

# Willits Weekly

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## Four school board incumbents all file for reelection

Filing deadline August 9

Jennifer Poole

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Five candidates for four seats on the Willits school board have – so far – filed for the November election, including all four incumbents.

Board chair Cynthia Carni, and trustees Bob Harper, Alex Bowlds and Chris Neary have all filed for reelection to the board of trustees. Laurie Harris, who has listed “parent” as her designation for the ballot, has also filed to run. So, with at least five candidates filing for four seats on the board, there will be an actual school board election in November, with voters choosing four candidates to serve on the board.

The list of candidates for all offices in the November election is Wednesday’s draft list, cautioned Assistant Voter Registrar Katrina Bartolomie, and

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**Election**  
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## Finance Committee: Sewer funds

should be used to help close deficit

The city should use sewer fund cash to close three funds with a \$542,717 combined deficit left over from the sewer plant project, the City Finance Committee recommended Monday.

Zack Cinek

Reporter  
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The city opened funds for an EPA grant, a Small Communities Wastewater grant and USDA money when it earned the EPA grant in 2002, a report from the

finance director stated.

The USDA fund holds a deficit of about \$293,000 in administration and overhead costs charged to the project, according to the report.

The committee also was looking an estimated \$520,000 shortfall in the Small Communities Wastewater grant fund.

City Hall can close out the funds for good if the recommendation passes a full Willits City Council vote. But first, a stray invoice from Willits-based SHN consulting is needed so it can be submitted to the USDA.

“We do not have down to the penny an exact dollar amount,” Finance Director Joanne Cavallari noted.

The committee recommended using the sewer fund’s unrestricted cash. That fund totals about \$2.4 million. But

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**Sewer**  
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At left: Willits FFA's Nick Novo shows off one of his Grand Champion poultry pen birds in the auction ring. Below: Willits 4-H's Claire Moyle poses with her hog's buyer, Mike Griggs, Sr. of Sparetime Supply

## Battles of the Paddles

Junior Livestock Auction totals over \$500,000 dollars for 242 lots

Below: Potter Valley 4-H's Mady Braught of Laytonville poses with her Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer; right: Willits FFA's Ashley Persico smiles with her market lamb while waiting to show

Photos by Maureen Moore



Prices were soaring at this year's Redwood Empire Fair Junior Livestock Auction, held Saturday at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Bidders were bidding wonderfully on the sale's 242 lots to help support the kids. This year, the auction total reached \$552,026. An amazing achievement indeed.

One of the highlights was Willits FFA's Nick Novo, who received a check for \$4,000 for his Grand Champion poultry pen. Novo's two birds were the

Read the rest of  
**Auction**  
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## Traffic headache

East Hill Road closed weekdays through mid-October

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Traffic on Highway 101 in Willits appears to have increased noticeably this week since bypass contractor DeSilva Gates closed a section of East Hill Road to through traffic on Monday. Signs went up last Thursday, announcing the road would be closed from 7 am to 7 pm through October 15.

“I think that because East Hill Road is the ‘local’s bypass,’ that’s why we’re seeing such increased traffic on Highway 101,” Mayor Holly Madrigal told Willits Weekly Wednesday afternoon. “It highlights how badly we need another north/south road through town.”

Monday’s southbound traffic backup was expected, as attendees at Reggae on the River made their way home from French’s Camp in Humboldt County. Southbound traffic was backed up well north

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**Traffic**  
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## WPD establishes drop-off box for old medications

Willits-area residents now can drop off old, unwanted prescription medications at a Willits Police Department collection box.

The box “provides a legal and environmentally-safe way to dispose of unwanted prescription medications,” according to Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzales.

“Leftover medications in the home can be a health risk to children or an invitation to abuse by others,” warns Mike Sweeny, general manager of the Mendocino Solid Waste management Authority, which is co-sponsoring the drop-off program with the WPD. “If flushed down the toilet, old medications and pollute waterways and harm marine life.”

To use the police department disposal box, first empty pills into a plastic bag, Gonzales says. The prescription bottle should be discarded with ordinary trash.

The self-service disposal box is installed outside the police department’s front door at 125 East Commercial Street.

“The old medications will be collected by the HazMobile household hazardous waste program and destroyed in a high-temperature incinerator,” Sweeney notes.

The HazMobile also accepts old medications at its regular collections in Willits and Ukiah. The HazMobile collection schedule is posted at [www.MendoRecycle.org](http://www.MendoRecycle.org),

Read the rest of  
**Meds**  
Over on Page 9

## Tax sharing agreement on pause

The board of supervisors probably will hold a workshop on the current status of the tax sharing agreement between the county and the City of Ukiah within the next month, according to Second District Supervisor John McCowen.

Mike A'Dair

Reporter  
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Currently there is no agreement between Ukiah and Mendocino County, although, such an agreement has been sought off and on for the past 30 years, McCowen says.

A tax sharing agreement was very close to being finalized late last year, he noted, after a series of meetings between a county ad hoc committee and City of Ukiah staff.

In fact, following a December 6, 2012, meeting, McCowen thought an agreement was close, but the Ukiah team backed away from it at a December 17 meeting.

Two of the key points of disagreement are what exactly the revenue split will be and what kind of business revenues will be subject to it.

The county wants a 50-50 split on all revenue increases over the base year from both new and existing businesses.

The city favors a 60-40 split on revenues from new

Read the rest of  
**Tax**  
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## Bypass 360:

A 360-degree view down to 101 from the east side of the freeway at the south end of the bypass project. See more on Page 3

Photo by Maureen Moore













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## Soccer camp

British coaches share their love of 'football'



Becky Button  
Contributing Writer

Challenger Sports brought their British soccer camp to our community.

"Austin Powers, are you ready?" the coach called out in his crisp British accent.

"Groovy, baby. Yeah!" A dozen children responded, followed by a saucy, hip-swiveling move before they charged across the field giggling, passing soccer balls and dodging orange cones.

The upbeat coaches, Ben Farmar and

Willits kids got a visit from across the pond last week, when

Challenger Sports brought their British soccer camp to our community.

"Austin Powers, are you ready?" the coach called out in his crisp British accent.

"Groovy, baby. Yeah!" A dozen children responded, followed by a saucy, hip-swiveling move before they charged across the field giggling, passing soccer balls and dodging orange cones.

The upbeat coaches, Ben Farmar and

Nick Shallow, kept the soccer drills exciting, merging favorite recess games like "freeze-tag" with soccer skills. In their version of the game, the only way to "un-freeze" a teammate was by passing the ball through their legs.

Each day, the children learned new moves, practiced skills like dribbling, passing and shooting, all while playing fun games. The coaches stressed the importance of respect and good sportsmanship during practices and scrimmages.

"They seem to be learning so much and really having a good time, too," said Carrie Winter, mother of a 7-year-old attending the

camp.

"Next year, I'd like to put all three of my kids in," she added.

The camp also provided a "Coaches Clinic" one evening for local soccer coaches to learn new tips and techniques – mostly, how to keep everything fun so the kids will want to come back for more.

The children of Willits aren't the only ones to benefit from soccer camp: for the young coaches, Farmar and Shallow, spending the summer travelling across America and sharing their love of football (or soccer, as we Yanks like to call it) has been a memorable experience.

"This has been the best summer of my life, by miles," Farmar shared. "I feel like I'm getting to see the part of America that most tourists never get to see. The real America, the heart of it."

The duo has led camps all across California, but they noticed something special about the Willits community.

"The Willits kids are excited and attentive,

and they've made our job easy because of their interest in the game," Farmar noted, adding: "There's good community spirit here, a real family feel."

According to the coaches, who recently finished leading soccer camps in bigger cities like Sacramento and Ukiah, Willits led them all in parent involvement. On the last day of camp when the teams played a mock World Cup, the bleachers were packed with parents who came to cheer their kids on.

Saprina Rodriguez, president of the Willits Youth Soccer League, said she plans to invite the Challenger crew back next year.

"I really liked the way they wove their five key points – respect, responsibility, integrity, sportsmanship and leadership – into each day's activities," Rodriguez commented, "They were teaching life skills as well as soccer techniques."

If your child missed the camp but still wants to join in the fun, there is still time to sign up for Willits Youth Soccer. Visit [www.willitsyouthsoccer.com](http://www.willitsyouthsoccer.com) for more information about teams, coaching and sponsorship.

Above left: Everyone is a winner after the final match of the "Willits World Cup"

Photo by Becky Button



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