

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 104

Thursday, May 7, 2015



Supes set up forestry herbicide working group

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

A motion to update the county's Community Wildfire Protection Plan and create a working group to assess how best to deal with problems associated with Mendocino Redwood Company's hack-and-squirt practices was approved Tuesday by the board of supervisors.

Mendocino Redwood Company owns 227,000 acres of timberland in Mendocino County, cutting, processing and selling redwood trees and other softwood trees, such as Douglas fir. As the redwoods and firs are removed, the landscape is taken over by fast-growing tan oaks, which

Read the rest of **Herbicides**
Over on Page 13

City audit:

Pretty good, but room for improvement

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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A report from a public accounting firm on the city's financial statements offers insight into the City of Willits' bookkeeping.

San Rafael public accounting firm R.J. Ricciardi produces an annual review of the city's papers; the firm's latest report audited the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

The firm finds the city's business to be "in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

In Ricciardi's report, formally received and filed at the April 22 city council meeting, is a list of

Read the rest of **Audit**
Over on Page 13

March building permit fees soar

March was a good month for city revenue from building permits: Projects in Willits generated \$7,728 from fees last month, compared to \$963 in March 2014.

The city's building permit revenue tally for the fiscal year stands at \$348,022 on 96 permits, up from \$74,597 from 104 permits issued through March last fiscal year, the city's most recent Building Inspection Activity Report stated.

Permits issued by the city for March included some noteworthy jobs like the cleanup of the Kwik Stop, John's Place and former Imagination Station buildings, new homes in the

Read the rest of **March**
Over on Page 13



The 2015 Willits Weekly crew.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Willits Weekly is proud to be celebrating our

Two-Year Anniversary

Supes to Caltrans:

Leave blackberries alone!

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

A resolution asking Caltrans to abandon its plans to use herbicides to remove 67 acres of Himalayan blackberries on the mitigation lands associated with the Willits bypass project was approved unanimously Tuesday by the board of supervisors.

The resolution, written by Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, was amended and rewritten by Supervisor John McCowen.

The resolution notes that "the Himalayan blackberry has become naturalized in the local environment and provides significant benefits

Read the rest of **Caltrans**
Over on Page 13

Two arrested after deputies find burglary tools in stolen truck

Two Willits residents were arrested last Friday after sheriff's deputies determined they were driving a stolen vehicle and found burglary tools in the pickup truck.

Patrolling deputies pulled over the Ford pickup in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive at 2 am after noticing the tan truck had no registration tag on its license plate and had pulled into a driveway suddenly without signaling, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Deputies found 18-year-old Christopher France behind the wheel and 23-year-old Amanda Jewell in the passenger's seat. France did not have a valid driver's license in his possession, and a check revealed his license had

Read the rest of **Arrested**
Over on Page 13

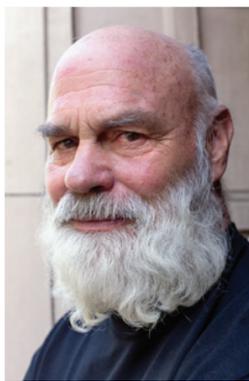
Supes endorse regional statement on pot legalization

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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The ad hoc committee on the potential economic impacts of the legalization of marijuana reported out during the morning session of Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting. Committee members John McCowen and Tom Woodhouse said that they would be keeping the committee active for the rest of the year, but declined to issue any statement on what legalization would mean for the local economy.

Instead, McCowen and Woodhouse said they

Read the rest of **Pot**
Over on Page 10



Above, from left: county reporter Mike A'Dair; editor and co-founder Jennifer Poole; Roxie; designer and co-founder Maureen Moore; advertising representative Rachel Belvin; Trigger; and city reporter Zack Cinek.

Photos by Ree Slocum



It's been two years now! Willits Weekly's first edition was published on May 2, 2013. We've been through two Willits Frontier Days celebrations, two graduation weeks, two busy Christmas seasons ... and two years of Willits bypass construction. Willits Weekly has become a part of the life of our small town.

The newspaper's dedicated crew is still getting pats on the back and words of encouragement from local residents. "I love your paper!" people

say. "It's so colorful; it's so community-oriented; the photos are so beautiful; and the news stories don't take sides."

Our original crew – editor Jennifer Poole and designer Maureen Moore, county reporter Mike A'Dair and city reporter Zack Cinek – are still meeting deadlines every week, with help from

Read the rest of **WW** Over on Page 13

North end of bypass project a hive of activity

The north end of the Willits bypass project is bustling with heavy equipment, as a steady stream of dump trucks arrive and leave, moving fill dirt excavated from an old sawmill property some two miles north of Willits.

Work takes place 10 hours a day: that's 850 round trips moving about 10,000 cubic yards daily, according to California Department of Transportation spokesman Phil Frisbie.

New falsework can be seen along the viaduct crossing Haehl Creek between East Valley and East Commercial streets, where a falsework collapse in January injured workers. Frisbie said contractors expect to begin pouring concrete on that span Thursday.

Another locus of activity is the railroad crossing, where passersby are likely to spot an array of piles sticking out of the ground.

"There has been pile driving going on for two to three weeks at the railroad overcrossing," Frisbie said. Pile driving operations will move to the northern interchange when the

railroad crossing is finished.

There was some additional excitement on April 23 when workers at an archeological dig unearthed a tooth near the northern interchange.

The tooth was taken to the anthropology department at Chico State University where an anthropologist found the tooth came from an animal, not a human, a report from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office stated.

Construction activity near the southern interchange, just south of Willits, is not as busy right now, but work is expected to ramp up sometime in June.

Caltrans' most recent progress report on the project stated construction work on the bypass is about 67 percent complete.

Dump trucks started moving dirt from the old sawmill property at the end of April.

"We are still as much as two full seasons behind because of past protest actions and various lawsuits," Frisbie said.

Looking toward completion of the project, Caltrans has an agreement with the City of Willits to hand over a portion of Main Street – north of Highway 20 to the northern city limit – when the bypass is completed.

Caltrans will improve the streets before transferring them to the city, installing sidewalks and curbs usable by people with physical disabilities, the agreement states.

The old Highway 101 south of the Highway 20 intersection in Willits will then be called "Highway 20," Caltrans documents state.

Because of delays, Frisbie said work could start on relinquishment improvements as soon as next summer, before traffic is diverted. The work would be done at night.

Caltrans and the city signed the relinquishment agreement in 2012.



One of the trucks moving fill dirt Tuesday.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

1st Annual Community Art Project

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Willits Frontier Days Association and J.D. Redhouse & Company, I would like to invite you to participate in our 1st Annual Community Art Project. The purpose of this event is to raise funds for Willits Frontier Days and to bring our community together through art and creativity.

How does this contest work?

I will distribute wooden cowboy boots to interested local businesses, individuals, schools and organizations, and ask that you decorate your 1 foot wide by 2 foot tall boot however you feel inspired (i.e., with color, paint, collage, stencil, lace, burlap, etc.) Up to six individuals can work on one boot; however I ask that there is a team leader that I can use as a contact.

When is the Community Art Project?

I will distribute or you may pick up your boot during the third week of May, and ask that you have your boot completed and returned to J.D. Redhouse & Company by Thursday, June 11 at 5pm.

Where do the supplies come from for this project?

J.D. Redhouse & Company will be sponsoring the cost of the wooden boots. Once distributed, you will be responsible for art supplies and/or decorations needed to complete your boot.

What will be done with the boots once completed?

Completed boots will be displayed at the Hometown Celebration on the 25th of June and will be judged by the community. We will have four categories: 1. Local Businesses; 2. Local Organizations; 3. Schools; and 4. Individual Participants.

During the 4th of July celebration, the finished decorated boots will be on display at the Rodeo Grounds and available for purchase.

What do you get for participating?

The top-voted boot in each category will win ice cream and/or fudge certificates, while the boot awarded the total highest number of votes will receive a \$25 gift certificate to J.D. Redhouse & Company. In addition you will have participated in a fun, positive and artistic project that engages people of all ages and lifestyles.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the 1st Annual Community Art Project, and we look forward to your participation!

Ashtan Bloomquist, manager, J.D. Redhouse & Company, and friend of Willits Frontier Days

Thank you, officers

To the Editor:

Editor's Note: The writer of this letter has asked that it be published anonymously.

One recent Thursday, I was washing overdue dishes and peering out the window, when three sheriff's vehicles converged around the house up the road. In a slow order, the officers fanned out 180 degrees around the front door. They hand-signaled, and when ready, an officer moved quickly to the door, knocked and quickly stepped back. At the ready. All the officers were ready, trained and appeared very able.

The door opened, and a short lady came out. There

was conversation, and she pointed toward my house. The officers were one by one turning to look at my house. Then they were moving toward my house. I called my wife, who was at a meeting, and asked her to not hang up and to hold on while I went to greet the officers. Her meeting went on my speaker phone.

Outside in the open; I did not lock my door upon exit. The officers were beginning to enter my driveway by car and foot. I greeted them. I was politely asked questions. I answered and gave my notice that I am the house owner, and the car was registered to me, I am me ... and would they like to tell me about why they were here?

I was told that the lady up the road informed the officers that I am a rapist murderer and have bloody bodies around my house. This is not a funny matter for an officer, nor for the person being interviewed. I remained calm and tried to present the impossibility of this accusation. How would the accuser have seen this? etc. We were all polite and calm. Then came the question: May we look inside?

I was not comfortable with anybody making a call about false situations and I should just open my privacy and my life, I told them. (I did not enunciate clearly, and an officer said "I thought you were alone" - life sounded like wife to him.)

I said I did not think this was fair to be asked to be searched and/or seized by just anybody's accusation that I could not justify or understand.... I understood their needs, though. When asked why I refused entry to the officers: if I had anything to hide, was I growing marijuana? I was polite, I smiled, I said no and confirmed the "meeting" was still on speaker phone. The officers conferred and left. My doors were unlocked all this time.

The next day, when someone who lives at the "accuser's" house was driving to work, I flagged them down. They tried to ignore me and wave, and I indicated I wished to speak. She stopped. I asked if she knew that law enforcement had been at her home yesterday.

She told me "you can't believe anything she says." I politely asked if she knew I was accused of being a rapist and murderer and of having bloody body parts around my house. The lady said she "told the officers on the phone, you can't believe anything she says." I said it is hard for this person to be left alone.

And, almost in tears, the lady said she has been living like this.

There is no "place" or help for her family member to go. No one to help since the passing of her father. She was overburdened and distraught. I told her I felt her sister was in a predicament because law enforcement has to take these things very seriously. I explained the professionalism of the responding officers. That this is a dangerous line of behavior, "to cry wolf."

Thank you, officers. I have spoken to many friends around town, and it is known that Sheriff Tom Allman and his team do this all the time. Officers are being asked to be professional therapists: To not know what might happen when a door opens on such a wild call; to know how to evaluate the caller, and how to understand the accused. Every time the lady told me "you can't believe her," I told her: "The officers cannot do that. They must investigate."

Obviously law enforcement's budget seems to be shared with health and human services in this strange way. We and the Sheriff's Office are paying, but there is no "care giving" getting done. Giving law enforcement officers nurses' hats does not make a nurse. Thank you.

Name withheld, Willits

Fun Facts and FAQ

Some helpful info about Willits Weekly!

Where can you find Willits Weekly? Willits Weekly is distributed through businesses, organizations, offices and schools all around Willits, and in Laytonville and Covelo, too.

Newspaper boxes are located at Old Mission Pizza, Gribaldo's Café, Brewed Awakening, Ace Copy and Shipping, Country Skillet, Mariposa Market, Willits Post Office, Village Market, J.D. Redhouse, Ardella's Downtown Diner, Buttercups, 101 Drive-In, Willits City Hall and the Willits Library.

T-shirts are available for sale to show your support for Willits Weekly: \$20 each, M-XXL. (Show off your Willits Weekly pride!)

Mail subscriptions are: \$40/6 months, \$75/1 year, comes in Friday's mail for local addresses.

Home delivery subscriptions are: \$30/6 months, \$50/1 year, delivered to your driveway early Friday morning.

Willits Weekly is located at: Home! The paper doesn't actually have an office. We all work at home, but can be found at the Farmers Market every Thursday from 3 to 6 pm at the City Park (May-October, starting May 7) and 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange (November-April).

The paper is printed: in a small town near Eureka called Samoa. There is a company there called Western Web who has a state-of-the-art independent press. We print at 300 dpi (magazine quality), and in CMYK mode.

Commonly asked questions:

"How can you give the paper away for free?" Advertisers, subscriptions and donations make it possible to distribute Willits Weekly for free. Advertisers are WW's biggest source of revenue, but there is always a hefty printer bill to pay, so donations and subscriptions are always appreciated.

"When will you guys start charging?" Logistically, it's just not very easy to do that: Willits Weekly would rather not stick merchants with the burden of selling the newspapers, and newspaper boxes with coin mechanisms are expensive to buy and require maintenance. With free circulation, Willits Weekly gets into the hands of more people, and that's what matters most!

"Are you affiliated with any other newspaper or venture?" No. Jennifer Poole and Maureen Moore are the co-founders of Willits Weekly, an independent, locally owned newspaper not affiliated with any other newspaper, business or corporation, past or present.

"Where can I find back issues?" In print, from Jennifer or Maureen; digitally, each entire issue is posted in .pdf format, ads and all, at www.willitsweekly.com.

"Where can I find subscription forms?" Subscription forms are available at our table at the Farmers Market, printed regularly in the newspaper, or online at www.willitsweekly.com.

"Where can I find ad rates?" Ad rates are available on our website or by contacting our ad rep Rachel Belvin at 707-367-9319 or advertising@willitsweekly.com.

"Where can I find photos from the newspaper?" Many photos from Willits Weekly are available at our online gallery: <http://photographpress.zenfolio.com/willitsweekly>.

"What can we do to help Willits Weekly succeed?" KEEP READING! Tell your friends, tell your kids. Buy a T-shirt or subscription. **Tell our advertisers you appreciate their support of Willits Weekly, and that you saw their ad in our paper!** Give your copy to a friend to read. Send good juju into the air. We appreciate it all! (But we especially appreciate our wonderful local advertisers, who continue to help Willits Weekly thrive and grow! Thank you!)

"How can we get in touch with Willits Weekly?"

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Website: www.WillitsWeekly.com

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Advertising: advertising@willitsweekly.com / 707-367-9319



Super successful spaghetti dinner

Brooktrails Fire Department has biggest turnout yet for annual event

The line snaked all through the parking lot at the Brooktrails Fire Department last Saturday, filled with hungry patrons ready for their spaghetti.

This year about 400 people came through the door, well surpassing last year's total of 323. The high ticket sales were closely associated with all the pre-sale efforts done by the volunteers, Deputy Chief Jon Noyer explained.

"We had 200 tickets gone in the first week," Noyer noted. "We went back and ordered 300 more, and more than half of those were gone in the next few weeks. Then there were all the sales at the door, too."

That many attendees meant a few extra trips down the hill to grab replenishing supplies for the food line. All said and done, the event went through around 80 pounds of pasta, 50 gallons of sauce, and 60 loaves of garlic bread.

After dinner, desserts were available to also enjoy, donated by the Brooktrails Property Owners Association's Women's Club. They went fast.

The REACH helicopter was also on display in Ohl Grove, the grove to the south of the Brooktrails station. Several attendees walked over to see the helicopter and to talk with the pilots, but the copter and crew were called out on an emergency call mid-event. The REACH booth by the front door remained active, though, and many people stopped by to ask questions about the Willits base and to sign up for memberships.

Chief Daryl Schoeppner and Ashes the K-9 Arson dog gave demonstrations of Ashes' detection skills, offering her various dummy targets and some with the equivalent of one drop of accelerant for her to find. When the scent is spotted, Ashes sits and then repeatedly points her nose at the spot, pinpointing the location of the scent within a small area.

Monies raised from the event will go toward training and life-saving equipment, as well as toward upgrading the GPS units on the department's fire engines.

To keep up with happenings at the Brooktrails Fire Department, check out their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BrooktrailsFire> or call the department at 459-4441.



Top row, from left: David Edgar prepares to determine the readiness of the noodles. Servers, from left: Wyatt Galten, Albert Hinkle, Niko Steffen and Dalton Williams. The banana cake with butter cream and walnuts went fast at the dessert table.

Above: Members of the Brooktrails Fire Department pose in front of one of the department's engines.

Below: The REACH helicopter was on display, before being called out to a medical emergency.

At right: Fire Chief Daryl Schoeppner and Ashes the K-9 Arson dog show off their accelerant-detecting process.

Photos by Maureen Moore



CalFire gets ready for wildfire season



Photo courtesy of Willits Municipal Airport

CalFire has been busy at the Willits Municipal Airport recently, reports Dan Ramsey, the manager for the Willits Municipal Airport, Ellis Field. On Monday afternoon, the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection used the airport to train a new helicopter pilot in preparation for the upcoming fire season. During the past week, CalFire Conservation Camp crews were utilized to clear small brush and grass from the runway perimeter to make the airport safer for pilots.

CalFire announced Tuesday afternoon that the annual Redwood Coast Fire Preparedness Exercises are set for May 12, 13 and 14 at Eel River Conservation Camp in southern Humboldt County.

The exercises will provide the opportunity for 25 fire crews from Humboldt, Del Norte and Mendocino counties to be evaluated on their physical conditioning, firefighting knowledge, fire safety, and personal

protective equipment. The exercise will also provide personnel for operating under the use of the Incident Command System.

Crews from the Mendocino Unit, from Chamberlain Creek and Parlin Fork Conservation Camps, are participating, as are Humboldt-Del Norte Unit fire crews, from Alder, High Rock, and Eel River Conservation Camps

In a press release issued Monday for "Wildfire Awareness Week, May 3-9," Cal Fire Director Chief Ken Pimlott warns residents: "With a record dry and warm winter, California's fire activity has been nearly double what it normally is for this time of year.

"Our firefighters continue to meet the challenges posed by California's historic drought, but we all must do our part to ensure our homes are prepared for wildfire and that residents and visitors to our state take extreme caution to avoid sparking a wildfire."

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

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AVENGERS 2: AGE OF ULTRON in 3D (PG13) 2 hrs 21 mins
Fri: 8:00pm
Sat/Sun: 2:00 & 8:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 7:00pm

AVENGERS 2: AGE OF ULTRON in 2D (PG13) 2 hrs 21 mins
Fri: 5:00pm
Sat/Sun: 12:30 & 5:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:00pm

THE AGE OF ADALINE (PG13) 1 hr 53 mins
Fri: 5:45 & 8:15pm
Sat/Sun: 12:45, 3:15, 5:45 & 8:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:15pm

EX MACHINA (R) 1 hr 48 mins
Fri: 6:00 & 8:30pm
Sat/Sun: 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

Coming Next Week: **Mad Max: Fury Road**

Movie Times for 5/8 thru 5/14 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

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Happy Mother's Day



Happy Mother's Day, Momma, I love you!



Best sister, best mom



Mom, words can not express how amazing you are. Life wouldn't be the same without you. We love you so much!! Love Taylor, Jordan and Liam



We love u mom



From one cheesehead to another, Happy Mother's Day Marmie!! I love you! <3



Happy Mother's Day we love you!!!!



Happy Mother's Day Beautiful! We love you!



There are two things we should give our children: one is roots and the other is wings. Happy Mother's Day!



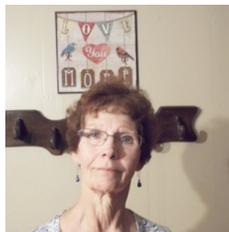
Happy Mother's Day to the best mother ever! Love, your kids



Best grandma ever



Rachel & Bobbi, Disney World 2015. Happy Mother's Day, Mom!



Happy Mother's Day



God has blessed me with three beautiful smart children, and I couldn't be more thankful to them for the joy and happiness they bring me everyday



Thank you for all you do for all of us. Love you Mom - Christina, Tracey, BJ, Tim, & Rocky



Courtney Figg-Hoblyn and her son Champ



Happy Mother's Day, love all ur boys



Melodee Scofield, Katie Scofield, Micki Badger, and Cheryl Prescott



Brittany Powers, Shellie Revling and Branden Powers

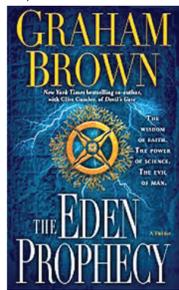
COLUMN | Resendez Reads!



Thrillers go viral!

Fran Resendez
Columnist

This last month I read two books from the international thriller genre that involved the use of biological weapons. They were both entertaining stories with exotic settings, secret agent protagonists and plenty of suspense.

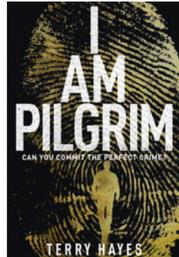


The first title is "The Eden Prophecy" by Graham Brown (2012), an American author who has co-authored with Clive Cussler. This was the third book in a series, but I had no trouble picking up the backstory, and I will go back and read the first two books.

The main character is an ex-CIA agent named Hawker who works with a woman operative to investigate a case involving a U.S. ambassador who's been exposed to an unknown virus. There are rogue geneticists, a woman from Hawker's past, a child with a rare disease, and a tie in to the biblical Garden of Eden, where a tree with the biological key to extended human life once grew.

The pace was fast and the storytelling streamlined, but the plot was grounded in interesting science and archeological detail. This would be the perfect airport book and, as a mass market, will fit nicely in your beach bag.

The second title is "I Am Pilgrim" by Terry Hayes (2014), a British-born author with a



Read the rest of Thrillers | Over on Page 9



WHS swimmers, from left: Iahloni Clingman, Olivia Cooper, Caitlyn Forrester, Kacee Tyler, Delayna Corts, Izzy Hageman, Destiny Webb-Gamez, Chenel Alexander and Damon Niesen.

Swimming Success!

WHS swim team attends championships

On Saturday, May 2, the Willits High School swim team attended the Coastal Mountain Conference Swim Championships in St. Helena and placed fourth overall.

Other teams who competed included those from Technology High School, St. Helena High School, St. Vincent High School, Calistoga High School, Fort Bragg High School, and Clearlake/Kelseyville High School.

A few Willits swimmers had an especially notable event, including: sophomore Caitlyn Forrester, who had fast times and placed high in her races; sophomore diver Chenel Alexander, who placed first in diving - her first year competing!; senior Izabel Hageman, who placed sixth in her 50 freestyle event, despite battling a knee

injury; and senior Damon Niesen, who also did "extremely well in his events," explained coach Mattie Pinon. Niesen and Hageman also participated in their senior walk during the event.

"The team did great, and we had a lot of fun," said coach Mattie Pinon. "I can't wait for next year!"

Results for the Willits team are as follows: Women's 50 Yard Freestyle, preliminaries: fourth place, Caitlyn Forrester; seventh place, Izabel Hageman; 10th place, Iahloni Clingman; 18th place, Naomi Ramirez

Women's 50 Yard Freestyle, finals: fifth place, Caitlyn Forrester; seventh place, Izabel Hageman; 10th place, Iahloni Clingman

Women's 100 Yard Freestyle, preliminaries: fifth place, Caitlyn Forrester; 15th place, Kacee Tyler; 18th place, Destiny Gamez-Webb; 20th place, Naomi Ramirez

Women's 100 Yard Freestyle, finals: fifth place, Caitlyn Forrester

Women's 200 Yard Freestyle, preliminaries: seventh place, Delayna Corts; 11th place, Kacee Tyler

Women's 200 Yard Freestyle, finals: eighth

Read the rest of Swim | Over on Page 9



Izzy Hageman and Damon Niesen on their senior walk.

Photos by Mattie Pinon

Advertisement for Flowers by Annette. Includes contact info: 1701 Valley Road Willits, 707-459-6588. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Closed Sunday. World-wide Shipping & Quick Local Delivery.

Amazing Athletes

of Willits High School



Softball | Haley Frahm, 15, Freshman

Position: Every position except pitcher

Breakfast of Champions: Potatoes, eggs, bacon, toast

Love for the Sport: "Playing softball makes you have teamwork, and helps you bond with others and have good sportsmanship."

This week my nominee for "Amazing Athletes" is Haley Frahm. Haley is a freshman and our go-to girl. She can pretty much play wherever we put her and be successful. This last few weeks, she has played second, catcher, center field, and third. I look forward to seeing her progression over the next few years, as she develops into the amazing player she is going to be.

- Coach Rick Hendrix



Softball | Helen Gonzalez, 17, Junior

Position: Left field

Breakfast of Champions: Eggs and pancakes and fruit

Love for the Sport: "It's fun, and I like the bonding of our teammates and the intensity."

My second nominee for "Amazing Athletes" is Helen Gonzalez. Helen is a junior and came to us this year with no experience.

She has made huge progress this year, starting from having very little skill, to making two outs and hitting two playable balls this last game.

She is definitely our most improved player this year.

- Coach Rick Hendrix

Fred the Action Dog

Fred is our resident hound dog. He is a neutered male about 2 years old and weighs 54 pounds. He is loving, intelligent and confident. Fred was made for a life of action and will need lots of exercise. Running around, stretching his legs and using his nose are his favorite pastimes, so having a backyard for him to explore is a must. Fred likes some dogs and would do fine in a home with a friendly doggie. This goofy boy will have you falling in love with his silly ways; just look at that face!

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



m.pho.tog.ra.phress

[fuh-tog-ruh-friss]

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

Facebook 707-972-7047 maureengetsmail@gmail.com

FOR MOM

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10



Call today to place your order (707) 459-9075

Flower Lady OF WILLITS

In store: 242 S. Main Street, Willits Online: flowerladyofwillits.org

Advertisement for Sparetime Supply. Includes a cartoon bear holding a flower. Text: HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY from all of us at SPARETIME SUPPLY 208 East San Francisco Ave 707-459-6791

Advertisement for Willits Flarrah Center Mother's Day Breakfast. Includes menu: Mimosas (Orange Juice & Champagne), Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage or Ham, Eggs, any style, Orange Juice, Coffee, Tea. \$7.00 Adults • \$5.00 Children \$6.00 Members. 1501 BAECHEMEL ROAD • WILLITS • 459-6826

Advertisement for Les Schwab. Includes text: Now there's a gift I would really love! Happy Mother's Day to all the gear-shiftn' and grease-lovin' moms out there this Sunday! Tires LES SCHWAB of Willits 1565 S. Main Street 707-459-5938

Thursday, May 7

Mendo Matters Radio Show: 9 am on KZYX, 91.5 FM. Paul Lambert hosts a discussion on REACH Air's efforts to set up an air ambulance service at the Willits Airport in Brooktrails. Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore starts off the discussion with a brief history of the affair, followed by REACH Air's Anna Blair, a former Naval officer and nurse, who will share REACH's experience setting up in other areas, as well as Bob Whitney, a Brooktrails resident and member of Keep the Code. Call-ins welcome at: 456-9991.

First Farmers Market of the Summer: the Willits Farmers Market moves to City Park this week, off East Commercial Street, from 3 to 6 pm. Festivities include a May Day celebration and music, as well as tasty local produce, local meats and fish, local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Grace Christian Academy Open House: this open house, from 5 to 7 pm, is for families interested in registering students for the 2015/16 school year. The academy is located at 25 Hazel Street (Grace Community Church) behind Flyer's gas station. More info: 459-3106.

Shanachie Pub: Jason Wright, Gypsy Flamenco guitarist, with Julia Landis. 6 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, May 8

Shanachie Pub: The Gypsy Thorns, folk mixed with Southern blues rock with a good dash of Appalachian Soul. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Saturday, May 9

"Help Stamp Out Hunger": The Post Office's nationwide food drive is today: Postal carriers will be collecting canned food and other non-perishable food items today, when they

deliver your mail. Please place your items in sturdy bags, and please don't include glass containers. Donated food will be given to a local food bank.

"Learn to Make Beer and Bread": Willits Home B.R.E.W. (Brewing Research Engineers of Willits) Club hosts this free event, open to the public. Club members will be brewing a Belgian Candy Porter you can make at home: all steps in the process will be demonstrated. Connie Hewett will demonstrate how to make both a traditional sourdough and an herb bread. Starts at 10 am, at the home of club president Rick Hewett, 1272 Locust Street. Advance reservations are required for the bread-making portion: call 707-354-2195 or email rchewett1@aol.com. Home B.R.E.W. meets the first Friday of every month at 7 pm at Peter's Sushi & Chinese Restaurant, 383 South Main Street. Guests and visitors (over 21 years of age, please) are always welcome. Check our website, http://willitshomebrew.weebly.com, for current meeting and activity information, or email willitshomebrew@yahoo.com.

MESA Bake Sale: "Come support the Willits High School MESA bake sale in front of ER Energy, at the Safeway Plaza, from 11 until 2 pm. Come try our delicious homemade treats."

Mother's Day Boutique: Hosted by Energize Willits at Hidden Agenda, 399 South Main Street. 12:30 to 4 pm. Local vendors will be selling gifts and services for Mother's Day including jewelry, make-up, candles, essential oils, henna art and more. Light refreshments and raffle drawings. Info: 583-9386.

North Street Collective Spring Showcase: art exhibits, interactive events, an art fundraising sale, food, music, multimedia and woodworking at this year's free Spring Showcase, Saturday, May 9 from 2 to 5 pm at 350 North Street. Featuring the work of Nishanga Bliss, Lynea Diaz-Hagan, Noel Woodhouse, Natasha Hoehn, and Nina Behrsin. Noel Woodhouse's "Fire Tree Project," a study in sustainable

What's Happening Around Town

timber practices, answers the question: "What can be made from a single tree? Through the process of removing, documenting, and exploring the use of every piece of a single fir tree, Noel offers a new perspective on logging and local economic development, and the abundant, sustainable opportunities offered through our supply of local natural hard and soft woods." Cash, check, and credit cards accepted for all items on sale. Visit www.northstreetcollective.org for more info.

Afro Funk Experience: Live Funk, Afrobeat, R&B and Reggae from San Francisco, in a fundraising concert for the Grange Hall at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Featuring David James, guitar/vocals, Sandy Tili, vocals, percussion, Ken House, guitar, David Boyce, saxophones, Alan Williams, trombone, vocals, Paul Oliphant, drum kit, Brandon Lee, percussion, and Wendell Rand, bass. Visit www.afrofunkexperience.com. Also featuring Tracorun, Rock'n'Soul/Rhythm'n'Blues, also from San Francisco, and Mystic Sol. Doors open at 6 pm; music starts at 6:30 pm. \$10 in advance (at J.D. Redhouse); \$15 at the door. Children under 12 are free. Sound by Ancestor Radio Productions; Food by Zocolo Collective. A Cosmic Pickle Production.

Shanachie Pub: Singer-Songwriter Night featuring Dennis Chrisp & Friends. "This late show will feature many local talented musicians coming together for a night of original, improvised, and rare moments in music!" 10 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, May 10

Happy Mother's Day!

Harrah Center Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast: "Treat that special lady to breakfast," 8 to 11 am at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, your choice of ham, sausage, or bacon, eggs any style, mimosas, juice, coffee, etc. Adults \$7, Members \$6, Kids \$5.

Greg Schindel at WCT: Local folksinger Greg Schindel will appear in concert at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane, at 7 pm on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10. Schindel writes and sings songs reflecting the life and beauty of rural northern California and his own spiritual approach to living close to the land. His music is upbeat, acoustic, poignant and dynamic. Schindel has recorded four albums of original material and nine albums of popular and traditional train songs as the "Train Singer": since 1988 Schindel has performed as the Train Singer three to five days a week on the Skunk. For this concert, Schindel will be focusing on his poetic, spiritual side: the classic, back-to-the-land troubadour. Tickets are \$10 and are available



in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, online at brownpapertickets.com/events/1413907, or by telephone by calling Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006. Any tickets not pre-sold will be available at the door.

Monday, May 11

Ice Cream Social: 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Entertainment by Erin Fisher: "A young lady with an amazing voice and incredible talent." \$1.50 adults; \$1 for members. Pie, ice cream, coffee.

Tuesday, May 12

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 movie: "Avengers 2: Age of Ultron," "The Age of Adaline," and "Ex Machina." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Wednesday, May 13

Monthly Elder Circle: 1 to 3 pm, at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Commercial Streets in Willits. "Participants are invited to explore their own attitudes and concerns about growing older. 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 women and men of any spiritual path." To sign up for the monthly Elder Circle or a book study, or both, please contact Ruthanne Volz, M.A. rav@pacific.net 707-354-3960. By donation.

Friday, May 15

Dance Recital: Cloud 9 Dance Studio's 29th Annual Dance Recital, featuring the students of Kathleen Ferri-Taylor, Jenny Montes, Amy Stocker and Ayla Decaire. The show will include creative, contemporary, ballet and hip hop dance. 7 pm. Willits High School's Allen Garcia Memorial Auditorium. Tickets at the door: \$5-\$10 sliding scale.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Shakespeare's masterpiece performed by students at the Willits Charter School. Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, 8 pm,



Cloud 9 Dance Studio students, in "Soul Searchin'," taught by Jenny Montes; front, left to right: Zandria Mondo, Ariel Herz-O'Brien, and Olivia Kubin; rear, left to right: Hannah Sawley and Savanna Hofmaister.

and Thursday, May 21. Friday, May 22, and Saturday, May 23, 8 pm.

Shanachie Pub: Portland trio Three For Silver. 9 pm. \$5. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, May 16

Auxiliary Rummage Sale: the annual big sale by the Howard Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. North Main Street between Scoops and the old Vassar's Pizza. Proceeds benefit the hospital equipment purchase fund. Clothing, Sports Equipment, Crafting Supplies, Housewares, Furniture, Books, Kids Clothes, Homemade Items, Small Appliances, Home Décor, Toys, Audiobooks, Seasonal Decorations and more. Refreshments for sale.



"A Concert of Peace": Emandal Choral's 20th anniversary concert. 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "The concert will present some of their most memorable songs, old and new. Guest artists will include Spencer Brewer, composer, pianist, and performer, and Val Rogers, a dynamic South African song and dance leader from Eugene." Tickets, \$10 in advance, available at Mazahar and Mendocino Book Company in Ukiah. \$15 at the door. See article on page 8 for more information.

Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrisp & Friends. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Save the Date
34th Annual Community Festival & Car Show, May 24
Willits Walk for Health & Wellness, starts at J.D. Redhouse, May 31
Mendocino Film Festival, Seabiscuit Legacy Film Series, May 31

Ongoing Events

Willits Summer Farmers Market: from 3 to 6 pm every Thursday at City Park on East Commercial 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.

"Art Under 20, 2015": The annual art exhibition for student artists from Willits High School and Willits Charter School is at the Willits Center for the Arts through May 31. Gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 2 pm.

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@pacific.net or Jenny Watts at Watsup@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 zeynep34@yahoo.com.

Mondays at Wowsar: Free events at the Wowsar maker space, 330 East Commercial Street. 6:30 pm. Lectures, slide shows, flash videos, guest speakers, demonstrations. Info: 459-9697 or www.wowsarilc.com.

AI-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. "AI-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 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 Outdoors 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 Outdoors 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, 44400 Willits Avenue, Laytonville. Buy local: vegetables, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, hot soup, baked goods, and more.

Sponsor the Hometown Celebration!

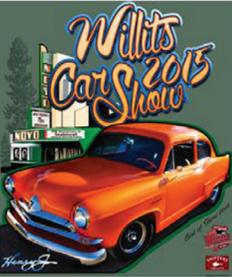
The Local First committee of the Willits Chamber of Commerce is seeking new sponsors for one of Willits' great summer events, the Hometown Celebration, set for Thursday, June 25 this year.

"Planning is underway for the next Hometown Celebration," said Greta Kanne of The Book Juggler, "and we're looking for new business sponsors to join our list of regulars to help make this fantastic event happen." It costs about \$3,000 to put on this celebration of downtown, Kanne says. "These events cost roughly \$3,000 to put on and are a largely volunteer effort. If we get 15 businesses to each put in \$200, we can pay for the musicians who make these celebrations come alive and we can advertise in our county media outlets to draw the largest crowds ever to Downtown Willits. Can we do it?" (Willits Weekly is proud to be an in-kind sponsor of Hometown Celebration every year.)

Sponsors get their name on ads and the event posters, distributed around the county, and also get a free booth space or free storefront participation fee. They also get a share of the goodwill generated by the event, enjoyed by crowds of strolling celebrators picking up free samples, special deals and discounts, dining downtown, watching music and entertainment all along the strip, and winning one of the heaps of prizes at the Chamber of Commerce's prize wheel.

Hometown Celebration is also looking for vendors and food providers, as well as new business sponsors. Those interested should call Lynn Kennedy at the Willits Chamber of Commerce: 459-7910.

- Jennifer Poole



34th Annual Community Festival & Car Show
Sunday, May 24

The 34th annual Community Festival & Car Show is set for the Rec Grove from 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday, May 24. New this year: Black Bart Gunfighters, Arm Wrestling Contest, Yokum's Bounce House, and the Boy Scout's Swinging House, and the Super 8 Motel."

Host an international exchange student

"There are few experiences that can spark interest in new cultures like welcoming an international student into your home. Host families say the exchange experience has led them to create life-changing, lasting friendships, and enrich their families and communities. EF Education First is searching for volunteer host families in the Willits area to open their homes to foreign exchange students for the 2015/2016 school year. We have two students in particular we're focused on finding great families for: One girl is from Spain and loves cycling, music, reading, playing games, and baking. Another girl is from Denmark and enjoys dancing, cooking, volunteering, and she has her own blog and YouTube channel. There are many other students still waiting for host families as well. For further information please contact christine.jones@efexchangeyear.org or 916-595-0654 or visit our website at www.efexchangeyear.org."

Willits Youth Soccer
Registration is Open for 2015 season

Registration opened May 1 for the 2015 season of Willits Youth Soccer, for children between the ages of 3 and 15. Registration closes July 19; team selection starts July 20, British Soccer Camp, July 27-31, and practice starts August 1.

"Willits Youth Soccer has been inspiring players and building community leaders for 33 years! The organization was formed in 1982 and is affiliated with Cal North and CYSA (California Youth Soccer Association). The nonprofit program - run by volunteers - serves more than 240 children each year in the Willits community. WYSL offers both recreation and competitive play while keeping the focus on fitness, teamwork, skill building, and overall love of the game!"

Registration is \$30 for soccer play group (3-year-olds); uniform and cleats are not necessary, meets on Saturdays. Registration for ages 4-15 is \$45 per player (covers insurance, equipment and a trophy). Players age 4-9 play only in Willits. Ages 10-15 travel on Saturdays for games, with only a minimal number of weekday games. Shin guards are required for all age groups. You can register online at www.cysan-wys.sportsaffinity.com or pick up an application at Ace Copy and Shipping (Safeway Plaza) or Imagination Station Preschool, 7 North Marin Street, and mailed to Willits Youth Soccer P.O. Box 1131, Willits, CA 95490. Please present your child's birth certificate to a board member. Those businesses interested in sponsoring, or community members interested in being referees should contact a board member or check out the Willits Youth Soccer page on Facebook. Info: text or call 354-2539 or email saprinarodriguez@gmail.com.

Rosalia Open Garden
Saturday, May 23

Come tour the renowned "Red Rose Ridge" rose garden of Michael and Pamela Temple, south of Willits, with more than 1,200 roses in bloom. This once-a-year event, 11 am to 4 pm, is a fundraiser for the non-profit Hearthstone Village's work at the Reveil Martinal Girls Orphanage in Haiti. For more information on Hearthstone Village and their work in Haiti and Mexico, visit www.hearthstonevillageukiah.org or the "Hearthstone Village" page on Facebook.

Red Rose Ridge garden is located at 5111 Westview Road. Heading south on Highway 101, take a right on Muir Mill Road right after Glen Mark Storage, and follow the balloons. Tickets \$20; children under 13 free. Several Willits artists and painters will be at the event to paint plein-air portraits at the event for interested attendees.

Mendocino Film Festival
Seabiscuit Legacy Film Series

Ridgewood Ranch, Sunday, May 31

The Mendocino Film Festival celebrates the 75th anniversary of Seabiscuit's legendary win at Santa Anita Park with the launch of the "Seabiscuit Legacy Film Series," highlighting stories that embody the spirit of hope that Seabiscuit instilled in his fans and in generations since. Screenings will take place at Ridgewood Ranch and at the Noyo Theatre in Willits, including "The Making of a Legend: Seabiscuit's 1940 Victory at Santa Anita Park," plus two short films, "Ridgewood Ranch - Home of Seabiscuit," and "Riding My Way Back," at Ridgewood Ranch. Program starts at 10 am with a tour of the historic ranch; film screening at noon, 1 pm Q&A panel; and a reception from 1 to 3 pm. At 4 pm, the Noyo Theatre will host "Harry & Snowman," a feature-length documentary that tells the remarkable life story of international show jumping legend Harry deLeyer, whose career was launched by his famous show jumping horse Snowman. Tickets are available at the Mendocino County Museum, 459-2736, and www.seabiscuitheritage.org. Proceeds to benefit Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation and Ridgewood T.R.A.I.L. Riders Association.

Junior Giants Signups

The Willits Jim Hale Junior Giants Program, in association with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Youth Activities League, starts its 2015 season on June 15. Sign up at www.jr giants.org or in person May 5 through June 26. Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4:30 pm with Keith Terrell at the Willits Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Info: 707-459-0594 or cynthiapurdue@yahoo.com.

Willits Kids Club Summer Camp
June 15 - August 14

Need a safe place for your kids or grandkids this summer? Kids want something fun to do with friends? Would you like your kids to keep up their math and reading during the summer? Willits Kids Club has the place for you! Arts & Crafts, Sports, Games, Swimming, Cooking, Gardening. Camps will be held at the Willits Kids Club, Willits Elementary Charter School and Brooktrails Camp. Directors: Diane Heath and Tina Stanley, assisted by our excellent after-school staff. For children pre K through Seventh Grade.

Camp runs June 15 through August 14, Monday through Friday. Half Day: 7:30-12:30 or 12:00-5:30. Full Day: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. Participation options: One week half days \$65. One day \$35. Two full days \$65. Three full days \$90. One week full days \$125. Two weeks full days \$235. 4 weeks \$450 - Prepaid. 9 weeks \$975 - Prepaid. 9 am - 12 only \$30/week. Space is limited to 50 per week. Register early. Application packets available at school sites. For more information call Diane: 841-8012 or Tina: 841-8013 or visit www.willitskidsclub.org.

Summer Camp 2015
June 15 - August 14
Willits Kids Club has the place for you!

Need a safe place for your kids or grandkids this summer? Kids want something fun to do with friends? Would you like your kids to keep up their math and reading during the summer?

Arts & Crafts, Sports, Games, Swimming, Cooking, Gardening

Camps will be held at the Willits Kids Club, Willits Elementary Charter School and Brooktrails Camp. Directors: Diane Heath and Tina Stanley. Assisted by our excellent after-school staff.

Monday-Friday
 Half day: 7:30-12:30 or 12:00-5:30
 Full day: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

One week full days \$125
 One week half days \$65
 One day \$35
 Two full days \$65
 Three full days \$90

Two weeks full days \$235
 4 weeks \$450 - Prepaid
 9 weeks \$975 - Prepaid
 9am - 12 only \$30/week

For children pre K - Seventh grade. Space is limited to 50 per week. Register early. Application packets available at school sites.

For more information call Diane: 841-8012 or Tina: 841-8013
 www.willitskidsclub.org



A Concert of Peace: 20 years of Emandal Chorale

Above: The Emandal Chorale, with director Don Willis, rehearses at the Little Lake Grange.

Photo by Bruce Haanstra

Below: The Emandal Chorale performs at a benefit for the Willits United Methodist Church.

Photo by Anita Elliott

Every Wednesday, from 5 to 6:30 pm, 60 or so singers of the Emandal Chorale gather upstairs at the Willits Arts Center. This organically grown, hometown choir has been meeting since 1995, when the initial group practiced and performed four songs for the Community Sing held at the Mormon Church.

Emandal Chorale is celebrating its 20th birthday this month, with "A Concert for Peace," set for Saturday, May 16, at the Little Lake Grange.

The idea for the chorale was instigated by Tam Adams of Emandal, A Farm on a River.

Richard Hincker remembers that first meeting. "After not singing for far too long, I was glad to hear of the start-up. I feel healthier in many ways when I sing." Richard just became a great-grandfather.

Youngest member, Tara Logan, a 16-year-old charter high school student, says: "Because singing makes me feel so alive, I've wanted to do a choir for as long as I could remember. When I learned I was not too young to join, I was ecstatic."

Over the years, these dedicated singers have faced many challenges. Meeting places in town were scarce, which led them to meet in the city park during the summer. They began with a piano but no pianist, so had to become comfortable as an "a cappella" choir. To meet the need for music, Don Willis, director since 1996, blended poetry with classical music, then began writing his own.

The evolution of the Emandal Chorale from singing for fun to identifying themselves as a "Peace Choir" is largely credited to Willis. Linda Posner, who had urged the group to continue singing after

Read the rest of **Emandal** | Over on Page 10

Inspiring people everywhere to sing and be heard

By Don Willis, director, Emandal Chorale

When I raised my hand to be the director of the Emandal Chorale in January of '96, I had no idea what I was getting into. We had just sung four songs for the Mormon Church's Christmas celebration, working for two months under Ellen Drell to prepare. Then in January we met again. Ellen said she had no interest in directing further. Was anyone else interested? My hand tentatively crept up - sold! To the first and only bidder.

We settled in at the Environmental Center, with a piano but no pianist. Different members brought in some sheet music. Ruthi and Avraham had a wealth of Hebrew choral music. We had a few rounds. And we had choral music written for SATB [soprano, alto, tenor, bass] and piano.

The rounds, and the Hebrew music, were doable. We experimented with just eliminating the piano part in songs, and found that it worked OK.

Within a year, we were an a cappella choir. For the first five years or so, we were a group of 12 to 15 hardy souls, who met every week for fun. We sang at various community events, and we became a known part of our community.

We became a "peace choir" early on, by selecting songs that had a message of peace, or simply changing words to reflect our desire for peace. We discovered South African music early also, and changed words to fit our own presence in the world.

In '96, a cappella music was a fringe thing that took place on college campuses. We had no contact with what was going on there, and so we took our own path. Once we started eliminating piano parts, we felt freer to alter other things, to make songs our own. We started changing words here and there. Then I hit upon the idea of blending poetry and music, often classical pieces that I fitted with new words.

In '98 I took my first plunge, and arranged a piece for Christmas that was a mélange of fragments of familiar Christmas tunes. "Christmas is Coming" was an audience hit, and it inspired me to dream further. I started arranging songs I knew and loved. By the early 2000s, I was arranging more and more, and composing my own music.

More singers finally found us, and joined. We grew out of the tiny Environmental Center eventually, and moved over to the Willits Charter School, then the Methodist Church, and finally the Center for the Arts, where we currently practice. (From the original dozen, we are now 60 singers and counting.)

We were now a community chorus, open to all, with a message of peace and justice. I knew that there had to be more choirs like ours, somewhere. And then an article in "Yes" magazine was given to me, which talked about a growing movement of community choirs in the Pacific Northwest. Its epicenter was the Seattle Folklife Festival, and the person who knew most about it was Val Rogers, director of the Eugene Peace Choir.

The Seattle Folklife Festival is a huge, three-day extravaganza of every conceivable kind of folk music and dance. One of its events is called Community Choir Conspiracy, with community choirs from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. When I went for the first time, I recognized who we were. And I knew that we were a folk choir, not a classical choir, with all the freedom of expression that goes with it.

I made contact with Val Rogers, and she encouraged me to come to Seattle with the Emandal Chorale. But Seattle didn't want us - we were not part of the Pacific Northwest. Still, the connection had been made. When Rogers announced a song contest, sponsored by the Eugene Peace Choir, for best original four-part choral piece, I entered "When You Come Back," a song I wrote, about returning soldiers and how we can support them. It was the co-winner, and I came up to Eugene to help teach the song to the Peace Choir. They recorded it, and sent it in care packages to soldiers in Iraq.

Some time later, the new Rogue Valley Peace Choir was formed in Ashland. Emandal Chorale traveled to Ashland to perform in their inaugural season, in 2003. This was the first of four trips to Ashland, always as a path of connection to other choirs, and always a reflection of how we have grown. We are a part of our community, grown organically from it, yet we are also a part of something larger, something that inspires people everywhere to sing and be heard.

Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

Sudoku

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

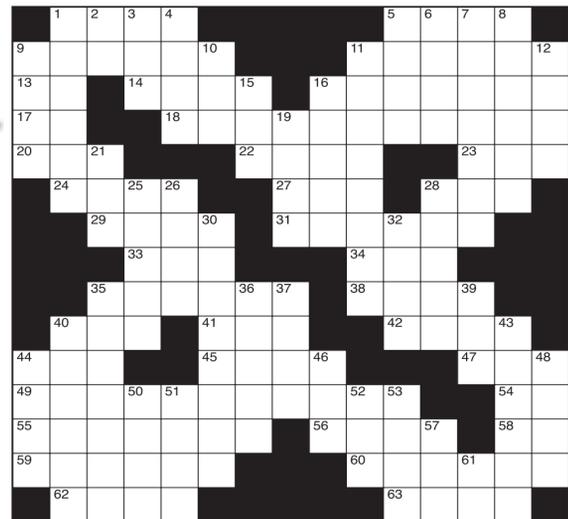
Level: Intermediate



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!

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- William the Conqueror's birth city
- Expired
- Muslim greeting
- Hangs cloth in loose folds
- ... denotes past
- Jog
- Ocean shore
- Promotion of a product
- The Constitution State
- Russian space station
- Paper mulberry bark cloth
- Fiddler crabs
- Drunkards
- Domestic hog
- Before
- Papua New Guinea monetary unit
- Existentialist philosopher Jean-Paul
- V.P. Quayle
- Expression of surprise
- Declares untrue
- Corn dough
- Ocean
- Supply with men
- Spring tides

CLUES DOWN

- Coarse woolen braid
- Gangster Capone
- Ingest
- Drug enforcement officer (slang)
- Expression of annoyance
- Romanian capital until 1861
- A person who enjoys good food and drink
- A way to reason
- Sewing junction

CLUES ACROSS

- Sound of bovines
- Metric weight unit
- Stalk of a moss capsule
- Explosive
- Reedless brown
- Short sleeps
- Decay
- Crepe fern genus
- Happy facial gestures
- Cheap showy jewelry or ornament
- Over again
- Inhabitants of ancient Media
- Imparts motion to
- Compared to
- Alight from train
- N.H. 03832
- 2 piece clothing fastener
- Express pleasure
- A plan, outline or model
- Give a spanking to
- NY Times publisher Adolph Simon
- 17th Greek letter
- Small, stout cyprinid fish
- Lazy
- Merganser
- Fall back from
- Enlarge hole
- Hong Kong dialect
- Initials of "10" actress

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The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County

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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 Mariya at 707-459-6826.

Help Wanted Fire District Administrative Assistant and Board Secretary/Treasurer
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Full-time exempt position working directly with the Fire Chief, performing administrative and clerical tasks of the Little Lake Fire Protection District. Confidentiality and discretion of communications are essential. Duties include but are not limited to: accounts payable/receivable, payroll, budgets, audits; compose correspondence, answer phones, greet the public and assist employees; assist in routine business of the District and have the ability to solve problems in office procedures. Experience with Calpers retirement, health benefits, and workers' compensation a plus. Prior office management experience is desirable; this is not an entry-level position. Job description and application are available at the LFPD, 74 East Commercial Street in Willits between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm, Monday-Friday. Application must be accompanied by a resume and letter of introduction, and must be received at the District office by May 18 at 5 pm.

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TLC Child and Family Services, a foster family agency, is looking for additional homes in Willits and Ukiah. These homes would house children who have been removed by Child Protective Services for neglect or mistreatment, for up to 30 days. Most of these children are between the ages of birth and 10 years old. Applicants must have at least one spare bedroom, and one parent must be home full time. Experience with children is required. Guaranteed monthly income, with generous increase upon placement. Parent(s) will receive training, social worker and aide support, and respite. Income is tax exempt, and retirees are welcome. Please contact TLC at 707-463-1100.

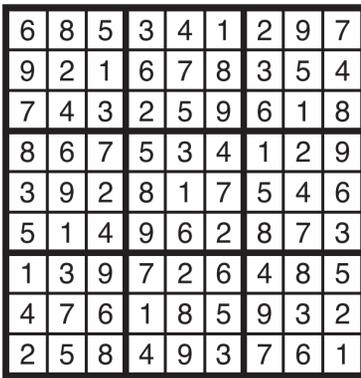
Help Wanted Work with us at Willits Weekly!

Willits Weekly is looking for additional freelancers. We need an additional writer/photographer (or two) to provide feature stories, business stories, or community items on a freelance basis.

Ideally, we'd like a features freelancer who'd be happy to submit at least 4 feature stories/community items a month. Photo skills are a must; experience with journalism is a plus, but not required. Also, if there's an experienced news reporter out there looking to do some news freelancing, we'd like to talk to you about the possibilities.

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The rest of Pot | From Page 1

endorsed a position paper authored by representatives from six North Coast counties – Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Lake, Trinity and Del Norte counties – which said “legalization of marijuana for adult recreational use will have economic implications for North Coast counties.”

Upon the committee’s recommendation, the board endorsed the multi-county position paper unanimously.

The paper detailed a host of recommendations for state legislators, who are expected to be tasked with crafting regulations and laws that will govern how marijuana is handled if voters approve one or another of the initiatives observers believe will make it onto the ballot in November 2016.

Among others, the recommendations include the following:

- State leadership is critical to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework which clearly delineates the role of local and state government.
- Existing local authority to regulate or prohibit the indoor or outdoor cultivation of marijuana and the establishment of dispensaries in certain areas must be explicitly preserved.
- The right of local jurisdictions to provide for the health, safety and welfare of their constituents must be respected within an overall state regulatory framework.
- Counties must have the ability to impose fees and fines to recover direct costs of local regulations and code enforcement with respect to all aspects of marijuana cultivation, sales and distribution.
- Environmental protection and remediation shall be paramount in any regulatory and/or funding framework.
- Best management practices must be developed and adopted.
- Counties must receive adequate funding from the state to compensate for local environmental enforcement and remediation, including legacy impacts.

The agenda item provided an opportunity for marijuana advocates to thank supervisors for creating the ad hoc committee to deal with their issue. Pot advocates – including members of the Small Farmers Association, the Emerald Growers Association and the Mendocino Cannabis Policy Council – repeatedly urged either the committee or the board of supervisors to increase the legal plant count for medical marijuana growers from the current 25 plants per parcel, to 50 or 100 plants per parcel. Numerous speakers claimed doing so would strengthen the local economy.

Supervisor Woodhouse said he wanted to keep the ad hoc committee alive and functioning, so it might be able to influence state legislation.

COLUMN | Linda on the Law

Alcohol, medications, marijuana and driving

How does the law decide if you are driving under the influence of alcohol or medications, including marijuana, or have a .08 or higher blood alcohol level? You don't have to be a lawyer to know that humans are a varied species, with many different reactions to these substances. Any evidence gathered by law enforcement, like interviews and testing, then later used as evidence at any jury trial, must take into account human differences as well as testing limitations.

You have probably heard of the infamous “field sobriety tests.” There is little relationship between how someone performs on those tests and driving impairment. Things such as flashing car lights, surface

of the ground where testing takes place, nervousness, age, or medical condition, to name a few things, can affect performance irrespective of alcohol. If you find yourself on a jury, be cautious of these tests’ value.

DUI testing evidence also includes breath, blood and urine tests. The accuracy of these tests depends upon many things, including whether the officer, medical personnel and others who have contact with the sample are following the rules of the state concerning handling of forensic samples: Is the equipment working properly, tested properly and administered properly? These are a few considerations. So we cannot take test results or test numbers as the final word.

The crime of DUI is committed at the time of driving, not at any later or earlier time. The time period from the driving to the blood, breath or urine test is extremely important, since alcohol and drug effects change over time. When a person stops drinking, their blood alcohol level will be rising at first as the alcohol enters their blood stream, then it levels off, then is reduced. Someone could be below the legal limit while driving and then rise to above the legal limit when finally tested.

It is important to understand that the Legislature has not banned drinking and driving or medications and driving, but allows someone to drive when their blood alcohol level is under a .08 or when the medications are not affecting the driver’s ability to safely drive. As a result, DUI cases involve a lot of science. To paraphrase one of our United States Supreme Court justices, junk science has no place in the courtroom.

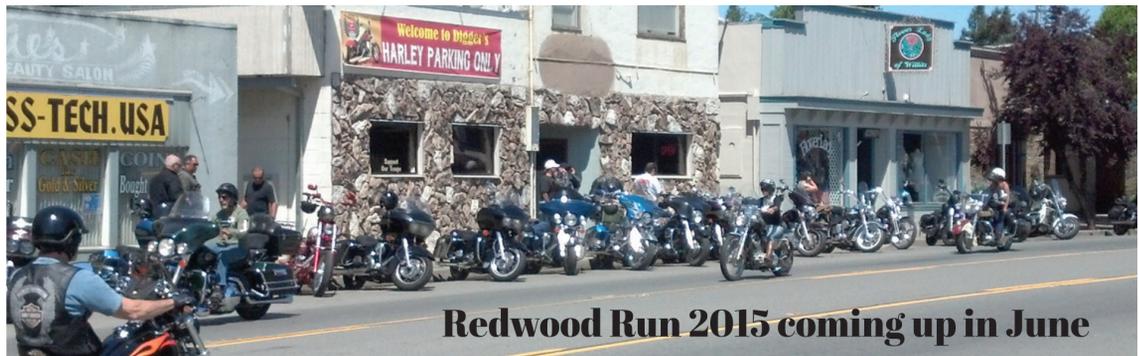
For an accurate blood alcohol level at the time of driving, it is vital to know the time of driving, the number of drinks a person has consumed, over how long a period of time they have consumed these drinks, the strength of the drinks, a person’s age, sex, race, and medical condition, absorption rate at that particular instance (which may be impossible to determine), and many other factors that can help determine blood alcohol content. In DUI cases, the prosecutor does not have that specific information, so that is why testing is used.

For medications such as benzodiazepines, opiates and marijuana, a blood or urine screening test can show the presence of the medication. That doesn’t mean you were DUI. A more specific blood test can also show whether the medication is active or inactive. It is during the active period of time that your driving could be affected by medications. If the blood test results show inactive components of medications you take, then they are not likely affecting safe driving.

Law enforcement is actively pursuing the development of a marijuana detection device using breath machines. These machines seem to be screening tests, and their scientist-critics indicate that they cannot accurately detect active or inactive components of marijuana. More studies are being conducted and should include the correlation, if any, between blood levels of marijuana and that relationship to breath, similar to the studies done with alcohol, although the blood/breath relationship with alcohol has a varied range. Due to the nature of human differences and lack of marijuana uniformity, such a device is simply not accurate.

In a DUI case, the prosecution must prove the charges against the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt, which includes more than junk science or convenient suppositions.

Linda McNeil 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.”



Redwood Run 2015 coming up in June

Countdown begins with biker Poker Run set for May 16

Spring is in the air, and so grows the rumbles of motorcycles through our beautiful Gateway to the Redwoods. Folks riding Harley, Victories, Indians, Yamahas, Hondas and even custom bikes love traveling north on Highway 101 to view the redwoods.

Rich Venturi
Contributing Writer

And every year thousands attend the one and only Redwood Run which will be held this year over the weekend of June 11 through June 13 in Piercy. The Redwood Run has been held in northern Mendocino and southern Humboldt counties since 1977.

As a kick-off to this year’s Redwood Run, the 5th annual, Pre-Redwood Run Poker Run will take place in Garberville, May 16. I had a chance to speak with Jim Brickley, who is the secretary of Kiwanis of the Redwoods and chairman of the Poker Run. Kiwanis of the Redwoods is the long-standing producer of the Redwood Run.

According to Brickley, this Poker Run raises funds to help with the expenses of producing the Redwood Run. “To have some of the big name bands play at the Redwood Run, we have to pay them between \$30,000 and \$40,000,” he said. And this year the line-up of bands includes Blue Oyster Cult, Warrant and Night Ranger; also on the schedule are the ever-present Fryed Brothers and Charlie Brechtel Band and many other bands, too. The more funds raised during the Poker Run, the more of the monies raised by the Redwood Run can be used to help the children’s programs supported by the Kiwanis.

Registration for the Pre-Redwood Run Poker Run will begin at 10 am at the Branding Iron, in Garberville, with kickstarts up at 10:30 am. The ride will be a pack ride north on Highway 101 to Rio Dell with a stop over at Mingo’s Bar. The pack will then double back south on the Avenue of

the Giants and attend a fundraising Polish dog barbecue at Redcrest Fire Department. All barbecue proceeds will benefit the Redcrest Fire Department.

After partaking of the Polish dogs, the pack will continue along the Avenue of the Redwoods to Meaghers Saloon in Myers Flat for a short stopover for adult beverages, and then continue on to Phillipsville and the Riverwood Inn. The Riverwood Inn has always been a long-standing supporter for biker events.

The last leg will return the pack to the Branding Iron, where there will be a Tri-Tip Barbeque with all the fixin’s. The barbeque will be starting at 2 pm, and tickets are \$11. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and, if all goes well and the band shows up, there will be music.

Brickley wanted to add that this year the Pre-Redwood Run Poker Run is being dedicated to the memory of Rainbow Mountain Walker. Walker belonged to the Eureka Chapter of Old Coots on Scoots and passed away in 2014.

Below is the Event Schedule for this year’s Redwood Run. For more info and tickets, visit the Redwood Run website at www.redwoodrun.org.

Thursday, June 11

8 am On-Site Ticket Booth & Will Call Opens
Redwood Runners Start Lining Up

8 pm On-Site Ticket Booth & Will Call Closes

Friday, June 12

6 am On-Site Ticket Booth & Will Call Opens

8 am Main Gate Opens – Mad Rush for Campsites!

11 am DJ

1 pm Color Guard and Marriage Ceremonies

2 pm DJ

3 pm Miss Lonely Hearts

4:30 pm Mean Gene Baker Band

6:30 pm Davey Pattison’s Gamma +

8:30 pm Coco Montoya

10:30 pm Night Ranger

12:30 am Rad Company

Saturday, June 13

9 am Cyclops and The Owl

9 am Bike Show and Bike & People Games

2 pm Wet T-Shirt (signups start 2 pm with contest immediately following)

4 pm Fire and Wheels

5 pm Lydia Pense and Cold Blood

7 pm Deacon Jones

7:30 pm Charlie Brechtel

9 pm Warrant

11 pm Blue Oyster Cult

12:45 am Fryed Brothers

Sunday, June 14

Morning Pack Up, Say Your Good-Byes, and Have a Safe Ride Home!



At top: Main Street in Willits, lined with motorcycles during last year’s run.

Above: Redwood Runners: Rich Venturi, Kim Chin and Janice and Joel Sylvia of Willits.

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'Art Under 20'

Annual show features works by young students

Upon entering the 17th annual "Art Under 20" exhibition on Friday, I was welcomed by Willits High School and Willits Charter School students whizzing all around with giddy smiles on their faces. Laughter and oohs and ahhs filled the beautifully sunlit exhibition room at the Willits Center for the Arts, Deleigh Hermes

surely due to the kids being proud and excited about seeing their work on public display.

"The students really do love to have their work up," said Willits High's art teacher, Carolyn Bakewell, who is also the coordinator of this inspiring event.

The work that these students put out was really impressive. Many different things inspired the students, creating a show that had a great variety of work such as graphite and charcoal drawings, paintings, ceramics, mosaics, and prismacolor works.

A beautiful charcoal piece done by WHS junior Norea Isreal was a large image – on a 5 foot by 4 foot canvas – of a cloaked young woman with water dripping down her face. Norea has been drawing since she was a young child and knew that art was what she craved to do in life after high school. Asked for a photo, Norea simply and sweetly said no. I asked her why and her response was: "Because, it is about the art, not me." Norea hopes to become a world-renowned tattoo artist.

Students Tomas Hardman and Tyler Buschbacher call themselves "The Fedora Duo." The two juniors collaborated on a piece called "World of Two Minds," a prismacolor work that they divided down the middle, with Tomas's creation on the left, and Tyler's on the right.

"If you have an imagination like ours, you have to write or draw things or they will get lost," Tomas said. Tyler's had ancient Chinese myths such as the nine-tailed fox. "We hope to one day create an anime together," said Tyler.

This year's "Art Under 20" poster was by sophomore Daisy Hinker-Tye. The inspiration behind her graphite drawing was a



childhood experience, when she and her sister were playing in an old dilapidated house next door. "Art takes you to someplace else that you can do whatever you want," Daisy said. "When asked about the meaning behind the moth over the girl's mouth in her drawing, she said: "Mistakes make art interesting; you just go with it."

Senior Kayla Lyman chose to do a mosaic. She spent several weeks breaking apart the pieces of glass for this project. "It is a lot like a puzzle, and more time-consuming than you'd think." Each piece she broke up had to fit just right to make sure the pieces of glass were all spaced apart evenly. Daisy's plans after school are to attend College of the Redwoods. She wants to study photography.

Hanging art wasn't the only form of art on display: the Willits High Jazz and Concert bands played, and students from the Willits Charter School did a short piece from their upcoming production of "A Midsummer's Night Dream."

The two bands sounded very different, but were equally as lovely. Each student in the Jazz Band got to play a great solo. The Concert Band, featuring eight different instruments, sounded beautiful and well-rounded.

When trumpet player Samantha Bartow was asked what keeps her coming back to music every day, she said, "I am able to express different types of energy, and it is in a different language than anything else." Her choice of the trumpet, which she has been playing for five years now, was for the challenge. "It is considered a male instrument because it takes a lot of wind and requires strong muscles, but I said, 'Nope, I'm going to do it!'"

"Art Under 20" runs at the Willits Center for the Arts through May 31. Gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 4 to 7 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm.

Photos by Deleigh Hermes

ad designer Patsy Jordan and reporter/editor Dan McKee. Ad sales representative Rachel Belvin is a great addition to Willits Weekly, as is photographer/writer Jenny Senter. Beal Ransing and his delivery crew are "throwing papers" to our subscribers in the Willits area, and getting Willits Weekly up to Laytonville and Covelo, too, as Zack Cinek continues to handle Thursday distribution around town. Liam UICearbhall has been a big help with billing and bookkeeping.

We continue to publish work by other freelance and contributing writers to help us cover the many stories, photo opportunities and events happening in Willits. Some of our contributors have been us since the beginning, and some are new. Willits Weekly still features monthly columnists who showcase special interests, from book reviews, relationships and "the stars," to crafting, the law, relationships and more. We love including the puzzle page with the crossword, Sudoku and word searches, and we hope the combination of fun and information makes Willits Weekly a paper that folks of all ages can enjoy.

We continue to look at fun and exciting advertising options for the community, with our great color, clean registration and affordable pricing for print ads and inserts. We love calling for submissions from the community for our photo

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The rest of **WW** | From Page 1

collages like those we do for Father's Day, Back to School, Halloween and – in this issue – Mother's Day. We also love offering the free "Congratulations" column to celebrate individual achievements, anniversaries and more. Willits Weekly is proudly partnering with local organizations to help distribute helpful resources like the Soroptimist International of Willits Community Telephone Directory and the annual program for Willits Frontier Days.

Willits Weekly is looking forward to our third year, deepening our editorial coverage, expanding our list of advertisers, increasing our circulation – we're now printing 3,500 copies each week to try to meet the demand – and growing our subscription list, too.

We want to express our thanks to everybody who's contributed to the paper, past and present, with photos, stories, editorial submissions, letters, donations, advertisements, subscriptions, ideas, help with distribution, and news tips: We couldn't have done it without you!

The rest of **March** | From Page 1

Haehl Creek neighborhood, roofing work, and knocking down some illegal storage buildings.

In March 2015, these building permits were issued: HVAC replacement at 408 Coast Street, valued at \$2,500; a 272-square-foot bedroom addition at 40 North Street, valued at \$19,040; a single-family home of 1,808 square feet at 270 Haehl Creek Court, valued at \$257,920; roofing work at 363 Fort Bragg Road, valued at \$2,500; replacement of electrical service panel at 52 West Oak Street, valued at \$1,000; a detached garage at 12 Northbrook Way, valued at \$26,400; demolition of fire damage at 52 Creekside Court, valued at \$20,000; a new single-family home at 180 Haehl Creek Court, valued at \$257,920; a patio roof at 42 South Main Street, valued at \$4,000; roofing work at 427 McKinley Street, valued at \$8,000; roofing work and new windows at 92 Northbrook Way, valued at \$5,000; an addition of 120 square feet at 325 Fort Bragg Road, valued at \$11,000; demolition of John's Stores and adjoining buildings, valued at \$32,000; improvements at 393B South Main Street, valued at \$6,500; and demolition of illegal storage buildings at 1484 South Main, valued at \$2,500.

The total valuation of March projects in Willits was \$637,240. The total was \$31,500 in March 2014, the report stated.

Mendocino County issues its own rundown of building permits for unincorporated areas of the county.

Some highlights of Willits area and beyond permits: Two permits issued for the same address in the 3700 block of the Covelo Road for replacement of six doors, 15 windows, 45 lights and 35 outlets; a solar installation in the 3700 block of Second Gate Road; and roofing work on some buildings in the 19900 block of North Highway 101.

The county collected \$105,921 in fees for March from 113 permits.

This report was compiled from reports produced by the city and the county.

The rest of **Arrested** | From Page 1

been suspended. Jewell, deputies allege, showed signs of being under the influence of a controlled substance and admitted she had a methamphetamine smoking pipe inside the vehicle.

Upon searching the vehicle, deputies discovered two dagger-style blades concealed next to where France had been sitting. They also found a machete in the pickup, as well as a pair of rubber gloves and a long chain of keys that could be used to open residential locks, padlocks and car locks.

Deputies also discovered the license plate on the vehicle was listed as stolen from a different type of vehicle, and the pickup had been reported stolen from Santa Rosa.

France was arrested on suspicion of possession of a stolen vehicle, possession of burglary tools, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of a dagger.

Jewell was arrested on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Both were booked into the Mendocino County Jail. France is being held in lieu of \$15,000 bail; Jewell was released on a signed promise to appear in court.

This report was based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Willits Weekly | May 7, 2015 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Round Valley man faces life sentence in 2014 murder

A 21-year-old Covelo man will be sentenced May 22 to 19 years to life in state prison after pleading guilty last week to second-degree murder in the 2014 shooting death of a young Round Valley woman.

The body of Rosalena "Belle" Rodriguez was discovered lying in the middle of Hopper Lane by a passing motorist last May 25. She had been shot "multiple times," according to sheriff's investigators.

On May 29, detectives arrested Jeremy Jason Freeman-Britton on suspicion of murder, issuing terrorist threats and violating felony probation.

They also arrested Sidney Lewis Freeman, 23, of Covelo, on suspicion of murder and violating probation. However, the District Attorney's Office later dropped the murder charge.

According to DA spokesman Mike Geniella Freeman-Britton's motive for killing Rodriguez "remains unclear."

The rest of **Herbicides** | From Page 1

shade out and retard the growth of the next generation of softwood trees.

To combat this, the company has embraced the practice of cutting into the tan oaks with saws or axes and injecting them with the herbicide Imazapyr. The trees die and are left standing in the forest. The practice, called "hack and squirt" by opponents, is referred to as "frill treatment" by MRC.

Estimates vary on how many dead and standing tan oaks exist on MRC lands. From discussions that took place April 21 in board chambers, it appears MRC has between 1 and 6 million such trees.

An overflow crowd appeared at the supervisors' meeting that day to demand action. Supervisor Dan Hamburg had prepared a resolution asking MRC to voluntarily stop the hack-and-squirt practice for six months while the county studied the danger of fire in tan oak dead zones and from Imazapyr. His motion failed on a 2-3 vote.

At the May 4 board meeting, Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, one of the "no" votes on April 21, introduced a motion to seek more information, and to begin what looks to be a long campaign to convince MRC to abandon its hack-and-squirt practice.

In the introduction to the motion, Woodhouse wrote: "It is clear to me that the first priority on this issue is the safety of our firefighters and our citizens. Without drought, and without hack and squirt, thousands of Mendocino County residents, and the dedicated paid and volunteer firefighters who protect us, would still be at risk."

"We need to update the CWPP [the Community Wildfire Protection Plan] was adopted by supervisors in 2006] without delay to be competitive for grants for fuel reduction, fire break, defensible space, fire safety education, evacuation training, and other projects."

"We need an independent study of the existing protocols for hack and squirt, the impacts to public health and safety, and recommendations for alternative treatments or revised protocols to reduce or eliminate those impacts," Woodhouse wrote.

As part of Woodhouse's resolution, the Mendocino Fire Safe Council will form a working group "to include representative from the fire chiefs association, CalFire, local fire safe councils, timberland owners and other interested parties." The working group will "assess existing protocols and fire hazards associated with intentionally killed trees left standing on commercial timberland."

The decision to put the county's Fire Safe Council – which has traditionally helped orchestrate neighborhood

The rest of **Audit** | From Page 1

observations and recommendations. One new item is included, another six observations are items revisited from the previous audit.

Ricciardi noted that in the city's process of approving vendor invoices, there is no documentation from a head of department.

The firm suggests department heads mark invoices with their initials or attach an additional form.

Auditors also noted the city has not adopted a formal fund balance policy and referred to guidelines put forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

The city responded in the report that it agrees a council-adopted fund balance policy is desirable.

The city's auditors would like to see the council's Finance Committee meet more often.

If committee meetings become more frequent, its members "should compare current financial information with previous months, quarters, years and current budget as needed," the report stated.

Finance Committee members should also receive written responses from management to explain fluctuations in the numbers, the report stated.

About 73 percent of the city's revenue comes from sales taxes, 10 percent from grants and 3 percent from charges-for-services, according to the report.

remediation efforts such as brush removal and slash chipping projects in rural subdivisions – in charge of creating the working group did not pass unnoticed by veteran environmentalists and political activists attending Tuesday's meeting.

"You mentioned we need an independent study of existing protocols," Earth First! activist Naomi Wagner told the board. "Well, an independent study is not what you're getting here. You're asking people who don't really know – who don't have the expertise – to do the study. The Fire Safe Council admits it doesn't have the expertise. The firefighters are already overloaded. CalFire, I am sorry to say, is a contributor to the problem, because they approve the plans that created the hack and squirt in the first place."

"Even MRC officials admitted that, in the short run, a year or two, that hack-and-squirt methods do increase the fire danger," Willits City Councilwoman Madge Strong commented. "They do leave dead timber out there that is a fire hazard. Maybe after the third or fourth year, it may not be such an issue. I don't know. Long-term study? Great – no problem. Short term? I really hope you would adopt something with enforcement power, if that is feasible, that says, because of the fire hazard, because of the hazard to residents in this county, we discontinue allowing any hack and squirt this summer."

Wagner also took issue with Woodhouse's suggestion that the Community Wildfire Protection Plan needed to be updated without delay, "to be competitive for grants."

"Yeah, that's a good idea," Wagner said. "But that doesn't address the problem. You can get lots of grants and study the problem, but you're not really dealing with it, unless you stop the thing that's obviously causing the hazard or increasing the hazard."

"So we do not need this, to study to study to study to study to study. We need to stop the practice that is increasing the fire hazard that we can all see with our common sense. In fact, the firefighters have all said it increases the risk and they can't even recruit volunteers. That practice needs to stop. Then, we can study it, OK?"

"I'm sorry to say this but, if fence-riding was a rodeo event, you would have won it."

MRC's lead forester, Mike Jani, was at Tuesday's meeting, but did not speak.

Supervisors approved Woodhouse's motion on a 4-1 vote, Supervisor Dan Hamburg dissenting. Hamburg said he could not support the motion because it did not include a moratorium on hacking and squirting.

The police department accounts for 43 percent of city expenses, the report states, the public works department requires 26 percent, and 22 percent goes to general government.

A couple of practices at the city pool were brought up in the report.

The pool manager, the report said, does not use a sign-in sheet with a liability waiver, and pre-numbered cash receipts with a duplicate copy are not used for sales at the concession window.

Auditors would like to see the city have a manual of procedures for written accounting, administrative and fraud.

Such a manual "would document the city's internal controls to safeguard assets and accounting records."

This past year, the report noted, the city did complete a cash-handling policy, but has no formal documentation of controls over assets.

The city agreed such a manual would be good to have, but difficult to do with the budget and staff at hand.

Non-recurring general journal entries were not always documented by the city, the report noted. Monthly bank reconciliations and related statements are not reviewed by someone outside the Finance Department.

To remedy that, the report calls for periodic review of non-recurring journal entries, bank statements and

related reconciliations.

Like other recommendations in the report, city management concurred that such review would be a good thing, adding the finance director would put such items on a to-do list for consideration.

The city is now at work crafting a draft budget for the next fiscal year. The city noted two obstacles in an analysis included with the report document:

"The city is faced with increases in the Public Employees Retirement Systems (PERS) and health insurance benefit costs," and "there are limited investment opportunities for idle cash reserves."

The city also offered a statement on its budget-making process from the city's perspective.

"Before June 30, the proposed budget is presented to the city council for review. The city council holds public hearings and may add to, subtract from, or change appropriations, but may not change the form of the budget.

"Any changes in the budget must be within the revenues and reserves estimated as available by the city manager or the revenue estimates must be changed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the city council," stated the report.

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