

# Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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By donation

## Council to consider voluntary water use cuts

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An essence of mold-like flavor and the smell of pond water recently greeted Willits water-drinkers turning on the tap.

A Willits lake south of town encountered some algae bloom, causing the foul water, but the city says the water is safe.

"Due to the fact that we really had no late rain, one of our lakes never got full," Water Supervisor J.C. England explained this week. A combination of low levels and hot weather in May and June contributed to the algae, he said.

As water levels have dropped, city council members were set to vote Wednesday on a "Phase I" water emergency in Willits. If passed, it would call for voluntary 10 percent cuts by Willits water customers.

Water levels were at 830 acre feet to start the month, and when city reservoirs drop below 830 acre feet of water at the start of August, "Phase I" is activated, a

Read the rest of **Water Cuts**  
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## County homeless rate drops 7.7 percent

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The rate of permanent homelessness has dropped slightly in Mendocino County over the past two years, according to a recently published "Point In Time" report on homelessness presented to the board of supervisors Tuesday.

According to the report, field researchers found on January 24 some 1,344 people were without a permanent place to live in the county. That number included 175 people living temporarily in a motel, halfway house, institution or jail, and 1,169 people who were living outdoors.

The 2013 total was 7.7 percent less than the 2011 total of 1,456.

In addition to performing the raw count, researchers also performed a survey of 418 homeless people. Of those who answered the survey, 293 were "homeless alone," while 56 were members of 27 homeless families.

Sixty-three of those surveyed were male

Read the rest of **Homeless**  
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Enjoying the new teak tables in front of the center

Photos by Maureen Moore



## Checking out the Campus

With the first day of school just days away on August 19, a few students eagerly checked out the interior of the new North County Center of Mendocino College, particularly enjoying the spacious learning commons inside and the landscaped courtyard outside.

The center's Grand Opening celebration is set for September 11.

Left: Stephanie Duran reads in the student lounge area; below: Jorge Alvarez, Eva Alvarez, Stephanie Duran, Yasmin Acevedo and Adalyd Gonzalez practice studying in the North County Center's new learning commons



## Coho salmon seen in Ryan Creek

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A small clutch of juvenile coho salmon have been seen in Ryan Creek, a tributary of the Eel River some four miles north of Willits. The coho were observed by Scott Harris, a fisheries biologist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Coho salmon are rare in the Eel River basin, and these few fish could represent the start of a new brood year for the species.

According to data provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service's Draft Restoration Plan for Coho Salmon in the Southern Oregon-Northern California Evolutionarily Significant Unit, fewer than 100 coho salmon currently live in the Eel River basin above the river's South Fork. That estimate is based on data collected between 1989 and 1999.

Harris downplayed his sighting. Currently, "it means absolutely nothing... just because you see a few fish in a tiny creek that flows

Read the rest of **Coho**  
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## Candidates set for November election

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All incumbents for all Willits area board seats up for election this November have decided to run again.

Current Little Lake Fire Department representatives, Patrick Charlson and Tom Herman, have both filed for reelection, and as the only two candidates to file for two seats, will be appointed without an elections contest.

The Little Lake Fire Protection District has placed a tax measure on the November 5 ballot, asking fire district voters to approve an additional \$14-per-unit annual levy to build a new firehouse.

Five candidates have filed for three seats on the Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors, so that election will be on the ballot this fall. Three incumbents, George Skezas, Tony Orth, and Rick Williams, have all filed for reelection, as have two challengers who have

Read the rest of **Election**  
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## A second Willits Cemetery blaze

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Firefighters extinguished two small blazes Tuesday, including one in the same part of the Willits Cemetery as a July 13 fire.

Willits, Brooktrails and CalFire firefighters responded to two separate fires at about 1 pm that afternoon, a "suspicious" fire at the Willits Cemetery that threatened a nearby neighborhood, and an apparent electrical fire at a Brooktrails residence.

Pepperwood Road residents reported the new cemetery blaze a month to the day after the first fire.

"Three structures in the [Pepperwood Road] area were threatened, and that's where we put our engine," said Little Lake Fire Department Deputy Chief John Thomen.

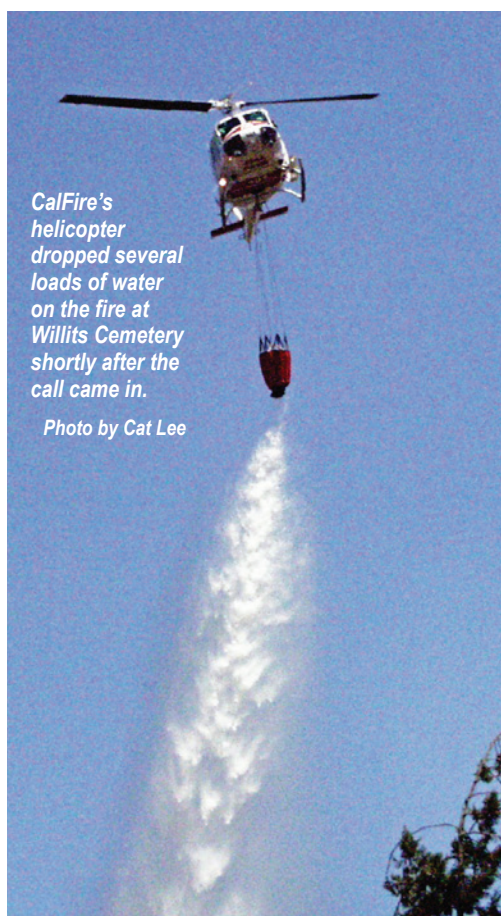
At approximately 1:22 pm, he said, "we received a call for a smoke check," which was followed up shortly by a "wildland fire" call.

Residents of at least two of the three homes threatened on Pepperwood Road called in the incident.

Michele Johnson, reportedly the first to call in the "smoke," said she was "grateful she was home" and able to "catch it early."

Pepperwood Road resident Bob Hall also called in the fire, according to his wife, Debbie LeSeur-Hall, and was told firefighters already were en route. LeSeur-Hall said her husband was ready to make a quick evacuation, but when he saw how quickly firefighters responded and got the fire under

Read the rest of **Fire**  
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CalFire's helicopter dropped several loads of water on the fire at Willits Cemetery shortly after the call came in.

Photo by Cat Lee













# Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Above: Cloverbud members receive their first- and second-year gifts.

At right: Exhibitors who received market and breeding awards pose for a group photo

Below left: 4-H leader Shanna Braught shows off her club's market checks. Below right: Sue Clark hands the Randy Clark Memorial Trophy to 2013 winner Monica Galliani.

Photos by Maureen Moore  
See more fair photos soon online at  
<http://photographress.zenfolio.com/ref2013>



## Exhibitor Awards

Youth recognized for showmanship, animals and more

Sunday on Redwood Empire Fair weekend is the day for relaxing and enjoying the last day of a long week filled with fair-time fun. The auction, showmanship classes, decorating and cleaning of stalls, anticipating, grooming, showing and more are all over, and all that's left is to attend the awards ceremony, break camp and head home.

Awards are handed out for junior building entries, champion market and breeding animals, sportsmanship, clean stalls, and the prestigious Round Robin showmanship winners.

There were two Willits kids who raised Grand Champion market animals: 4-H's Keely Ahnders in rabbits and FFA's Nick Novo in poultry. Willits FFA also won the award for the FFA Champion Market Pen of Three Lambs.

Laytonville's Mady Braught also won for Long Valley 4-H; she took the award for Reserve Grand Champion steer with her animal, who was bred, born and raised on the Braughts' family farm.

Owners of Grand Champion breeding animals also are recognized on awards day, and two of those owners hailed from the north county.

Emma Braught of Long Valley 4-H was the owner of the Grand Champion breeding meat goat, and Grant Forrester of Willits 4-H was the owner of the Best in Show rabbit.

Willits' Sue Clark also presented two special sheep awards during the ceremony. The Windswept Ranch Perpetual Trophy, sponsored by Chuck Ream, went to the Grand Champion market lamb and exhibitor Chayton Johnson of Potter Valley FFA. Monica Galliani of Potter Valley 4-H, the winner of the Supreme Champion Ewe, received the Randy Clark Memorial Perpetual Trophy.

"Randy Clark is remembered as someone who loved his ranch, his sheep, his cattle and the excitement and camaraderie of the Redwood Empire Fair. He participated

as both a member of 4-H and FFA," read the emcees. "His death on February 16, 2002 at the age of 21 leaves a large void in our lives. We thank Chuck Ream for sponsoring this award in Randy's memory."

The Round Robin showmanship results are always the most anticipated of the awards ceremony. There are two categories: Small Animal, which includes rabbit, cavy, pygmy goat, dog and poultry, and Large Animal, which includes beef, horse, sheep, meat goat, dairy goat and swine.

Competitors, all first-place winners in their original species, then must show all the animals in their respective group during Round Robin. The one exhibitor who does the best overall in their division wins the blue ribbon and an embroidered jacket sponsored by Bob and Shirley Dempel.

In 4-H Small Animal, first place went to Colton Pinson of Redwood Valley Calpella 4-H, second to Cameron Ramos of Ukiah Shamrock 4-H, third to Natya Cauckwell of Long Valley 4-H, fourth to Clair Moyes of Willits 4-H, and fifth to Natalie Horrocks of Redwood Valley Calpella 4-H.

For FFA, first place went to Jessica Crowhurst of Potter Valley FFA, second to Arnutto Vargas of Kelseyville FFA, and third went to Esmeralda Espinoza of Anderson Valley FFA.

In 4-H Large Animal, first place went to Caitlyn Forrester of Willits 4-H, second to Julie Brown of Potter Valley 4-H, third to Madison Forrester of Willits 4-H, fourth to Sofia Evans of Anderson Marsh 4-H, fifth to Trenton Williams of Redwood Valley Calpella 4-H, and sixth to Gracie Silva of Long Valley 4-H.

For FFA, first place went to Jessica Crowhurst of Potter Valley FFA, second to Chayton Johnson of Potter Valley FFA, third to Jacob Crowhurst of Ukiah FFA, fourth to Taylor Delbar of Potter Valley FFA, and fifth to Ashley Edwards of

Covelo FFA.

Four members were recognized for their sportsmanship: Tate Campbell, Rhiana Peart, Ashley Edwards and Casey Looney. Campbell of Long Valley 4-H was chosen as the sportsmanship winner.

"Tate's swine did not make weight, so he chose not to bring it," explained the emcees. "However he has been up every morning helping anyone and everyone clean out their pens, sweeping, and doing whatever is asked of him. He has helped the primary members with their rabbits and pygmy goats, and helped get hogs in and out of the arena. He is overall the definition of this award. You are an inspiration to all of us. Congratulations."

Two leaders/advisors who were nominated for 2013 were also recognized at the ceremony, including Advisor of the Year Mike Moore of Potter Valley FFA and Leader of the Year Nadine Boer of Ukiah Shamrocks 4-H.

Willits 4-H Sheep Project was the overall winner of the Clean Stall Award, and also took home species-specific banners for the 4-H Poultry and 4-H Sheep Pens. Covelo FFA won for the FFA Beef, and Long Valley 4-H won for the 4-H Rabbit Pens.

Since many of the shows take place during the week, awards were handed out at the conclusion of those shows. Winners were recognized at the ceremony again and included north county members Natya Cauckwell of Long Valley 4-H for winning Dog Obedience 4-H Novice B and Dog Advanced Showmanship; Caitlyn Forrester of Willits 4-H for winning Champion Mare; Gracie Silva of Long Valley 4-H for winning Champion Gelding; Lilah Garman of Willits 4-H for winning Champion Pony; Gracie Silva of Long Valley 4-H for winning Reserve Overall High Point 9-13; and Madison Forrester of Willits 4-H for winning Overall High Point 9-13.

- Maureen Moore

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