are not welcome. In fact, the Willits Municipal Code bans them within city limits.

"I think an \$800 fine is out of hand," Erin Shim objected. "It is sort of petty, don't you think?"

Shim sells some of the eggs her chickens produce, she told council members. The animals live in a sound-dampening \$1,000 chicken coop.

Noise from the roosters was reported to City Hall by Ukiah Unified School District Superintendent Deb Kubin and Councilman Larry Stranske, according to a report by Code Enforcement Officer John Sherman.

Shim's fine was reduced, but she and other supporters of the chickens said they heard Sherman say there would be no fine. Sherman said he stood behind his report to council members.

Read the rest of **Roosters**
Over on Page 11

Swimmin' in the Rain



WHSers swim against Fort Bragg and Casa Grande at Tuesday meet

Above: WHS' Marcos Diaz dives at the beginning of the meet.

At left: WHS swimmer Izzy Hageman (top) and Cole Jessup (center), swim in their heats Annie Smith (below) catches her breath after completing her event.

Below: WHS' Caitlyn Forrester dives off the block during the relay event. Three boys, including Marcos Diaz in the center lane, dive into the water from the blocks to start their heat.

See more photos of the meet online at: <http://photographpress.zenfolio.com/whssports2014>

Photos by Maureen Moore

Thankfully the threat of thunder and lightning Tuesday never came true for the swimmers of Willits High School, who competed against Fort Bragg and Casa Grande at their third home meet that afternoon.

The rain, however, was ever-present, and while that didn't bother the in-the-water swimmers too much, the cheering section, timers and judges huddled together under umbrellas, tents and hoods trying to keep dry during the afternoon match.

"I'm proud of the swimmers," said coach Mattie Pinon. "They're doing great for being such a small team, and several swimmers did great in their events this meet."

Senior Cole Jessup swam well in the 200 meter IM (individual medley), where one swimmer makes four passes up and down the length of the pool completing a lap of each: freestyle, breast stroke, back stroke and butterfly. He also won his 100 meter breast stroke event.

Jessup was also on the 200 meter medley relay which won its heat. The medley, like the IM, is a lap of each stroke, but this time, four members of the team each take a style and tag the next person, relay style, to complete the laps. Along with Jessup on the winning team were seniors Nick Bowers, Marcos Diaz and sophomore Tomas Hardman.

Junior Izzy Hageman also did very well in her 100 meter freestyle event, noted Pinon.

With a team of only 23 swimmers, next year Willits High School will be moved into a smaller league that will be created for smaller teams to be able to compete

Read the rest of **Swimmers**
Over on Page 11

New Stage II water limits adopted: 'We are not OK yet'

Zack Cinek
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Willits businesses will be able to use a little more water, homeowners a little less following adoption of new emergency water-saving regulations by the city council. When Willits is in a Stage II water emergency, as it is now, businesses will be held to using 20 percent less water than normal, and residences will be limited to no more than 160 gallons a day.

Those who do not comply face fines and the installation of water-flow restrictors.

"Visually it looks like we are OK, but we are not OK yet," City Manager Adrienne Moore said.

The new rationing policy is a change from the old Phase IV limits, which held residential customers to no more than 200 gallons per

Read the rest of **Water**
Over on Page 11

Main Street bottleneck to get new striping

Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

Willits' infamous Highway 101 bottleneck will be restriped as soon as the weather warms, according to Caltrans officials.

Granite Construction Company has been contracted to repaint the lines from Holly Street to Highway 20. Work will begin as soon as nighttime temperatures reach 50 degrees, Project Manager Mauricio Serrano told the Willits City Council last week.

The new paint job will allow two lanes of northbound traffic to the railroad tracks, where traffic will split into a left lane and a through lane.

"Technically it is not going to be a double-double yellow," Caltrans representatives said. If adjustments are needed, Caltrans will work with the city.

Caltrans' visit was the agency's first face-to-face talk with the council since monthly briefings ceased in November.

When work restarts on the bypass, contractors hope to move fill dirt from the south end of the project

Read the rest of **Striping**
Over on Page 11



Fire on Maize Drive

Photo by Gary Coon, photographer for Brooktrails Fire Department

On Saturday at approximately 5:50 am, the Brooktrails Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire reported to be fully involved on Maize Place in Brooktrails. Upon arrival of Brooktrails Fire Chief Daryl Schoeppner, there was heavy fire showing from the roof area of the single-family residence.

The arriving units entered the home, and made interior attack to suppress the fire.

The Brooktrails Fire Department responded with two

chief officers, two fire engines and one rescue squad. The Little Lake Fire District also sent two fire engines, and the Redwood Valley/Calpella Fire Department responded with their Breathing Air Support Unit. Units were committed until 11 am, mopping up hot spots. The fire remains under investigation. The Maize Place home was empty, Brooktrails Deputy Chief Jon Noyer said, and had recently been put up for sale.

— Brooktrails Fire Department



Yes on Measure K

To the Editor:

Our Brooktrails Fire department needs our help. They and I am asking you to vote "Yes" on a specific tax for our fire and emergencies services in June, Measure K. It will be about \$34 a year or about \$3 a month (a cup of coffee) for each of us. The money will go directly to the fire department.

Brooktrails Fire Department needs these funds for maintenance, training and ongoing response. Nobody wants to dial 911 here in Brooktrails, but if we do ... we want our own responding ASAP! Help them to help us. It is that easy.

Michael Tobin,
retired law enforcement officer, Brooktrails

Foster Grandparent Program

To the editor:

I am a member of the Foster Grandparent Program stationed at Brookside Elementary School in Willits. I joined about nine years ago, and I'm strongly opposed to the President's Budget Request. This budget proposal would both cut funding for the program and abolish its current structure by folding the Foster Grandparent program into an AmeriCorps program.

For nearly 50 years, the Foster Grandparent Program has provided volunteer opportunities for people aged 55 or older, from all economic, educational and social backgrounds, to serve children and teenagers who have special needs. Foster Grandparents was the first program to focus on actively recruiting low-income seniors to serve, and it maintains that focus today.

If you believe in and support the Foster Grandparent Program, we need your assistance now. Please write a letter stating what the program means to you or what it means to the children assigned to a Foster Grandparents volunteer, and what it means to your community. These letters will be distributed to Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein and to Congressman Huffman. You may address your letters to these individuals. We will collect all letters and send them to Washington, D.C. to be distributed to members of Congress by April 30. We are also accepting letters and drawings from children stating what Grandma or Grandpa means to them.

I work with all the children in three different classrooms. Some have special needs, so I'm able to give them more one-on-one help. Everyone wins. The children get special help and more individual attention, the teachers can spend more time on their curriculum, and this program makes for a constructive and creative use of my time and energy. It is a rewarding experience for all parties involved. So again, I ask, please write letters to help keep the Foster Grandparents Program functioning under the current structure. Please mail your letter by April 10 to: Eileen Bostwick, 413 North State Street, Ukiah CA 95482.

More information about the program's services and history can be found here: www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps/foster-grandparents. Thank you.

Joyce Komes ("Grandma Joyce"), Willits

Thanks to Rotary

To the Editor:

Willits is a very lucky community to have an organization such as the Rotary Club, which provides service and

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

support to so many. On behalf of the staff and students at Brookside Elementary School, I would like to recognize and thank the Rotary for the beautifully illustrated Children's Dictionaries that were so generously donated to our third-grade students.

This long-standing tradition is one that benefits children and families for years to come. It was delightful to see the high spirits and enjoyment of the Rotarians who took time out of their day to present the books to the classes. Earl Myers headed the committee and hauled many heavy boxes of dictionaries to the site. Joining Dr. Myers in presenting the books were: Jolene Carrillo, Lou Celaya, Margie Handley, Jeanne King, Arnie Mello, Jenny Senter, Mike Tobin, and Dickey Weinke.

A sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Rotary Club of Willits for supporting our school and particularly the third-grade students in their educational journey!

Olga O'Neill, principal,
Brookside Elementary School

Woodhouse Open House

To the Editor:

The Tom Woodhouse for Supervisor Campaign is having an Open House, Friday, April 4, from 4 to 7 pm.

The location is No. 2 North Street, and everyone interested is invited. This is an opportunity to meet with Tom and discuss issues pertaining to the county, our campaign, or what you can do to help us win the 3rd District.

The county will be facing some challenging situations in the future. I look forward to listening to your concerns and ideas and sharing mine with you. We will be featuring food and drink, positive conversation and friendly people.

For those not registered to vote, we will be registering new voters during the gathering. I encourage everyone of voting age to get involved in the process, get registered and vote for the candidate of your choice.

We will have campaign information, yard signs, bumper stickers and buttons. In the city limits, campaign signs can be displayed as of April 4, so take one home, or tell us where you live and we will deliver.

Our campaign is moving forward. We are fortunate to have wonderful people who volunteer their time and talent and energy, but we can always use more. Our grassroots campaign is exciting and powerful. Come join us Friday, April 4, from 4 to 7 pm for a stimulating time.

For more information, give me a call at 367-6334. See you Friday.

Tom Woodhouse, Willits

Downsize the northern interchange

To the Editor:

Dan Hamburg is a man of insight and vision. He was the lone dissenting vote on a 4 to 1 decision by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to declare a Mitigated Negative Declaration on the Mendocino Forest Products excavation of fill dirt for the Caltrans Willits bypass project.

Supervisor Hamburg stated that to approve the excavation of 900,000 cubic feet of fill for the Willits bypass was to give the go-ahead signal for Caltrans to continue their callous disregard of mitigation measures provided in the not-yet-funded Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (MMP). A motion to approve the negative declaration would also be seen, according to Hamburg, as a slap in the face to the environmental community who seek a downsizing of the northern interchange to just a roundabout.

Presenting this project as a lesser environmentally damaging one to the excavation on Oil Well Hill was a smokescreen to allow Caltrans to move ahead with bypass construction with what is now an illegal project with an unfunded MMP. The board should have unanimously rejected the negative declaration until Caltrans met its contractual obligations with a fully funded and implemented MMP. Instead, the board wimped out, giving the wrong signal to what could have been a message to Caltrans: the message that the unnecessary destruction of wetlands is not the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable

Alternative, as required by the Clean Water Act.

In a 2006 report, Phil Dow, director of the Mendocino Council of Governments, and his staff both stated that it would be highly unlikely that the second two lanes of a four-lane project would ever be funded if all four lanes weren't funded at one time. Caltrans could barely get the funding for two lanes, yet a four-lane footprint has been hammered out across Little Lake Valley.

If allowed to proceed in ignorance of the future and deceived by their own false figures and outright misinformation/lies, Caltrans will achieve this:

- A new stop sign for all north-bound traffic entering Willits from the southern interchange off-ramp with the attendant traffic back-up.
- A new stop sign for all north-bound traffic entering Willits at the northern interchange off-ramp with the attendant traffic back-up.
- The unnecessary destruction of two lanes of grading for an unlikely second phase of the project.
- The unnecessary destruction of wetlands due to an over-designed northern interchange.
- Unmitigated destruction of the Little Lake Valley, which means the unnecessary death of anadromous fish, wildlife and plants. A monitoring and mitigation plan/MMP that is unfunded and not yet implemented is not reliable mitigation, it is simply a plan on paper that allows Caltrans to do what they want without accountability. By the way, Caltrans has most likely destroyed the one or two Coho redds in Haehl Creek at the location of the southern interchange, by the failure of sediment control, causing 10 or more days of excessive sediment to flood into the Haehl Creek spawning area. Caltrans was cited by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for this violation of the Clean Water Act.

I humbly suggest it is time for Caltrans to downsize the northern interchange as suggested by the water board. This lessens the damage to the sensitive wetlands, allows for a more sustainable MMP, and brings the cost of construction of the northern interchange down considerably, with half the fill for a scaled-back connection with the existing alignment.

John Wagenet, Willits

Downsizing is not the answer

To the Editor:

This past week I attended two public meetings related to the Willits Bypass. At the March 25 board of supervisors meeting on the permit to grade the Mendocino Forest Products site and use the removed fill for the northern interchange, some very important information was given.

During the public comment section, several speakers associated with SOLLV and/or WEC urged downsizing the northern interchange of the bypass, which they claimed would eliminate the need to take fill from the MFP site, Oil Well Hill, or anywhere. Supervisor John Pinches posed a question to the experts – the independent engineers and geologists from SHN, who were hired by MFP to study the potential environmental impacts of the proposed grading project. Supervisor Pinches asked how much of a reduction in needed fill would result from downsizing the northern interchange, commenting that any interchange would have to be elevated because of the seasonal lake in that area.

Mark Cheney, SHN's chief engineer for the MFP studies, agreed. He said reducing the size of the northern interchange would result in a need for 50,000 to 100,000 cubic yards less fill. They would still need at least 800,000 cubic yards out of the 900,000 cubic yards currently planned.

Obviously that 800,000 cubic yards of fill would have to come from MFP, OWH, or somewhere. The wick drains would still be in the ground, and 800,000 cubic yards of fill would still have to be compacted on top of it. In light of this information, can any bypass opponent explain how downsizing the northern interchange would "save the wetlands"?

At the Willits City Council meeting last Wednesday, March 26, I repeated Cheney's report about the small

Read the rest of **Letters** | *Over on Page 4*

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Below: top row from left: Bronwyn Giffilan, left, and Pooja Patel, Laytonville Elementary; Alexis Krauss, left, and Emily Pinnell-Stewart, Willits Charter; and Alicia Hoxie and Jessica Cronin, Willits Charter.

Below: bottom row from left: Jessica Holland, Blosser Lane, and Kristine Gonzalez, Willits High.



North County students did well, as usual, at the county Science Fair last weekend. Of the 57 Mendocino County projects that won medals, 31 were projects from Willits or Laytonville. Fifteen projects and two alternate projects done by students grade 6 through 12 were selected to go on to compete at the California State Science Fair in Los Angeles on April 28 and 29, and nine of those projects were from Willits or Laytonville. This year's 28th Annual Mendocino County Science Fair was held Saturday, March 29 in the Mendocino College Gymnasium in Ukiah. Fifteen local schools submitted the names of 239 students who represented 182 projects. Students worked independently or in teams of two or three to address questions in the various fields of earth, physical, and/or life sciences, and were judged by 64 volunteer judges and helpers from the community and local schools. Congratulations to the following Willits and Laytonville students who won awards, or who qualified to go on to the state Science Fair.

California State Science Fair Qualified Projects

- 9-12, **Emily Pinnell-Stewart and Alexis Krauss**, "Help Haloacetic Acid," Willits Charter
9-12, **Daisy Hincer Tye and Shybreaze Fischbach**, "Bully," Willits Charter
6-8, **Alicia Hoxie and Jessica Cronin**, "A Study in Resistance," Willits Charter
6-8, **Rhiannon Palmieri**, "Energy in the Wind," Laytonville Elementary
6-8, **Bronwyn Giffilan and Pooja Patel**, "Soda Bottle Generator," Laytonville Elementary
6-8, **Delayna Corts**, "Chemistry of Baking: Can You Make Your Own Baking Powder?," Willits Charter
6-8, **Rhiannon Palmieri**, "Quantifying Tooth Decay," Willits Charter

Elementary Division - Class A Projects

- Earth Science-Grades 3-4*
Gold: **Jessica Holland**, "Dog "Poop Bag" Test," Blosser Lane
Silver: **Tristan Hofmaister**, "Up Up and Away," Willits Elementary Charter
Bronze: **Carly Barbita**, "Awesome Soil," Willits Elementary Charter
Life Science-Grades 3-4
Bronze (Tied): **Katrina Bergmann**, "Organic vs. Conventional - Which Tastes Better?," Blosser Lane
Bronze (Tied): **Kaylee Anderson and Bryanna Gijon**, "Hot Topic," Sherwood
Bronze (Tied): **Michale Kale and Jensen Matheson**, "Can Microwaves Kill Bacteria In Sponges?," Blosser Lane
Bronze (Tied): **Ella Garman and Ashtan Weeks**, "Mold," Brookside

Physical Science-Grades 3-4

- Bronze: **Nakolo Anderson Joens-Poulton**, "All Coiled Up," Blosser Lane
Earth Science-Grade 5
Silver: **Christian Erickson and Nick Karkar**, "Green = Clean," Blosser Lane
Life Science-Grade 5
Silver: **Cecilia Cramer**, "Magic Eye," Blosser Lane
Bronze: **Nyanna Bertolino-Haley**, "For the Love of Dog," Willits Elementary Charter

Physical Science-Grade 5

- Gold: **Tristan Wartell**, "Magnetic Towing," Blosser Lane
Silver (Tied): **Alyssa Fraser and Jada Smith**, "Breaking Glass," Blosser Lane
Silver (Tied): **Autumn Creekmur**, "Dissolved Bears," Blosser Lane
Bronze: **Nomiah Britton**, "Chirp Chirp," Willits Elementary Charter

Junior Divisions - Class A Projects

- Life Science A - Grades 6-8*
Gold (Tied): **Alicia Hoxie and Jessica Cronin**, "A Study in Resistance," Willits Charter

Silver (Tied): **Mariah Cox**, "Ear Candling - Fire in the Hole," Laytonville Elementary
Bronze (Tied): **Stephany Brundage**, "Purple Madness," Willits Charter

Physical Science - Grades 6-8
Gold (Tied): **Oliver Hill**, "Energy in the Wind," Laytonville Elementary
Silver (Tied): **Bronwyn Giffilan and Pooja Patel**, "Soda Bottle Generator," Laytonville Elementary
Bronze: **Rhiannon Palmieri**, "Quantifying Tooth Decay," Willits Charter

Senior Divisions - Class A Projects

- Life Science A - Grades 9-12*
Gold: **Keely Ahders**, "When Should I Breed?," Willits Charter
Life Science B - Grades 9-12
Gold: **Daisy Hincer Tye and Shybreaze Fischbach**, "Bully," Willits Charter
Silver: **Tara Logan and Sol O'Greenfield**, "Discrimination Across the Nation," Willits Charter

Physical Science - Grades 9-12

- Silver: **Emily Pinnell-Stewart and Alexis Krauss**, "Help Haloacetic Acid," Willits Charter
Bronze: **Delayna Corts**, "Chemistry of Baking: Can You Make Your Own Baking Powder?," Willits Charter

Displays/Demonstrations Class B Projects

- Grades 3-5*
Silver (Tied): **Kyren Anderson and Dylan Gijon**, "Magna Train," Sherwood
Silver (Tied): **Devin Johnson**, "Traveling Submarines," Sherwood
Grades 6-12
Silver (Tied): **Kristine Gonzalez**, "Latent Prints," Willits High

Classroom - Class C Projects

- Grades 3-12*
Gold: **Ms. Southard**, "Carnation Anticipation," Brookside School
Silver: **Ms. Mey**, "How Can Your Faucet Save Water?," Brookside



Above: **Dylan Gijon, left, and Kyren Anderson, Sherwood**

Photos by **Julia Gromek**

Above: **Ella Garman, left, and Ashtan Weeks, Brookside**

m•pho•tog•ra•phress
[uh-tog-ruh-friss]

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

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Puzzle Page

BARBECUE WORD SEARCH

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| ASH | CHARCOAL | HICKORY | REST |
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| BARBECUE | COOKOUT | MUSTARD | RUB |
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| BURGERS | HEAT | RENDERING | THERMOMETER |

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

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

Sudoku

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| | 9 | 3 | | 2 | 6 | | | |
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| 9 | 7 | | | | | | | 1 |

Level: Intermediate

The rest of Letters
 From Page 2
 reduction in fill, which the same SOLLV and WEC folks seemed to be ignoring, as they continued to demand downsizing. City Council member Madge Strong insisted that Pinches had been the only one to make this statement about the small reduction in fill. When she was corrected

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by 3rd District supervisor candidate Hal Wagenet, who was also at the supervisors meeting, she said she did not believe the information, even if it came from an independent engineer.
 Councilwoman Strong said it just makes sense to her that if they reduced the size of the northern interchange as requested by SOLLV and WEC, there would be a great reduction in fill needed. She did not mention what expertise she has that gives her a greater ability to analyze road project design changes than a professional engineer. Nor did she say how much of a reduction would result according to her calculations. It just makes sense to her
 At the same City Council meeting, Caltrans Project Manager Mauricio Serrano gave his usual polite and informative progress report, despite the rude noises and comments coming from the audience. Serrano said it is not possible to downsize the northern interchange – it is already the smallest and least environmentally damaging alternative under modern professional standards for highway design. Another SOLLV/WEC activist commented at the podium that she did not believe Serrano. She said she knows Caltrans can design and build a smaller northern interchange because “Caltrans can do wonderful things.”
 I agree. Caltrans can do wonderful things if we let them. Given all the hostility and interference they have

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Crossword Puzzle

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- ### CLUES ACROSS
- Nonviolent reformer
 - Saudi people
 - Dawns
 - Former German state
 - Dallas & Miami coach
 - 3rd tone
 - Iguania genus
 - Expresses pleasure
 - Tear apart
 - Jacob's 7th son
 - Mold-ripened cheese
 - Peel
 - Survivor Baskauskas
 - A Scottish Highlander
 - More normal
 - Plural of 23 across
 - Lettuce dishes
 - Fleshy seed cover
 - Abundant
 - Parcellings
 - Competitions
 - Paths
 - Take heed
 - Journey
 - Japanese sashes
 - Archaic word for worry
- ### CLUES DOWN
- Urban instrument
 - Fleet
 - ___ de plume
 - Moisture free
 - Pilgrim's journey
 - Equal, prefix
 - Native Australians
 - Norse sea goddess
 - Public promotion
 - Soiled with mud
 - Crack shots
 - Journey
 - Leporid mammals
 - Pointed fastener
 - The woman
 - Frog genus
 - Yellow edible Indian fruit
 - Most pallid
 - Shows mercy
 - Spanish cubist
 - Risk-free
 - Greek god of war
 - Ailing
 - Stand
 - Topical phrases
 - The natural home of a plant
 - Cuckoos
 - Showed old movie
 - Fury
 - Cultivator
 - Mistakes
 - Laments
 - Wheeled vehicle
 - Impertinence
 - Crow sound
 - Note
 - Near, against
 - Be hesitant
 - Point midway between N and NE
 - Of I

Wonderful Rain and Summer Scarcity
 With these late March rains, people are breathing sighs of relief that their creeks will flow longer, their ponds will be filled, and their crops will have a chance. No one, however, should be fooled into complacency that water concerns have vanished. Rainfall totals for the season are still low, varying from 30 percent to 60 percent of average depending upon where you live (CA Office of Emergency Services). That means steelhead and salmon eggs and fry will have less water than normal, and their survival for the next few months will be even more precarious as flows decrease heading into summer. Unless we have many more days of rainfall, typically perennial streams could go dry.

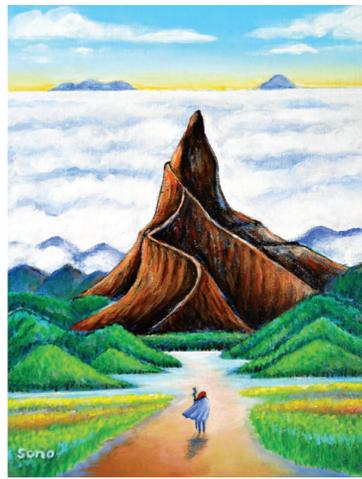
Joe Scriven
 Columnist
 Recently, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the State Water Resources Control Board announced their new program for Small Domestic Users which supports the action of storing water during winter peak flows for use in the summer. Those who participate in this program can store the water for a longer period of time if they have the right to withdraw it from the creek. The program is a move by CDFW to keep more water in the creeks during the summer months, to prevent the extinction of our salmonid populations.
 Information about this program can be found at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/publications_forms/forms/index.shtml – scroll down and click on the “Small Domestic Use” registration form.
 Mendocino County's Drought Information and Resources web page – www.co.mendocino.ca.us/administration/drought – provides excellent links for landowners interested in pursuing water.
 Read the rest of **Creeks**
 Randi Covin, Brooktrails
 Over on Page 9

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Above: 'Holes in Cube' by YowYez. Acrylic on 12 x 16 Masonite Board, 2012.
Left: 'Trip to Seed' by Sonoko Hagami. Acrylic on 11 x 14 Canvas Panel, 2014

Contemporary Mendocino: April show at the WCA



“Structural color” is a term with which most of us are unfamiliar. Yet structural color – the refraction and deflection of light, shading and layers of objects – is what makes peacocks, butterflies, and even the rainbow pattern on the backs of CDs so vibrant. It's also one of the techniques used by Laytonville-based artist James Hagami, many of whose paintings dazzle as a result of this technique.
 “Contemporary Mendocino: Celebrating 101 Years of The Ready Made” is an exhibit of Hagami's work – along with the work of his wife, Sonoko Hagami – that will be displayed in April at the Willits Center for the Arts. The opening reception for the show is set for this Saturday, April 5, from 7 to 9 pm, and the show will continue through April 27.
 Hagami's favorite artist is Marcel Duchamp, who influenced the Dada movement of the 1920s. One of the pieces he'll be displaying is his replication of Duchamp's “Bicycle Wheel,” an example of a piece made from ordinary goods, known as “ready made.”
 Though influenced by Duchamp, Hagami tries to incorporate several different elements into his art. He eschews categorizing his work, or any art. He believes the message behind the work is more important than how it's conveyed. An important tenet of his is that one doesn't need to “understand” art in order to appreciate it. While in art school, a classmate asked him: “What is art?” Hagami answered: “What isn't?”
 Hagami, who also goes by YowYez (derived from portions of his written Japanese name, and which translates roughly to “the aesthetics of leaves”) was born in Okayama, Japan. He moved to the United States in 1970. In 1989, he and his future wife, Sonoko, also an artist, came to Laytonville, seeking the serenity to concentrate on their art. Nature is one factor he thinks essential for both the creation of – and enjoyment of – art.
 Hagami uses a variety of color in his work, in a variety of ways. Growing up in Japan influenced his creations somewhat, but his work transcends setting. He has an interesting take on art throughout the world: that artists are naturally inspired to use the colors that surround them. One can see this, for example, in the difference between Mexican Frida Kahlo's color-drenched paintings and Norwegian Edvard Munch's bleak lithographs.
 Besides the real canvas and paper easel, Hagami uses land as a creative outlet. He refers to his 10 acres in Laytonville as his “3D canvas,” and has incorporated a pond, flowers, vegetable driveway, and farm equipment into his ever-growing, living work of conceptual art. He emphasizes 3D not only in his art, but in his perception of the world.
 In the 1980s, he showed paintings at the Mendocino County Museum. Some of his pieces included computer graphics, which were relatively new at the time. Today, he prefers analog to digital. He says that, as of late, artists have come to rely too heavily on computer animation software. He prefers to use his unique invention of “line painting” and free hand, which add depth to contours.
 Hagami still does displays in Japan. He enjoys showing his work abroad. He states: “The progress of a civilization can be measured by its appreciation of culture.” Naturally, the older the civilization and the more tradition contained within that culture, the richer and more abundant the art. His upcoming show in Willits spans over 40 years of his career.
 Also on display will be works of his wife, Sonoko. Educated in Tokyo, Sonoko creates fantasy worlds, using vibrant color. She especially loves to create for children. The couple previously showed their works together in Willits almost 20 years ago at a 1995 show at the Mendocino County Museum entitled “Country Living.”
 “Contemporary Mendocino,” which opens with an artists' reception this Saturday, April 5, from 7 to 9 pm, is sure to be a visual feast to those who appreciate all types of art.
 Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street; gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 3pm.

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What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy
in and around Willits



Thursday, April 3

HMH Pink Party: "Join us for a Pink Party, Thursday, April 3, 4 to 7 pm, where you can enjoy a massage and refreshments, all while getting your mammogram." Presented by Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Space is limited; call 456-3095 to reserve a space.

Willits Community Theatre Auditions: for "See How They Run," a British farce set in a rural English parsonage. 6:30 to 8 pm at WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Parts to be cast: female maid, late teens to age 30; female nosy neighbor, 30s/40s; male parson, 30s/40s; female parson's wife, 20s to age 40; male American soldier, 30s/40s; male escaped convict, 20s/40s; male bishop, 50s/60s; male visiting parson, 30s/50s; male policeman, age 20 to 40. The show is set for three weekends, mid-June to early July; rehearsals during May and June. Directed by Joe Dowling. Info: call Dowling at 459-1200.

Shanachie Pub: Dorian May "Trio Plus Two" series, with the classic jazz piano trio featuring Dorian May, keyboards, his wife Dorothea May, upright bass, and Tom Rickard on drums, plus two guest artists, vocalist Carlye Felten and Sunny Cordell on tenor sax. "Carlye Felten's honest, pure and true voice expresses her own unique and spellbinding renditions of standards from the Great American Songbook. Tenor sax player Sunny Cordell can be heard playing everything from lead tenor in big bands to high-energy funk & Motown. Strongly influenced by Dexter Gordon, her bluesy and soulful style adds much to the jazz ambiance of the moment." 8 to 11 pm. 21+ over. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Saturday, April 5

Nature Walks at Ridgewood Ranch: Docent-led walks Saturdays, April 5 and Saturday, April 12: "White deer lake hike. Wildflower meadows, oak woodlands, scenic lake. Moderate 5-mile round trip with 500 foot elevation." 10 am. Free but reservations required: 707-391-3872. Knowledgeable naturalists, herbalists, birders, and animal trackers are along on most trips; Outing duration will vary from 3 to 6 hours. Children 10 and older are welcome; no smoking, no pets. Heavy rain cancels. For more information about what to wear and what to pack, visit: www.seabiscuiterage.org/conservancy.html.

WCT Playwriting Workshop: A master class in playwriting, covering the techniques of writing monologues and storytelling, presented by teacher and author Ann Sampson. "Learn the skills to turn your treasured memories into the stuff of theater performance." 10 am to 1 pm, at the Conference Room of the Willits Branch Library. "What is the story behind that photo? Tell me about the scariest day in your life. Do you have a treasured letter? Such source material is fuel for monologues and storytelling." All ages and levels of experience are invited. \$25; \$15 students; scholarships available. Call 459-9035 or visit www.willitscommunitytheatre.org for more info.

Ask a Physical Therapist: Free informal question-and-answer session with local physical therapist **Odessa McHart.** Ask any questions you want. Topics may include Pain, Training Routine, Pregnancy, Wellness, Sitting Posture, etc. Noon to 2 pm, at Our Yoga Center, next to Goodwill in the Evergreen Plaza. Any donations will benefit Willits Youth Soccer. Info: 707-371-6124.

Auditions for "Willits On Stage 2": Willits Community Services is holding auditions for its 2nd annual Variety Show, "Willits On Stage 2"; the show is set for Saturday, April 26 at 7 pm at the Willits High School Auditorium. "A marvelous variety show, featuring friends, neighbors and special guests." Remaining audition dates for the show – any talents are wanted! – are Saturday, April 5 from noon to 3 pm, and Wednesday, April 16 from 6 to 8 pm. Auditions at the Willits Methodist Church, School and Pine streets. "Want to perform, help out or get involved? More info: 456-9429."

"Contemporary Mendocino": Opening reception for the April show at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, from 7 to 9 pm. "Contemporary Mendocino" features the latest art works from YowYez aka James Hagami and his wife, Sonoko. The show runs through April 27. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1726. See article on page 5 for more information.

New Willits Librarians "Meet and Greet": Come by the Willits Library, 390 E Commercial St., from noon to 2 pm, to "meet and greet" Anne Shirako, the new Willits branch librarian, and Jill Dorman, the new children's librarian for Willits.



on sale at Goods' Shoppe. Info: call producer David Parth at 459-7054.

Tuesday, April 8

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: "Divergent" and "Noah." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Wednesday, April 9

Sober Grad Committee meeting: Anyone who wants to help out with organizing or volunteering



Anne Shirako, left, and Jill Dorman.

Willits Youth Soccer board meeting

The Willits Youth Soccer League board meeting is set for Tuesday, April 22 at 6 pm at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street. Anyone interested in helping with the upcoming season is encouraged to attend. Info: 707-354-1029.

April Music at the Farmers Market

The Winter Farmers Market continues for one more month at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm. (Willits Weekly is at the market every week with the new issue, back issues by request, and T-shirts.) The market is set to move outside to City Park on Thursday, May 1. Music schedule for April is: April 3: Farmers Market Band; April 10: Falco; April 17: Vern Morninglight; April 24: Dorian May Trio.

Flag Football Camp

The Willits Kiwanis Club is starting a Flag Football Camp, for youth ages 7 to 14. Sundays from 11 am to 12:30 pm, starting April 13 and continuing through June at Willits High School. One-time fee of \$10. Info: 707-841-7052

Senior Center Pie & Ice Cream Social

Monday, April 14, from 2:30 to 3:30 pm, at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Featuring the Just For Fun Choir. \$1.50; \$1 members. Bring your friends and family for ice cream, pie, games, and entertainment. Info: 459-6826.

Senior Center Easter Bake Sale

Get your Easter goodies and support your Senior Center at the Willits Harrah Senior Center Bake Sale, Friday, April 18, from 8:30 am, until sold out. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Ongoing Events

- Willits Farmers Market:** Winter market at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Winter produce, hot house tomatoes, local meats, dinner, crafts, live music (Farmers Market Band this week) and more.
- "By Hook or By Crook":** Sewing, Knitting & Crochet Circle at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street. 3 to 5:30 pm, Room 10, during the Winter Farmers Market, through April. Sponsored by the Little Lake Grange Women's Association. Info: 459-6362.
- Willits Community Drum Circle:** 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932
- Smoking Cessation Program:** Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HMH Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.
- Big Screen video games:** Fridays from 4 to 5:30 pm at the Noyo Theatre. Arcade-style games, multi-player, with both casual and cartoony fighting games. Everyone gets a chance at the controller. Moderated by assistant manager Steve Thornton: "Gamemaster Steve." \$5 (no gift certificates or passes accepted). 57 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-6660.
- Willits Frontier Twirlers:** Beginner's classes in basic and mainstream square dance, Monday nights at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6:45 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Info: 459-9526.
- 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 or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.
- Shanachie Pub:** Open Mic every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.
- Just For Fun Choir:** directed and accompanied by Nancy New. Meets Mondays at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, from 1 to 2:30 pm. Accepting new members of all ages and abilities. Info: call Nancy New at 459-1276.
- Brooktrails Lodge Winter Schedule:** every Thursday night at 8 pm: "Dream Capsule Entertainment," featuring local musicians and talent; Happy Hour, and Ladies' Night specials. Every Friday night: Open Mic, with drink specials and prizes. Every Saturday night: "Electro-Dance" at 7 pm. Info: Shawntee Wirth at dreamcapsuleindustries@gmail.com or 459-6792.
- Laytonville Winter Farmers Market:** Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 at the Laytonville Grange, 1620 Branscomb Road. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, jewelry, aprons, children's clothing, knife sharpening and more.
- GET YOUR EVENT INCLUDED IN OUR CALENDAR! Email us at willitsweekly@gmail.com**

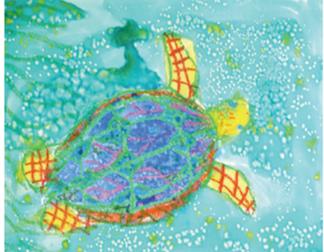
Madrigal for Supervisor campaign block party



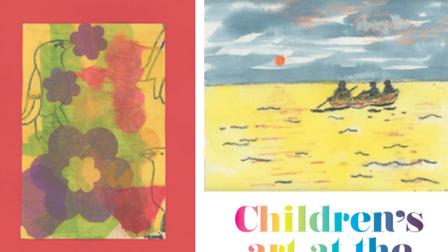
Above: Friends listening to Holly Madrigal talk at Saturday's kick-off party. Above right: Holly Madrigal, center, candidate for 3rd District Supervisor, with her campaign team: volunteer coordinator Brian Varkevissier and campaign manager Estelle Pailey Clifton.



The Holly Madrigal for 3rd District Supervisor campaign kicked off last weekend with a party Saturday night at the Willits Center for the Arts. About 75 supporters and friends enjoyed a Mexican dinner, with enchiladas and fabulous green salsa, with desserts, wine donated by Frey Vineyards, specialty beers and other refreshments. Marjo Wilson and Kyle Madrigal played a set of original tunes. "It was so great to celebrate, with our supporters," Madrigal said. "We gave away a ton of signs and campaign information, raised a bunch of money, and we encouraged everybody to make sure they are registered to vote. It was especially nice to have the young families show up, because it's so important to have them engaged in the political process." To get in touch with the Madrigal campaign or to get a sign, call: 707-841-0612. Visit www.voteholly.com for more information.



Artworks above from left: Sea Turtle study, by Haley; Frida Kahlo study, by Jessie; from the Winslow Homer painting "Rowing Out," by Ann Maglinte.



Artworks above from left: Sea Turtle study, by Haley; Frida Kahlo study, by Jessie; from the Winslow Homer painting "Rowing Out," by Ann Maglinte.

The Willits Library's children's section is displaying artworks from young artists in classes taught by local artist Ann Maglinte, through the middle of April. Artworks are from a five-week after-school art class taught by Maglinte at Blosser Lane Elementary School, and also by students at her after-school art classes at the Little Lake Grange. The Blosser classes taught fourth- and fifth-grade students about "the Great Masters of Art," including Frida Kahlo,

Winslow Homer, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Cezanne, and Georgia O'Keefe. The library exhibit includes watercolor and oil pastel paintings inspired by Winslow Homer, and a tissue paper collage with an underdrawing of parrots, reminiscent of the work of Frida Kahlo. The program was supervised by Suzanne Matheson, and assisted by Emily Matheson. Janice Haschak and Molly Snider generously assisted, and offered the use of their classrooms.

Friday, April 4

Baked Potato Bar: 5:30 to 7 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. "Enjoy a baked potato with all your favorite toppings. Decorate a potato at home for a chance to win our Best Dressed Potato Contest. Great food, great people, and a great time!" \$9, \$8 members, \$5 kids. Info: 459-6826.

Free Movie Night at WHS: presented by the Willits High School Peace Works Club, a free showing of "Frozen," at 6 pm, at the WHS auditorium, 299 North Main Street. Games and refreshments at 5:30 pm.

Shanachie Pub: dance party with Jiridon, Afro hip hop soul from Venezuela, and DJ Malarkey, "heavy broken funk, sexy Latin shakers, boogie hip hop and banging breaks." 8 pm. \$8. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Morgan Riley and Grace Horger hold tickets for Baechtel Grove School's Enchilada Dinner to Go.

Enchiladas for BQMS

Enchilada Dinner To Go: to benefit the end-of-year field trip for the 8th Grade Class at Baechtel Grove Middle School. You can buy tickets at the school, at House Doctor Paints, at The Flower Lady, or call 459-2901. Dinner is set for Friday, April 25: pick-up is between 5 and 7 pm at the Willits Community Center. Bring your ticket, drive up, and get your dinner. Six chicken enchiladas, rice, beans and cookies for \$25. Plus 10 percent off one purchase at The Flower Lady and 10 percent off one purchase at House Doctor Paints.



Above: Foster Grandma Joyce Komes sits in the classroom rocking chair, with students in Anne Hammond's first-grade class.

Foster Grandparent Program needs support

Joyce Komes has been working with the Foster Grandparent Program in the Willits schools for nine years. She works in three classrooms, including the class pictured: Anne Hammond's first-grade class in Room 32 at Brookside School. Komes is asking for support from the public and those who have benefited from the Foster Grandparent Program. The federal government's new budget, she says, includes cuts in the program, and a proposal to fold it into Americorps (see Komes' letter to the editor on page 2 for more information about how to write letters to support the Foster Grandparent Program; the deadline is April 10). Komes works in her classrooms five days a week: "I just love doing this so much," she said. "I wish we could get more foster grandparents." You

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Left: Sales of the new Roots of Motive Power T-shirts benefit the volunteer organization.
Above: Volunteer Chas Berumen holds one of the new, pink Roots T-shirts up, inside the Roots facility.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

New Roots T-shirts for sale

Roots of Motive Power has beautiful new T-shirts to sell, in two designs, to benefit the all-volunteer non-profit in Willits. Roots of Motive Power preserves and restores steam- and diesel-powered equipment – including locomotives – used in the North Coast logging industry from the 1950s on.

Roots volunteer Michael Hammang of Dragonfly Natural Power resurrected the first two Roots logos – but in two-color printing this time – for the new T-shirts. Selling the shirts is one of the ways supporters can help Roots keep its steam-ups and train rides free to the general public: “Sport your Roots of Motive Power Steam and Logging

Museum T-shirt to show your support,” Hammang said.

Each design is available in all three colors: black, blue and pink. Sizes range from youth large to 2X in black and blue, and up to 1X in pink.

To buy a T-shirt, call Hammang at 707-354-1919 or swing by this weekend to pick one up, from noon to 1 pm, at the Roots facility on East Commercial Street, right past the Mendocino County Museum. The Roots crew will be teaching a Steam Engineering and Operating Safety Class on Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6 and T-shirts will be available during the lunchtime break.

Never give up

A story of persistence and hope by a Willits native now living in Kansas

As a working mother with three kids, debilitating pain was something I just didn't have time for. So when months of chiropractic care and massage didn't eliminate my excruciating back pain, I finally turned to imaging and bone specialists for help. I had an MRI, where I learned a couple of surprising truths: I was extremely claustrophobic, and my back was broken. My third thoracic vertebra (T3) had been internally weakened by a tumor to the point that it collapsed, with swelling and bone debris injuring my spinal cord. Over the next few months I would undergo two surgeries to stabilize my spine, each with their own setbacks and complications, and ultimately the damage to my spinal cord still left me struggling to relearn how to stand and walk independently.

After weeks of in-patient physical therapy, I finally went home on December 23, 2011, using a walker and planning to continue improving via home health care. Much had been sacrificed to reach that point: most of the skin on my body below T3 was partially or completely numb; I missed my son's birthday due to life-threatening blood clots; at one point I fell and broke my arm; I hadn't worked in months. But at least I was starting to walk, and going home for Christmas. The joy lasted for 10 days.

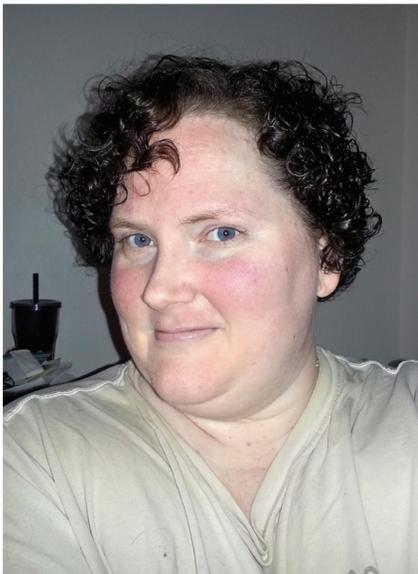
Over the holiday, my legs once again rapidly became numb and useless. I returned to the hospital, where scans revealed some kind of mass was pressing on my spinal cord again. On January 4, 2012, I had my third surgery. Nothing could have prepared me for what we found: two tumors that sprung out of the wreckage of T3 and wrapped around to press on my spinal cord from two sides, pinching it between them. My surgeon had removed as much of them as he could, but their delicate location made them not completely operable. I had woken up with no feeling in my legs, was unable to bend my knees or move my ankles, or even wiggle my toes. I was told there was a possibility my spine would not heal, and that even if I did recover some feeling, it would take a long time, and would probably not result in full mobility: I would probably never walk again. A few days later, an oncologist confirmed that I had malignant Epithelioid Hemangioidendelioma (EHE). EHE accounts for less than .01 percent of the cancer population, and most of those are primary in the liver or lungs. Having one start in the spine instead of soft tissue made it even more rare and complicated. Less than 1 in a million.... My husband joked that he always knew that about me.

Due to my genetic mutations that cause blood clots, I am ineligible for the relatively new sarcoma treatments using Avastin to prevent vascular growth. With no other chemotherapies likely to be effective on EHE, we had few options. I began receiving radiation five days a week. I remained hospitalized in physical rehab during treatment, trying to adapt to my disability, but nerves regenerate very slowly. My employer had been holding out hope as long as they could, but finally had to terminate me after six months of not working. I saw my children one or two times a week, my husband four or five times, and we relied heavily on the generous support of family and friends for groceries, gas money, and free child care.

Yet my nerve recovery was just too slow – in February that year, it was determined by hospital and insurance coordinators that I was not sufficiently mobile or improving enough to continue justifying expensive in-patient therapy. They did not believe I was going to regain more nerve sensation or control. I was moved to a skilled nursing facility (SNF), an “old folks’ home” where I was the youngest patient by at least 20 years. It was absolutely the lowest point in my life so far.

About a week after my 33rd birthday we celebrated the completion of my five weeks of radiation treatments. From then to now, we have continued with only periodic monitoring by MRI/CT scans, and there has been no change in my EHE – no shrinking, but no growth, and no detectable metastases. For most patients with EHE this is all you can hope for: no change.

But there were big changes elsewhere: I began using a special



Dale Elaine Carleton
Contributing Writer

machine that forced me to stand up, and my nerves began to show signs of healing. I regained the ability to voluntarily bend my knees, and a few days after that I could flex my ankles up and down. These improvements made it possible for me to escape from the nursing home and return to a rehabilitation hospital. It had only taken three weeks longer than the time the first hospital and insurance experts had given me to recover.

Once I was back in a proactive, high-tech rehab environment, and back to several hours of therapy a day, my recovery picked up speed. I began standing without a machine, and transferring from bed to wheelchair without help. After 30 days, insurance bumped me out of in-patient care again, but allowed that I could continue at that facility as an out-patient three days a week. I was finally going home. And in April of 2012, the woman who would probably never walk again started walking.

If there's one thing I've learned from this experience, it's never give up. Don't let anyone tell you what you can't do, and always engage yourself in your own care as much as possible. I studied everything I could, I listened attentively and questioned every specialist, I paid attention to what the nurses and aides were doing, learned the names and dosages of all my meds and what they look like, and sometimes caught important oversights or errors by doing so. I pushed the limits of hospital administration and insurance case managers and advocated for my best interests, never allowing them to relegate me to lesser care without at least a fight first, and then proactively pursuing them for better care when I made improvements that warranted it. I never stopped pushing my body to give me whatever its best performance for that day could be. You are your own best hope for survival and recovery!

My chronic back pain was never cured, but it's not as bad as it once was. I am unable to return to work, and until we manage to sell our townhome, remain confined to the living room/kitchen floor of a two-story house because I can't get up and down the stairs. We had to get the living room furniture to accommodate my adjustable hospital bed, wheelchair, and bedside commode. Through it all, I clung to my sense of humor, my determination, and my amazing support network to survive. I've written a public blog to share the journey's ups and downs, hoping that it would inspire someone else to work hard and keeping smiling through their own tough fights. We've come so much farther than anyone thought we could, and my cancer seems to be dormant, and while we may not know how long it will give me, we're going to make the most of whatever we can get!

Dale Elaine Carleton is a 1997 graduate of Willits High School, a member of the unique generation who got to attend both Mill Creek School in its final year and Blosser Lane Elementary when it first opened. She is the youngest daughter of David Newton (Newton Construction) and Judy Folkes Newton (Anker-Lucier Mortuary), and author of the cancer blog, FallingDownGracefully.blogspot.com. Dale and her husband, Chris, are entered into an online competition to win a mobility-adapted vehicle: to vote for them, sign up at www.mobilityawarenessmonth.com/entrant/chris-carleton-olathe-ks.

The rest of Roosters

From Page 1

Sherman's detailed report states how he reported the staked Shin, and the efforts it took to make the property rooster-free.

"I trust John to put forth his best effort on behalf of the city," Councilman Bruce Burton said.

Council members tried to get a grip on the timeline of events as Shim and four supporters told their version of the story.

Councilwoman Madge Strong said she believed a good faith effort was made to get rid of the roosters. "I think this is too big a fine," she said.

Councilman Ron Orenstein argued nuisance laws and ordinances are written for a reason. "I guarantee if that happened once, it would not happen twice," Orenstein said, explaining how he would react if he heard a rooster crow in his neighborhood.

Council members Strong, Burton, Orenstein and Mayor Holly Madrigal voted to lessen the fine. Stranks voted against.

Willits resident Nancy Adair owns a rooster. "I adore him, and I live within the city limits. Occasionally he crows, and I have no complaints," Adair said.

Hefty fine for messy Laurel lot

In response to complaints from neighbors, the city is going after an empty lot on Laurel Street with a \$26,000-plus fine.

A city report has received complaints that the property at 251 Laurel Street houses two pigs, construction materials, construction equipment, trucks and agricultural supplies.

The pigs have been removed, according to the city, but the rest of the problem has yet to be addressed.

"We had a real dilemma with this case," City Attorney James Lance said. The city has been working on the issue for about a year.

"It is the best recourse at this point, but it is not a perfect solution," Mayor Madrigal said.

The council authorized the city to file a Special Assessment lien with the Mendocino County Recorder's office for \$26,518.

The rest of Swimmers

From Page 1

against more similarly sized schools. This new league will include schools like Fort Bragg, Kelseyville, Arcata and Mendocino. Currently, without the smaller team league, the smaller schools are competing against teams that can be twice their size.

In the past, WHS had many more swimmers and was more matched to the larger school teams.

Hoping to get a larger roster in coming years, past coach Lou Meier has been working with the Otters to help get kids interested in swimming and, hopefully, groom them to someday join the Willits High School team.

For signups and information on how to get your young swimmer to join the Otters group – and Otter Pups for the younger kids – come to a practice meet Monday through Friday at the Willits High School Pool from 5:30 to 6 pm.

The rest of Mendocino

From Page 1

unions, women's political groups, and Move To Amend, a group that seeks to amend the U.S. Constitution to clarify that money is not speech and campaign contributions can be regulated.

One of Mend Mendocino's members is SEIU, the labor union representing the largest sector of county government employees.

Sandra Crawford-Madrigal is SEIU's Mend Mendocino representative. Crawford-Madrigal, who lives in Willits, worked for the county for 10 years. For several of those years, she participated in contract negotiations with the county.

Alarmed at what she experienced during those proceedings, Madrigal-Crawford left her job and became an SEIU field representative, helping organize last summer's day-long strike of county employees.

She says she also has been educating herself about some of the underlying realities of county life, attending several of the county administration's public budget talks during the summer of 2013. She went to one meeting of John Dickerson's committee to restore fiscal health to the county's retirement system, and attended a meeting on drought conditions and water realities in Little Lake Valley. She was part of Leadership Mendocino's sixth class and attended that organization's alumni reconnect meeting.

Crawford-Madrigal also has hosted three meetings of Mend Mendocino. The first two meetings were held in Ukiah, but the third meeting was held in Willits on Monday night. Fourteen people gathered to discuss the situation in the county and ensure the strange,

The rest of Striping

From Page 1

to the north end. The hauling is to be done at night.

By the end of construction season this year, Caltrans officials expect the southern half of the viaduct to be complete, as well as eight bridges south of the viaduct.

East Hill Road closures would not be for more than "a few days," Serrano said.

An informal agreement was reached between the city and Caltrans last year regarding the use of treated wastewater to control dust, and a final agreement is in the works, City Manager Adrienne Moore said.

Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie told Willits Weekly that work on the bridges would start this week, weather permitting.

Caltrans is also hopeful that remaining issues between Caltrans and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Board will be resolved soon, "so that we can have an approved mitigation plan in early or mid-April," spokesman Frisbie told Willits Weekly.

"Once we have that approval, the contractors will bring in their crews, and start to move soil, in mid- to late April," he said. "The contractor has a very aggressive schedule this year to ensure they get back on schedule."

The water board first told Caltrans in a January 15 letter that it must have an approved Mitigation and Monitoring Plan before contractors resume earth-filling work on the Willits bypass project.

One of the problems with Caltrans' MMP is that bids for mitigation work came back three times higher than expected in October. Frisbie said, one thing Caltrans has done in hopes of lowering the cost of the mitigation work, is to break it up into six pieces so that none of the work will have a timeframe exceeding five years. Last year's bid document had a timeframe of 2,000 days, or more than 10 construction seasons. Once any project goes over five years, Frisbie said, the cost of obtaining bonding for that project becomes prohibitively expensive.

One of the new pieces comprises work, like installing fencing and developing a water source for watering native plants and trees, that the current bypass contractor will now do, Frisbie said, with some changes in their contract. Four of the pieces will be the physical work: "planting, removing invasive plants, doing the wetlands restoration, and creating new wetlands."

Another issue with the cost of the mitigation work, Frisbie said, "was obtaining the amount of and quality of local vegetation that could be transplanted in a reasonable amount of time: over 800,000 trees and shrubs." Caltrans will be putting a separate service contract out to bid for a contractor to grow these plants from seed for the project. "We'll be paying to have our trees and shrubs grown for us, instead of trying to get somebody else to ramp up their production," Frisbie said. That piece of the mitigation project will likely go out to bid later this year, he said. All contracts for the required mitigation work are expected to be awarded and in place by next summer.

Additional reporting on this story was done by Jennifer Poole

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sometimes dark, picture of Mendocino County reality was, in fact, what other people were experiencing.

"It's pathetic that our children have no choices – it's either grow dope or leave. That's it," said Helen Michael, a veteran employee with the county's Health and Human Services Agency and president of the local chapter of the SEIU.

Michael said she has three adult children, each of whom has left the county. "The fact they had to leave, that they left, is crushing," Michael said.

Crawford-Madrigal outlined three primary goals of Mend Mendocino: to attract "clean, sustainable, living wage jobs" to the county, to re-evaluate, restore and expand county services, and to promote and restore transparency and accountability in county government.

According to Crawford-Madrigal, things started going wrong when current Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo was hired.

"We used to have a system where the board of supervisors had more to do with government," Crawford-Madrigal said. "There was an administrator who was head of the administration side of things, but the board was involved at all levels of government. And the actual configuration of the county offices reflected that."

"Board members used to come out and talk to county employees," she said. "They would come into the office where I worked and they would ask things like: 'How's it going? What's going on? Are things OK?' You know, daily, ordinary stuff that showed they cared about us."

"Now, it's different," she said. "They've taken their offices and moved them back into some kind of maze. To see a supervisor now, you

The rest of Water

From Page 1

day and required businesses to cut use by 25 percent, and the old Phase V limits, which allowed residences no more than 150 gallons of water a day, and required a 30 percent cut for businesses.

Council members approved the new rules, with some adjustments suggested by Willits residents Dave Watts and David Patch.

Watts from San Hedrin Nursery, argued some proposed Stage III regulations should be removed.

The ordinance would have prohibited "planting of new annual plants, vegetables, flowers, or vines" under Stage III water rationing. The final version allows irrigation, so long as it is under a 120 gallon limit.

Since the policy is based on past water use, Watts told council members he ought to let his hose run in the street when the lakes are full. "It behooves me to use all the water I can when we have water," he said.

Patch said he was concerned about using the word "conservation." "It associates the word with punishment," Patch said. The word "conservation," he said, should "not be used in the entire document."

City Manager Moore agreed that "conservation" would be changed to "rationing" in the ordinance.

Councilman Bruce Burton said he would like to see Stage II usage expanded to 200 gallons.

All water-users can make their case in writing to City Hall if they think they can win a break from the city on their water use.

The new policy states that fines, water-flow restrictors and termination of water service can be used by the city to achieve compliance from high water-users.

The city's new Stage

have to ask the secretary, and then you have to walk back through all these desks. It's like you have to go through all these, well, practically checkpoints. They've blocked off doors, and they've given supervisors a special door in the back so they can come in without having to talk to anybody.

"You don't see supervisors very much these days. They never come around to ask county employees how things are going anymore."

One of the difficulties facing Mend Mendocino is that problems are so many and pervasive it is difficult to know how to create effective change. And Crawford-Madrigal is frank about that. She and her associates are now in the early stages of planning a series of simultaneous demonstration walks throughout the county – like miniature Marches on Washington during 1963's Civil Rights summer.

"We will have people walking in Laytonville, Willits, Fort Bragg and Ukiah," she says. "They will walk from someplace on the outskirts of each town and will walk to the center of town where there will be talks and speeches." Crawford-Madrigal said the walks are scheduled to occur this summer.

But Crawford-Madrigal told her Willits audience she understood it would take more than walks to change life in the county.

"This is what we have come up with. Does anyone have any other ideas?" she asked more than once. People offered their opinions, but no concrete alternative plan of action was decided upon.

"I don't have all the answers," Crawford-Madrigal admitted at the meeting. "All I know is – damn it! – things have to change, and I'm not gonna take it anymore."

Willits would seek voluntary 20 percent water savings from all water users.

Stage I usage limits irrigation to three days a week for even and odd addresses. The policy asks water-users to check for leaks, among other steps, and read the city's water conservation literature.

Under the new Stage II conditions, all voluntary Stage I limits become mandatory.

Stage III tightens water use to 120 gallons per day for homes and cuts business use by 30 percent.

Stage III regulations do not allow new water connections or expanded water use, even if the new connection or use was previously authorized by the city.

Council members also voted to renew the city's water emergency declaration. "We are still under drought conditions, even though our reservoirs are currently looking really good."

Willits is in a Stage II water emergency, see page 9 for the text of the complete Stage II public notice from City Hall.

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Willits Weekly's Athletes of the Week

Willits Weekly is proud to showcase some of Willits High School's Amazing Athletes. Athletes are nominated by their coaches and with the help of coach and project facilitator, Dave Smith. Willits Weekly plans to highlight two athletes each week, one young man and one young woman, and share their achievements with the community.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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Softball | Casey Collicott, 14, Freshman

Breakfast of Champions: Bacon and eggs

Freshman Casey Collicott led the team in batting. Hitting .800 over 4 games Casey racked up 3 singles 3 doubles and 2 triples with 7 RBI and three stolen bags. She caught in 2 games, while picking off 2 attempting to steal second and allowing no stolen bags.

Baseball | Robbie Elder, 17, Senior

Breakfast of Champions: Breakfast burrito

Robbie picked up his first league win over Middletown, pitching 5 innings and only giving up 1 hit. He had 6 K's, 2 BB and 0 ER's. At the plate, he was 3 for 4 with 4 RBI's, (all with 2 outs.) According to coach Summers: "Robbie is truly a utility player. He can and does play every position on the field."

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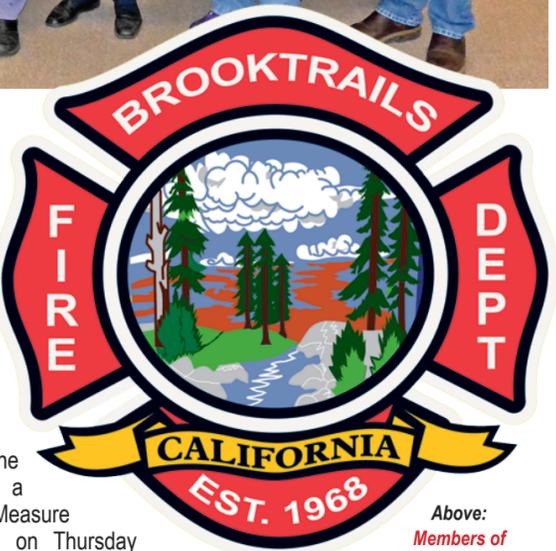
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Friends of the Brooktrails Firefighters

kicks off campaign



Above:

Members of
the Friends of the

Brooktrails Firefighters,
from left to right, front row:
Sarah Schuyler, Ginger
Pohlsen, Meredith Noyer,
Monica White, Goldie Hilkey,
Gloria Fisher and Robert
Nowlin. In rear: Philip St.
Pierre, Robert McKenzie,
Deputy Fire Chief Jon Noyer,
Paul Lambert, Fire Chief Daryl
Schoeppner and Brian Weller.

Photo by Gary Coon

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The Friends of the Brooktrails Firefighters, a campaign committee for Measure K, held its first meeting on Thursday evening, March 27.

This campaign committee is comprised of members from the public, the Brooktrails Firefighters Association and the Revenue Enhancement Committee.

The Friends of the Brooktrails Firefighters will host a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, April 10 at 7 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center. This will be an opportunity to speak with members of the committee and get information on Measure K.

The committee is asking for Brooktrails residents to attend and ask questions.

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4:45 & 7:45pm

NOAH

(PG 13) 2hr 18mins

Friday:
5:00 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun:
11, 2, 5 & 8:00pm
Mon-Thurs:
5:00 & 8:00pm
(Monday 5:00 show is open caption)

DIVERGENT

(PG 13) 2hr 20mins

Friday:
5:30 & 8:30pm
Sat/Sun:
11:30, 2:30,
5:30 & 8:30pm
Mon-Thurs:
4:30 & 7:30pm

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