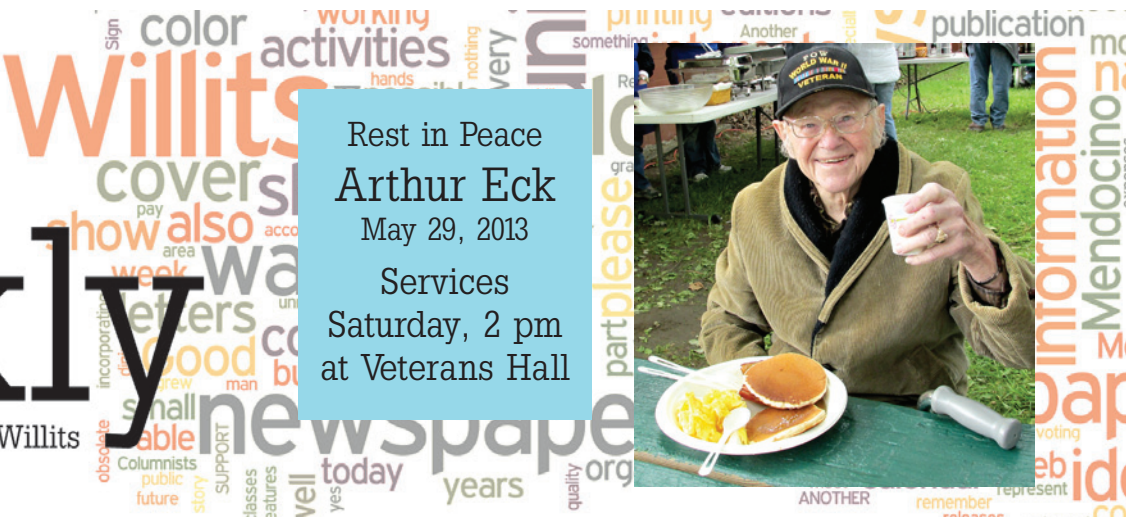


Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Online & Print



Rest in Peace
Arthur Eck
May 29, 2013
Services
Saturday, 2 pm
at Veterans Hall



Free - but donations accepted

Thursday, May 30, 2013

Edition No. 5

Council OKs Naming BGMS Gym After Tom Tilton

Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

The Willits City Council has approved naming Baechtel Grove Middle School's gymnasium after longtime instructor Tom Tilton.

The city is part owner of the gym with the school district, and the school board is set to make the naming of Tom Tilton Gymnasium official at its next meeting.

"You might consider other names, but there is no doubt in my mind that a gymnasium at that school should be named after Tom Tilton," Willits resident William Boosinger said.

Approval of the gymnasium's naming had been placed on the council's consent calendar for last week's meeting. A listing on the consent calendar meant the gym was on a list of noncontroversial items to be passed with a single vote by council members.

But Councilman Bruce Burton moved to pull the item from the consent calendar at Wednesday's meeting.

Burton said the city may consider in-house research to not pass over others who have taught for 40 years in Willits schools.

"They all should have something named after them," Burton said. "There is no bad choices."

City Hall filled with Willits residents for talks about the use of by freeway contractors, and several

Read the rest of
Tilton
Over on Page 11



Memorial Day Celebration



The Rec Grove in Willits was a little damp last Sunday morning, but it did not rain, and the weather got better as the Memorial Day celebration went on.

The four finalists of the Chamber of Commerce's 32nd annual Classic Car Show were announced after 17 plaques sponsored by local businesses and individuals were given out. The Best of Show 2013 award went to a beautiful 1938 Chevy Cabriolet, owned by Craig Cherry of Rohnert Park, painted a gorgeous "1967 Cadillac Fire Mist Green."

The Mayor's Choice award (picked by Holly Madrigal) went to a 1940 Ford pickup owned by Mike and Janette Brown of Rohnert Park, painted a metallic tangerine orange and root beer brown. The Police Chief's Choice award (picked by Chief Gerry Gonzalez) went to a 1966 Chevy Chevelle Super Sport, owned by Dan Pallo of Petaluma, painted black. The Fire Chief's choice (picked by Chief Carl Magann) went to a 1953 Chevy pick-up owned by Dave Tomes of Willits, painted bright red.

Top: Owners Jacquelin Septon and Cam Tyler pose with their Gran Torino on display at the car show

Left: American Legion Post #174 displays the flags during the Memorial Day ceremony

Left bottom: Bagpipe player Jeff Whitby poses with wife, Terry, before his performance

Below: Just one of the many classic cars on display at the show

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



Caltrans Use of City Streets

Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

City council members and the community exchanged opinions Wednesday about use of city streets by freeway contractors as construction of the Willits bypass continues.

"They have been doing it now for 2.5 months without proper authorization," said Councilwoman Madge Strong, who brought the agreement to the council last week.

"I think it is time to preliminarily get this out in the open," Strong said.

Some residents are also upset about what they say is a lack of transparency by a committee formed to negotiate use of city streets during freeway construction in Little Lake Valley.

The ad hoc committee is chaired by councilmen Bruce Burton and Ron Orenstein, who were appointed by Mayor Holly Madrigal to the committee.

Willits resident David Parch said he was concerned about a letter sent by the committee during negotiations with Caltrans.

"That information should have been made public with your ad hoc report," Parch said, claiming it should have come before the council.

Burton said there have been talks with Caltrans to use other projects to compensate for the use of city streets during bypass construction. "Those are our tools," he said. "That is what we are trying to negotiate with."

Read the rest of
Streets
Over on Page 11

Save Our Skunk

Online campaign to raise \$300,000 needed to clear tunnel and get train back to Willits side

Fans of the historic Skunk Train have started donating money – over \$20,000 in less than a week – as the railroad moves to overcome a tunnel cave in just east of the railroad's Fort Bragg headquarters.

Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

As soon as \$300,000 can be raised, the Skunk Train hopes to clear the caved-in tunnel and send an unoccupied "ghost train" through.

Sending a "ghost train" through Tunnel No. 1 means a train can operate east of the tunnel, so train rides may resume at the Willits Depot at that time.

Chief Skunk Robert Pinoli told Willits City Council members last week he has hopes for trains to be coming and going from Willits.

A Christmas Train operating from Willits does good business for the railroad during the holidays. "That business far surpasses anything the Fort Bragg side can do during

that time period," Pinoli said.

At the council meeting, Willits resident Judi Berdis spoke about the appearance of the Willits Depot that also houses Willits Chamber of Commerce offices, calling the fence "off-putting."

"I would plead that you remove the fence, and would be really happy to help fundraise for your tunnel clearance," said Berdis.

To raise money for repairing Tunnel No. 1, about 3.5 miles east of Fort Bragg, the Skunk now accepts donations through gofundme.com.

Pinoli says the work would include stabilizing the crown or ceiling of the tunnel with a layer of shotcrete, and clearing out debris.

Today's excursions through the woods began when Timber baron Charles R. Johnson of the Union Lumber Company built the line in 1885 to extract redwood logs from area timberlands.

See www.gofundme.com/SaveOurSkunk for more information and to donate.

Brooktrails board reschedules letter of concern

Brooktrails directors Tuesday night delayed a vote to approve a draft letter expressing concerns they have about the Willits bypass.

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Instead, the board heard comments from the public about the bypass, and directed staff to continue to work on the letter and bring it back for further consideration at the board's June 11 meeting.

Brooktrails Director Tim Ramming explained that board members only received copies of the letter late Tuesday afternoon and so had no time to study it.

The draft letter notes several areas of concern held by "residents of Brooktrails and surrounding communities," saying those concerns "merit review and action by the California Department of Transportation."

Those concerns include, but are not limited to, possible threats to endangered species, a Wetlands Mitigation Plan that is not fully funded, a possible negative impact to Little Lake Valley groundwater from proposed wick drains, the loss of productive agricultural land, an increase in

the area's carbon footprint, and noise and air pollution.

About 15 members of the public attended the meeting. Several, including Freddie Long, Marilyn Boosinger and Jane McCabe, accused the board of being naive in trusting Caltrans.

"Caltrans has been shuckin' and jivin' for decades," Boosinger said. "On every level, they have rolled over local concerns in every area they can. They are not concerned with Willits, much less Brooktrails."

McCabe pointed out Caltrans has not kept its promises. Initially, she said, Caltrans promised local ranchers they would be permitted to graze animals on mitigation lands, but later tried to jettison that promise. She reminded board members Caltrans promised the City of Willits its contractors would build a haul road to move heavy equipment and construction materials, but now those contractors are using Willits city streets.

John Wagenet opined it was unlikely a letter from the Brooktrails board of directors

Read the rest of
Brooktrails
Over on Page 11

Another step forward!

As savvy #NameThatPlace players on Facebook – and those who enjoy Eggs Benny or a tasty latte already know – Willits Weekly is happy to announce the arrival of eight beautiful newspaper boxes, ready to be let loose on Willits streets.

Two boxes are currently out as of last Thursday: one in front of Ardella's Downtown Diner and the other between the lanes at Brewed Awakening. The fresh black paint and bold white logos on the boxes reflect the quality of Willits Weekly, and we are excited about getting the others out at preapproved locations throughout town very soon.

Picking up the papers out of the boxes is just like getting them from local businesses; they are offered free of charge, but any and all donations are greatly appreciated. The boxes do not feature coin operation, so anyone wishing to help contribute to the paper is welcome to send in checks to P.O. Box 1698 or to drop off donations at our table at the Willits Farmers Market from 3 to 6 pm on Thursdays at City Park.

Thanks to the local gentleman who donated the boxes, and to those who helped get them out: John Pilatti, who also assists in our weekly delivery efforts, replaced rusty screws and cleaned the boxes; Christopher Moore helped with transportation and delivery of the boxes; and Jeff Spence of Kustoms by Spence donated his labor to paint the boxes. Maureen Moore designed the logos, which were cut into vinyl donated by Tim Ramming, and new pristine Plexiglas was donated, cut and drilled by the boys at Round Tree Glass.

The creation and delivery of these boxes is an exciting step into the next realm of the newspaper business for us, and we are very excited to announce the next bit of our highly anticipated and requested good news to you soon.

Cheers to good things to come, to all of the businesses' support, and to all of you with your enthusiasm, encouragement and excitement for Willits' new independent newspaper, Willits Weekly.

More beautiful Willits Weekly newspaper boxes will be on streets soon!



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Who you callin' naïve?

Last Wednesday, the city council discussed contractors' use of city streets to transport construction materials for the bypass project.

The relinquishment agreement includes a clause from the city: "restricting the contractor from using city streets to haul construction materials without specific prior approval of the CITY." Wednesdays' council meeting had a full house, with audience members opposed not only to the contractors using city streets, but also to the bypass in general; making it pretty predicable what direction the conversation would take.

The speakers' general theme was that the city council should simply impose the conditions of the relinquishment agreement, insisting contractors don't use the streets, with the naïve expectation the contractors would just comply. If only!

The term "naïve" was directed by some speakers at certain members of the city council, implying we were being naïve when dealing with Caltrans. This assertion is ironic, considering the speakers' belief the contractors would not use the streets just because we said so.

Several speakers stated that Caltrans is the big dog, and we – the city - are helpless in the face of such power, leaving unanswered the question of how they think the city council should deal with Caltrans.

Members of the public can use all sorts of civil disobedience tactics to get their way: sit in trees, chain themselves to construction equipment, protest and lay down in front of vehicles. At best, these tactics are annoying, merely delaying the project for a few days, ultimately ending when the CHP removes the protestors and takes them to jail for a few hours. Aside from brief exposure in the press, there is no long-term effect on the project.

Of course, the city can't use these tactics if we wanted to, not if we want to be taken seriously. Protesters have a relatively simple task: protest, make their presence known, get some publicity, insist on having it all their way, and never, ever worry about or consider what others might want. If the others don't agree with their position, not their worry!

Unfortunately, the city council can't use this simplistic approach. We need to always take the broad view: what's best for the majority of the people we work for and answer to, and what is the ramification of any action we take.

There are several ways for the city to get something from other parties: enforcement, including legal action – not always a guaranteed outcome, or negotiation with the parties to arrive at a mutually beneficial agreement. To some, this might be a no-brainer; according to many in the audience on Wednesday, all we had to do was to enforce the agreement!

Sounds simple, but because the speakers weren't concerned about how to make this happen – not their job – they missed the finer points of the issue.

First off, city streets are public streets, for use by any legal vehicle regardless of who it belongs to, and because of this it's not certain a court would automatically uphold our enforcement of the agreement. And it surely wouldn't be inexpensive! Our streets are regularly used by several

local companies to ship and receive materials and merchandise. In fact, one of those companies hauls truckloads of concrete on city streets almost every day, and is the apparent provider of concrete to the bypass project; a financial windfall to the local economy and local jobs.

I suppose the council could commission a lengthy, expensive study to support an emergency ordinance banning trucks hauling bypass construction materials on city streets, but that would require inspecting every truckload to determine if the cargo was going to the bypass or to some other customer. Complicated, expensive and a little draconian: picture Checkpoint Charlie, the border crossing between West and East Berlin. Armed guards? Tanks?

A better solution is to talk to the parties; you know, actually sit down at a table with "the enemy" and have a civil, respectful conversation about the needs of all parties. By "sitting at the table", we maintain a presence, with the likelihood of getting what we want.

Many of the folks who spoke at the city council meeting believed we made a mistake in signing the relinquishment agreement, that we should have just demanded everything we wanted. The fact is Caltrans really didn't need a relinquishment agreement with the city, but having one made it a little cleaner. If we had refused to negotiate and sign it - to sit at the table, so to speak - Caltrans could have simply turned Main Street over to the city after the bypass was completed, along with whatever money they may want to offer. If any!

You might be unaware Caltrans originally offered a sum of money to the city to repair Main Street after relinquishment. The amount offered was \$4 or \$5 million, many times more than Caltrans historically offered to cities for relinquishment, but that amount was not guaranteed. The agreement Caltrans offered stated the CTC would make the final determination of the amount of money to be paid to the city based on the "best interest of the State of California". So even if we signed an agreement for several million dollars, there was no guarantee we would ever receive it. And if we had refused to sign an agreement, Caltrans would do what it wanted.

In the end, the agreement we signed has Caltrans making all repairs to Main Street, removing a lot of uncertainty and future liability from the city.

The simple fact is that everyone needs something from this deal: if the city insisted on forcing the contractor to build a haul road, and if the city were to prevail in court, the contractor would spend a lot of money for legal expenses, permits and construction of the haul road. They have a lot of time and money at stake, so it's not unreasonable to expect them to pay the city to eliminate this expense as compensation to the city and its citizens for the increased impact on the city streets due to the bypass project.

A suit filed by four environmental organizations will be heard in June, with one of two possible outcomes: either Caltrans will lose and be compelled to stop or modify the project to the plaintiffs' demands, or Caltrans will win the suit. In the first outcome, Caltrans will comply with the court order. But if Caltrans wins, what will bypass opponents do? Comply or continue to defy?

'Death and Dying' workshop a success

Thank you to the participants, presenters, helpers, donors and others who were behind-the-scenes angels for the "Are You Ready?" Resourcing Day for Death and Dying.

We had 80-plus participants, who filled the Willits Methodist Church with their expertise, information and enthusiasm on a sunny Saturday, May 4. There were participants from the coast, and from Sebastopol to Eureka. We also thank Pastor Rosemary Landry, who also attended.

Carlin Diamond and Sienna Stone saw their dream fulfilled for an outreach to our community with more information about the options for caring for our loved ones after death.

Special appreciation to the panel and workshop leaders: Robin Cottrell, Norman de Vall, Robin Goldner, Margy Henderson, Roland Hulstein, Kitty Norris, Miriam Raphael, Bill Ray, Spring Senerchia, Maureen Taylor, Barry Vogel, Maggie Watson and Annette Wilson. Thank you for your presentations, brochures and other informative handouts to further our education.

Special thanks to Hollis Rose and Sarah Schuyler for preparing and printing a resource pamphlet for all participants. And special thanks for the lovely singing and atmosphere the Threshold Singers provided for us throughout the day.

Andy Wright has made DVDs of the morning panel and will make a copy for you for \$10 per DVD, plus postage. Contact him at cut-print@earthlink.net or 354-2632.

Special thanks to Willits Weekly, The Willits News and KZYX, and all the individual networkers for going the extra mile to inform our community about this event.

Three women stand out as a trio of behind-the-scenes workers who need to be individually identified: Beth Riedel, Sue Short and Yvonne Winter. Thank you for your insight, advance preparation and creative input with planning, setup and cleanup after all was done. You all three negotiated the intricacies of the day with superb grace. It couldn't have been done without your generous help and great attitude... At least it wouldn't have been as much fun.

Other significant helpers along the way: Osa, Reba Johnson, Karina MacAbee, Jeff Judson, Sparetime Supply, Mariposa Market, Maluma Crone, Dot Brovarney, Bill White, Jed Diamond and Jerri-Jo Idarius.

If I missed your name, please know your contribution to the totality of the event is greatly appreciated.

Our hope was to offer information and continued networking, and to help people face and deepen their feelings about this most sensitive event we all have to face in our lives many times over. We feel this was a step in the right direction for us all. Thank you for being such a generous part of this process.

If you missed this event and want to be on our mailing list, please send your email to carlinvii@aol.com, or call 459-4850.

Sienna Stone and Carlin Diamond
Willits

Ron Orenstein
Willits

Read the rest of
Letters | Over on Page 9

Willits Weekly
A Strategic & Bold Face of Community and Life in Willits

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

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The Rules: COMMUNITY NEWS

Community News: Willits Weekly welcomes articles about community news, events and activities. Each week's deadline is end of day Monday for Thursday's edition.

Please send community news articles via email: willitsweekly@gmail.com. Community news may also be mailed to: Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits 95490, but email is preferred.

Make sure to include a contact name and phone number. If you're sending digital photographs to accompany your article, high-resolution photos are best. Call 459-2633 with any questions about submitting community news.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits

COLUMN | Well Mannered Mutts



LLFD's antique fire engine rolls down Main Street during last year's Fourth of July parade

Photo by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

LLFD Open House

Support your local volunteers at the Little Lake Firefighters Open House



Coming up next week is an opportunity for Willits residents to say thank you to the 40 volunteer firefighters of the Little Lake Firefighters' Association – and an opportunity to win some big raffle prizes, too.

The 87th annual Little Lake Firefighters' Association's Fundraiser & Open House is set for Saturday, June 8, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Little Lake Fire District Main Station, 74 East Commercial Street.

Adults and children can enjoy firehouse tours by uniformed volunteer firefighters, firefighting apparatus on display, and rides in restored antique fire engines. A light lunch will be available in the firehouse.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each, and one free raffle ticket is given to each person who comes to the Open House between 10 and 11 am. The raffle drawing is held at 1 pm, and ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

Raffle prizes include a big flat screen TV supplied by the Willits Outlet store; two \$500 gift certificates donated by Sparetime Supply;

25 gallons of propane donated by Proflame of Willits; a BBQ donated by Coast Hardware; a Stihl 170 chainsaw donated by Willits Power Equipment; a \$200 gift card for the World Champion San Francisco Giants and a \$50 gasoline gift card to get you there; and two oil changes donated by Auto Mart Auto Repair.

Proceeds from the fundraiser are used to purchase specialized equipment, to provide the most current training and education for volunteer firefighters, and to fund other vital activities.

Other activities include the announcement of the winner of the Little Lake Fire Protection District's logo design contest, as well as a blood drive with Blood Centers of the Pacific. The bloodmobile will be at the station from 10 am to 2 pm. To schedule an appointment (each donor will receive an SF Giants T-shirt), visit www.bloodheroes.com, click "donate blood" and enter Sponsor Code "WillitsFire." For raffle tickets or more information, call 459-6271.

Dog Parks: There's an app for that

I have a love-hate relationship with dog parks. I love the idea that my dog can go to a location, run off leash, sniff around, investigate and do what dogs do.

It's even better when he can meet up with friendly canine buddies and run with a small pack.

I don't like dog parks when there are dogs there that I am just not sure of. It goes without saying, not all dogs get along. Some dogs get along with dogs only of the opposite sex, some dogs like dogs that are smaller than they are. And sometimes we just don't know why our dog does not like a specific dog.

Most people aren't aware that most dog play has its roots in aggression, predation and courtship. This is just how it is in the dog world. How a dog sees another dog is usually with mild interest, a possible threat or a challenge. In any given situation, a dog tries to figure out if he is above in status or below. There isn't equality in the canine social structure. This is why it is a good idea to have play dates with dogs that are known to get along. They usually have already established a pecking order.

Then there are the people. Some people know their dogs very well. They can read their dog's actions like a book. They are very aware of dog body language and know the signs/signals to be on the lookout for. They are diligent in watching the interactions and ready to step in. But sometimes you get the less informed person who doesn't catch the signals or isn't paying close attention. They may be under the impression that the dogs will work out any disagreements. This is when everything can go south in a second.

If I could give any advice about dog parks, it would be to read the energy level of the dogs and people already there. Be willing to turn around and leave as soon as you arrive if you feel the mix isn't healthy.

Once inside the park, stay with your dog as they wander around. Don't think this is a time to disengage and take a break. Be vigilant. Watch your dog as if they are a human toddler. Do not allow your dog to block the entrance when a new dog arrives to the park. Call your dog back to you frequently. Be close by when dogs meet. If your dog engages a behavior you don't like, place him in a timeout or remove him.

For those of you with iPhones, there is the "Dog Park Assistant" app by Sue Sternberg. This app has very useful information, pictures and video clips on acceptable and unacceptable dog to dog interaction. It does a wonderful job detailing and explaining to the average dog owner what subtle and not so subtle behaviors mean.

There are several examples demonstrating dog behavior the dog owner should be aware of. Examples include low-risk mirroring, where the dogs literally mirror each other's movements, moderate-risk hard stares, raised hackles or hard physical contact, and high-risk behavior such as neck and throat fixation. Then there are examples of red alert behavior, such as group chasing, pinning, and examples of dogs trying to hide and escape. By studying the information on this app, you can be better prepared to have a happier dog park visit.

Sallie Palmer is a Certified Dog Trainer and a member of the International Association of Canine Professionals and the Association of Humane Dog Training and an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Evaluator. She offers private & group dog training, behavior consultation and dog events. For more information about Sallie, go to www.wellmanneredmutts.com.

Throwing the Bones

Peter Onstad at WCA

Artist-painter Peter Onstad will show his recent paintings, a series titled "Throwing the Bones," at the Willits Center for the Arts through the month of June, with an opening reception this Saturday, from 6 to 9 pm, featuring jazz by the Dorian May Quartet.

Onstad said the paintings in this series, which he's been working on for three years, "are a culmination of my painting and life experience."

"I refer to these paintings as expressionistic abstractions," Onstad said.

"I equate the paintings with existentialism and jazz. I avoid formula. Each painting is unique in its own space in time - not necessarily sounding off the previous painting - improvisational like jazz can be.

"Color relationships as well as spatial composition and balance are key concerns," he said. "I work on a painting until a chord is struck within. I want my paintings to be a visual and intellectual adventure and to have integrity and an offbeat beauty. I want to keep the rich tradition of painting alive."

Onstad received his M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute, where he studied with figurative painters Richard Diebenkorn and Elmer Bischoff.

Onstad's work has been shown in various galleries in the Bay Area.

Dorian May (piano) says the trio, including Dorothea May (double bass) and Tom Rickard (drums), will be providing "background ear candy" at the opening reception by playing a varied assortment of standards, jazz classics, children's tunes, hits from the 1960s and 1970s, and more, all performed "with a bluesy, classical and modern jazz edge."

"There are rumors that we may be joined by as guest musician or two sitting in," May adds.

Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 E. Commercial Street. "Throwing the Bones" will be on exhibit through June 30. Gallery hours are Thursday and Friday, 4 to 7 pm and Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1726.



Four of Peter Onstad's paintings, clockwise from top: untitled; "Abracadabra"; "Metamorphous"; and untitled.





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# Hometown Business

All about commerce, life, and the need-to-know info

## Valley Forge & Welding

If you want an airplane welded up, take it to your local blacksmith

Blacksmith Jere Kirkpatrick is welding together the fuselage of a 16-foot airplane inside his shop on East Valley Street. "It's called a Tailwind," Kirkpatrick said. The Tailwind is owned by a friend in Fort Bragg, who's putting it together from a kit approved by the Experimental Airplane Association.

**Jennifer Poole**  
Editor & Reporter  
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Kirkpatrick has worked with flying machines before. Another experimental airplane project was remaking aluminum parts to substitute for the heavy steel parts in a Subaru engine the owner was using to power the plane. "I made an aluminum oil pan, valve covers, an intake manifold and a custom exhaust system, all my own design," Kirkpatrick said.

But the Willits blacksmith's most passionate interest is in cars. "Cars come first," he said. "That's my first love. Blacksmithing is an avocation" – an avocation he's been pursuing for 40 years.

From 1963 to 1967, Kirkpatrick worked on the production line and drove for Shelby American, the maker of the Cobra, the legendary muscle car that inspired a 1964 hit song, "Hey Little Cobra," by the Rip Chords.

"The Cobra is probably *the* automobile," Kirkpatrick said. Less than 1,000 American Cobras, which combined the chassis of a two-seater English car with a powerful Ford engine, were made.

Kirkpatrick attended a 50th reunion for former Shelby employees in 2012 in Laguna Seca. "Cobras can be worth about a million bucks right now," he said. A number of original Cobras showed up at the reunion.

Asked why he didn't buy a Cobra himself back then, Kirkpatrick said: "I couldn't afford it. They were selling for \$6,000, the same as a Cadillac."

Before the fuselage project, Kirkpatrick was working on chopping the top off a 1958 Chevy Impala; next he is making parts for an Indianapolis race car engine builder who saw and liked a mud guard Kirkpatrick had designed for another vehicle.

Kirkpatrick has also built a lot of body panels for old race cars, including a panel for a 1963 Cobra being restored by the Campbell Auto Restoration Company a few years ago. "That's the kind of work I like," he said. "I hand-form different panels, cut the old panels out, and weld the new panels in, so they're part of the body."

The body panels on the old racecars are worn thin after decades of sand and rocks ricocheting off the tires and hitting the panels during high-speed races.

Back in 1982, Kirkpatrick also designed and produced the very first bicycle frame and fork for bicycle MotoCross racing in the U.S., for Webco and Diamondback.

Kirkpatrick makes a lot of his own tools for use on cars or other blacksmithing projects, and sells custom-designed tools (laser cut in Ukiah) to his fellow blacksmiths. He also teaches classes in welding and sheet metal forming.

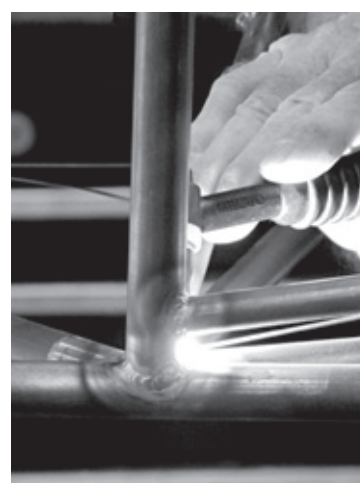
"With blacksmithing," he said, "you can take anything of a certain mass and make it into anything you want – of equal mass. A blacksmith never makes a mistake: it's merely an alteration of design."

At the back of Kirkpatrick's shop, there are piles of scrap metal and rusty parts. "When I start to make something," he said, "I go through what I have mentally to ascertain the shape I'm after. If I don't have something, my first thought is not to go buy a tool. I come out here or go to the junk store to find something that has that shape in it, that has the material I need to make the shape I want, and then I modify it until it's a usable tool for me."

Historically, the blacksmith was the most sought-after tradesman, Kirkpatrick said, because he made the tools for every other trade. "He made hammers for the carpenters; he made trowels for the masons; he made scissors for the tailors; he made spatulas, pots and pans for the cooks. The blacksmith was the king of all other trades."

But, Kirkpatrick said, the blacksmith put himself out of business during the Industrial Revolution by designing and inventing machines that did his own work faster and cheaper. But not necessarily better: the "retail" work Kirkpatrick does – including ironwork garden gates and sets of custom fireplace tools – are heirlooms which will be passed down to future generations.

To learn more, contact Valley Forge & Welding at 459-2523 or jere@saber.net.



At left: Kirkpatrick stands next to the fuselage  
Above: A welding close-up  
Below: Tools of the trade



Photos by Jennifer Poole



## Kustoms by Spence

Insurance repairs to vintage restorations

No job is too big or too small for Jeff Spence, owner of Kustoms by Spence, an auto body repair and customization shop on Shell Lane in Willits.

**Maureen Moore**  
Designer & Photographress  
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Automotive work runs in Spence's bloodlines: his grandma Annabelle Gunderson Spence once owned the Willits Motor Company and the Richfield Gas Station here in Willits, and Spence himself has 25 years of experience in the industry, 10 of them professionally. Spence moved to Willits in 2009 from Alaska, where he was also working on cars, and is now ready to offer the community high-quality auto body repair with acute attention to detail, that "doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg."

"I am able to offer great work, but am also able to help work within people's budgets," explained Spence. "We can take care of minor dings to major fixes and are happy to work with insurance companies to get people back in their cars and back on the road quickly."

A full-service, on-site paint booth, partnerships with other local industry companies, and lots of experience with metal fabrication all make



Jeff Spence stands with one of his projects (top), sprays a coat of paint in the paint booth (above) and refills his paint reservoir (below)

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



Read the rest of **Kustoms** | Over on Page 9

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# Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits

## Congratulations Column



Marissa Greene  
CLASS OF 2013

**Willits High School Graduate: Marissa Greene**

Congratulations to our daughter, Marissa Greene! Marissa is graduating from Willits High and moving to Santa Rosa to continue her education. Marissa, you bring so much love and light to our family. We are so proud of you on so many levels. You are a wonderful student, artist, sister, daughter and friend. It is our pleasure to share this moment with you! With love, Mom & Eric



## 'Sea' The Biscuit

Above: The beautiful Stud Barn with curved walls and four stalls

Historic Ridgewood Ranch opens for 2013 tour season this Saturday

Summer walking tours of the historic 5,000-acre Ridgewood Ranch are set to begin this Saturday, June 1. The docent-led tours start promptly at 9:30 am, and continue until noon.

Tours include visits to Seabiscuit's beautifully restored stud barn and the ranch's mare barn, both part of Seabiscuit owner Charles Howard's first-class thoroughbred breeding operation. The historic Craftsman-style ranch house built by William Van Arsdale in 1905 is also on the tour.

The Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation is leading efforts to have Seabiscuit's stud barn be designated as a US National Historic Site. The foundation is working with the California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation to complete the nomination process.

Tour-goers will view Seabiscuit memorabilia, including film footage of Ridgewood Ranch, scenes of Seabiscuit's 1940 homecoming, Red Pollard's wedding

and breathtaking horse racing scenes. The Lil' Biscuits, Seabiscuit's descendants, are a highlight of any visit to Ridgewood Ranch.

Tours continue on the first and third Saturdays of every month through October. Tickets are \$20; children under 11 are free. Proceeds benefit the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation's ongoing preservation efforts. Reservations are preferred: call 459-5992 or make reservations online here: <http://www.seabiscuitheritage.org/tourschedule.php>



The tack room (above top) and the grooms quarters (above right) flank each other at the north and south walls of the refurbished Stud Barn

Above left: The actual stall where Seabiscuit spent time during his years at Ridgewood Ranch.

At left: The exterior of the Stud Barn with its bright red paint and multi-paned doors

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



Lindsey, Mitzi, Mady, Colten & Linnea  
CLASS OF 2013

**Laytonville High School Graduates: Lindsey Ivasku, Mitzi Pierson, Mady Braught, Colten Gover and Linnea Mitchell**

Michael and Shanna Braught would like to say congratulations to all of the beautiful graduating seniors who have filled our lives with joy on an almost daily basis for the last 18 years. We love you and wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Can't wait to hear all about your adventures!



Tasia, Rockell & Casey  
CLASS OF 2013

**Willits High School Graduates: Tasia Hooks, Rockell Rutler, Casey Persico**

Congratulations on your graduation, ladies. You three have made so many so proud of the amazing women you've become, and the accomplishments you have made thus far. Keep it up. Love you girls! - Tina & Madison <3



16th Birthday Celebrator  
Brent Dunbar

**Birthday Boy: Brent Dunbar**

The family of Brent Dunbar would like to wish him a Happy 16th Birthday on June 2. We love you! Happy Birthday Bubbie!

### The Rules: CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Column: Willits Weekly is pleased to publish small congratulatory notes to locals in this column. Each week's deadline is end of day Monday for Thursday's edition, and notes should be no longer than 100 words.

Please send notes on births, engagements, weddings, milestone birthdays, job promotions and other appropriate events via email: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). They may also be mailed to: Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits 95490, but email is preferred.

If you're sending a digital photograph you'd like us to use in the paper, a high-resolution photo is best.

## SPARETIME SUPPLY

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## m•pho•tog•ra•phress

[fuh-tog-ruh-friss]

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



707-972-7047 | [maureengetsmail@gmail.com](mailto:maureengetsmail@gmail.com)





# What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

## Thursday, May 30




**Mendocino Film Festival in Willits:** "A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet," 7 pm, Noyo Theatre. Narrated by Meryl Streep, Robert Redford, and Ashley Judd, "A Fierce Green Fire" is the first big-picture look at 50 years of grassroots and global environmental activism, with vivid stories of people fighting and succeeding against enormous odds. This is the Mendocino Film Festival's first screening in Willits. Reception at 5:30 pm at Willits Arts Center, catered by The Bistro. \$15 for film and reception; \$11 for film only. Academy Award nominee, Director and producer Mark Kitchell will be present for the reception and for a Q & A following the movie to talk about every aspect of this important work on environmental activism. Advance tickets at the Noyo or online at [www.mendocinofilmfestival.org](http://www.mendocinofilmfestival.org). Film festival in Mendocino runs May 31 through June 5.

**Shanachie Pub:** a night of rock & roll with Sky Country Band. 8 pm. No cover. Based on the Central California coast, Sky Country is inspired by '60s surf rock, '70s Africa and obscure Americana realms. Visit <http://www.skycountry.bandcamp.com>

## Friday, May 31

**Shanachie Pub:** House of Love DJ Dance Party, 9 pm, no cover charge. Monthly dance party hosted by Podge featuring Justin Hale. Check out Hale's house, tech-house, electro-house and breaks here: <http://four4ths.com/dj/justinhale/>



**American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Course:** Saturday June 1 and 15 and Sunday June 2 and 16, from 8 am to 5 pm at Willits City Pool. People completing this course will hold a certificate with the Red Cross to teach all levels of swim lessons professionally. Info: 459-7125.

## Saturday, June 1

**Willits Junior Horsemen Gymkhana:** First of the season, 9 am at Willits Horsemen's Arena, E. Commercial Street. Jr. Horsemen are selling \$1 raffle tickets for a handcrafted chicken coop with redwood siding (see Willits Horsemen's Association Facebook page for photo). Contact Kathryn at

**Walking Tour of Ridgewood Ranch:** Home of Seabiscuit. 9:30 to noon. Docent-led tours \$20; children under 11 free. First tour of the season; tours continue twice a month through October. Info/reservations: 459-5992; [seabiscuit@instawave.net](mailto:seabiscuit@instawave.net), or [www.seabiscuiteritage.org/tourschedule.php](http://www.seabiscuiteritage.org/tourschedule.php).

**La Tania Flamenco Workshop:** (evening performance SOLD OUT) "Tangos por Fiesta," taught by La Tania, with Roberto Aguilar on guitar and Kina Mendez singing. 12:30 pm to 2 pm. All levels welcome. Willits Community Theatre. \$35 for the workshop. Tickets at Goods' and online <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/369154>, or by phone 707-459-0895 with credit card. Info: 459-1868.

**"Throwing the Bones":** Opening reception, 6 to 9 pm, for June exhibition at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Recent paintings by artist-painter Peter Onstad. Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday, 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 pm. Through June 30.

**Shanachie Pub:** debut of The Others Brothers, jazz/swing duo featuring Harrison Goldberg, reed man, and Scott Foster, aka "The Swingfish," on guitar. 9 pm. No cover.

**Cougar's Bass Classic:** 5th annual Willits Youth Football & Cheer fundraiser on Saturday, June 1 at Wente Scout Reservation. Two man teams in one boat, \$100 per boat and price includes barbecue meal afterwards. Check in at 6 am, contest from 7 am to 1 pm. Contestants can bring their own pre-approved boats and electric trolling motors, but no gas motors will be allowed. Life jackets required while in boat. Awards for top 5 fish weighed. For entry forms or more info: Matt at 841-7052



[kbaechtel@yahoo.com](mailto:kbaechtel@yahoo.com) or 489-6565 for info on tickets.

**Brooktrails Women's Club Craft Sale & Flea Market:** Annual sale from 8 am to 3 pm, at the Brooktrails Community Center. Crafts and a bake sale inside, and a flea market in the parking lot. Exhibition of quilts by Grandma Mavis. Funds raised go to benefit the Women's Club's scholarship program. Vendor spaces sold out.

**Grange Exchange:** Flea market and swap meet, 9 am to 1 pm, first Saturday of every month, Little Lake Grange. Buy, sell, barter and trade, \$5 a table. Check out the "free" table and breakfast tacos. Bike Clinic with Carey this month: bring your bikes to tune up or repair, buy or sell. To reserve a space, call Anna at 707-671-6995.



## Sunday, June 2

**Willits Horsemen's Playday:** 64th annual Beef Barbecue & Rodeo at the new Willits Horsemen's Arena on E. Commercial Street. Barbeque starts at 11:30 am, and the rodeo events start at 1:30 pm. \$13, kids \$5. Call Sharon Short for entry forms, 459-4505, or Walt Niesen with roping and rodeo questions, 456-0379.

**Sunday Bingo Bash:** Harrah Center; doors open 10:30 am; games begin 11:30 am. Bingo buy in \$10; also available Blackout, 3 specials. Door prizes; lunch at 11 am, 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Grateful Gleaners Spring Plant Sale:** 10 am, corner of West Mendocino and Spruce streets, beginning at 10 am. A variety of plants and starts for sale, including maples in containers donated by Mendocino Maple Nursery. Info: Karen at 459-2101.

**St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble from Russia:** 7 pm, Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, Classical Russian folk songs and spiritual songs. Free, with free will donation to help ensemble pay costs. For reservations, call 459-2855 (leave a message with your name and how many for Sunday concert).

**Sixth Annual Benefit Scramble Golf Tournament:** Brooktrails Golf Course, to benefit Adventist Christian School of Willits. A putting and chipping contest follows.



Men's Ensemble

# Ongoing Events

**Water Aerobics at Willits City Pool:** June schedule: Classes at 11 am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and at 6:15 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Pool located at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Info: Shawna at 459-7125 (message phone) or 459-5778 (pool phone).



**Farmers Market at City Park:** Every Thursday from 3 to 6 pm. Spring vegetables from area farmers plus live music, garden starts, flowers, crafts, baked goods, dinner and other edibles.

## Free Fruit Tree Workshop:

10 am to 3 pm at Brookside Farm Orchard, Spruce & Lincoln Way, behind Brookside Elementary School. Come help prepare the orchard for summer, for fresh local fruit for Willits school kids this fall: fertilizing, weed guard, mulching, irrigation installation, trunk painting. No gardening experience necessary. Supplies, materials and directions provided. Info: 459-5385x1448 or [wendycopperfield@willitsunified.com](mailto:wendycopperfield@willitsunified.com).



## Willits Kids Club

# Summer Camp 2013

Willits Kids Club Summer Camp starts on June 17 and continues for seven weeks, Monday through Friday, through August 9. Summer camp is for kids from Kindergarten through junior high. Full day, half day and hour programs are available three days a week or five days a week.

Summer camp is a safe place for kids, where they can have fun with their friends, as well as keeping up with their reading over the summer. Activities include arts & crafts, board games, swimming, cooking and gardening. Mornings at the Brookside Elementary Charter School campus, and afternoons at the Willits City Pool. Field trips to local attractions.

Various rates include: \$25/week, for 9am to 12pm only; \$60 for one week, half days; \$85 for two weeks; \$220 for two weeks of full days; and all seven weeks, prepaid. Pick up registration forms at schools or call Kristen Ferrante, 707-841-8000 or [www.willitskidsclub.org](http://www.willitskidsclub.org) for more info.



At right: Kids run and play at the club

At far right: Some of the plants in the club garden

Photos courtesy of Kris Wagner & Willits Kids Club



## The Rules: CALENDAR LISTINGS

Calendar Listings: Willits Weekly is pleased to publish calendar listings and promotional articles for Willits events and activities. Each week's deadline is end of day Monday for Thursday's edition.

Please send calendar listings and press releases via email: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Email us the electronic versions of posters or flyers you've made to publicize your event, too. Calendar listings, press releases and flyers may also be mailed to: Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits 95490, but email is preferred.

Make sure to include a contact name and phone number. If you're sending a digital photograph you'd like us to use in the paper, a high-resolution photo is best.



# OWN

\$45 for non-members and \$25 for members, includes green fees, proxy holes, barbeque lunch, and prizes.

## Tuesday, June 4

**"If Not Now, When?" series:** "Medications," Harrah Center, 6:30 to 8 pm. With presenters Dr. Jon Sterngold, physician and consultant, on poly-pharmacy: understanding and managing multiple prescription medicines; Sheila Esson, clinical pharmacist, Howard Memorial Hospital, on medications and prescriptions; Tisha Doughwaite, certified acupuncturist, homeopathic & herbal medicine practitioner, on homeopathy and plant-based medicines, choices for prevention and healing; Cassandra Andich, RN, instructor of Medical Assistance Program at the Mendocino County Office of Education, will talk about why, when and how to manage your health needs today. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826; rides: 459- 5556.



Brandi Gamble and her son Braydan compete in a past Junior Horsemen's event

See Saturday June 1 listing for more



## Saturday, June 8

**87th annual Little Lake Firefighters' Association's Fundraiser & Open House:** from 10 am to 2 pm at the Little Lake Fire District Main Station, 74 East Commercial Street. Firehouse tours by uniformed volunteer firefighters, fire apparatus on display, rides in restored antique fire engines, big raffle prizes (\$10 a raffle ticket), and the announcement of the winner of the Little Lake Fire Protection District's logo design contest. Bring your children! Light lunch available at the Firehouse. Register to participate in the district's Smoke Detector Program

**WELL's 1st annual Bicycle Show and Parade:** Bike Show starts at 10 am at City Park. Prizes awarded at 11 am: \$80 prize for Best in Show; also Best Beater Bike, Best Family Bike, Best Utility Bike, Best BMX/Low-rider Bike, Best Art Bike, Best Street/Road Bike, Best Kid's Bike. Parade starts at 11:30 am. Creative entries encouraged, but "ordinary" bike riders welcome in the parade, too. Free advice and help on bike maintenance.

**"Horton Hears A Who":** A bi-lingual musical in American Sign Language and spoken English. Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9 at 1 pm, at the Willits Shakespeare Company Tent, across from Howard Hospital. Gates open at noon. Hosted by Members of The Willits Young Actors and Mana From The Muse. Tickets \$10; \$20 for families; seniors and kids under 7 are \$5. Pre-show activities: face painting, food vendors, games and contests. Info: 707 354-2475.

## Wednesday, June 5

**Circus Workshops & Show:** Circus Workshops, by ClownSnotBombs, a non-profit community circus troupe from Berkeley. Wednesday, June 5 through Saturday, June 8, 10 am to 2 pm, at the Little Lake Grange. Workshops for all ages and skill levels: in clowning, basic acrobatics, stilt walking, unicycle and juggling. \$20 per person; \$10 each for families. Please bring sneakers and a lunch. Afternoon aerial classes at the Willits Gymnastics Center, June 5 and 6, 4:30 to 5:30 and 5:30 to 6:30 pm, \$15 a class. Parade from the Grange to the Farmers Market at City Park on Thursday, June 6, starting at 2 pm. Call Zeynep at 707-972-8558 for info and to register. More info about ClownSnotBombs: www.clownsnottombs.com. See Friday, June 7 listing for more info about the circus show.



ClownSnotBombs



Becoming One with your Inner Drum

**Becoming One with Your Inner Drum:** 1 to 3 pm at Willits Community Theatre. Pan-Global drumming workshop with six-time Grammy award nominee, percussionist Will Clipman of Coyote Jump. Bring a favorite drum and/or other percussion instruction; for all ages and skill levels. Tickets \$15, available at Goods' Shoppe and online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/382022>, or by phone 707-459-0895 with credit card.

**Coyote Jump in Concert:** 8 am, at Willits Community Theatre. Will Clipman, Savannah Jo Lack and Colin Farish present an evening of World Chamber Fusion music. Tickets at Goods' Shoppe and online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/382022>, or by phone 707-459-0895 with credit card



Coyote Jump

## Friday, June 7

**"A Spaghetti Western":** all new and original circus show by ClownSnotBombs from Berkeley at the Willits Shakespeare Company Tent, 1195 S. Main St. Followed by music by The Jaunting Martyrs. Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8 from 7 to 10 pm. "A Spaghetti Western" is a circus adventure into the absurd that follows a band of travelers as they bring the power of pasta to the western frontier, featuring acrobatics, comedy, performance art, physical theater, circus skills, and original music. The Jaunting Martyrs is a Bay Area cross-genre band "that sounds like an eastern European circus on a folky Appalachian holiday." All ages show is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets available at the door or at Paradise Juice.

## Sunday, June 9

**"Traffic, Tourists, Taxes, and Main Street":** How Will the Caltrans Bypass Change Willits? 12:30 pm at Little Lake Grange, moderated by Sheriff Tom Allman. Panelists and community discussion about the changes that the bypass may effect on: traffic congestion, city and county revenues, downtown businesses, and the economy of Willits. Free.

## North County Women in Business Network

Wednesday, June 5, monthly meeting at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street, features speaker Alison de Grassi, event coordinator for Visit Mendocino County. 8:15 to 9:30 am (stay as long as you can). \$5; first meeting is free; always free for members of the Willits Chamber of Commerce. RSVP requested to: [ncwib2012@gmail.com](mailto:ncwib2012@gmail.com) or call 459-7910 for info.

# Chaperones & donations

needed for Sober Grad party

The Willits Sober Grad Party on graduation evening – Thursday, June 13 – needs volunteer chaperones. Chaperones can volunteer for one two-hour shift or more between the start of the party at 9:30 pm Thursday night and the end of the party at 5 am Friday morning – or they can stay the whole night. "It's a lot of fun," says coordinator Joyce Waters, "and it's absolutely necessary to have chaperones, because the party can't happen without them."

You do not need to have a graduating student to chaperone, Waters said. Many of the chaperones are parents from previous years. "If you're not a night-owl," Waters says, "you can arrive at 4 am on Friday morning and help with clean-up."

Help with set-up and decoration of the Willits Community Center – and help sorting through the mounds of prizes – is also needed. The decorating crew starts at 9 am on June 13, and requires many creative hands.

Anyone interested in volunteering can call Joyce (489-8377) or Linda (459-6201) or email [willitssobergrad@gmail.com](mailto:willitssobergrad@gmail.com).

Organizers are also calling for donations of drinks and finger foods – "anything that teenagers like to eat without much mess" – which can be dropped off at the Community Center the day of the party or brought by attending seniors or volunteers arriving for their shifts.

Suggested items include: sodas, bottled water, meat/cheese trays, fruit kabobs, chips/dips, chicken wings, sandwiches, or breakfast pastries for the early morning hours. Pizza is already taken care of.

All graduating seniors from Willits schools are invited to the Sober Grad party.

# Save the Date



Graduation ceremonies for local schools

## Alternative Schools

Sanhedrin High School / New Horizons / Community Day School  
12th Grade: June 11 at 6 pm at WHS auditorium

## Baechtel Grove Middle School

8th Grade: June 12 at 6 pm at WHS' Maize Field

## Blosser Lane Elementary

5th Grade: June 12 from 2 - 3 pm at school

## Brookside Elementary School

Kindergarten: June 13 at 10:45 am in own classrooms

## LaVida Charter School

8th & 12th Grades: June 6 at 6:30 pm at school

## Sherwood School

Kindergarten: June 11 at 1 pm at school

5th Grade: June 12 at 1 pm at school

## Willits Charter School

8th Grade: June 6 at 5:30 pm at Community Center

12th Grade: June 7 at 5:30 at Community Center

## Willits Elementary Charter School

5th Grade: June 13 at 5:30 pm at Rec Grove

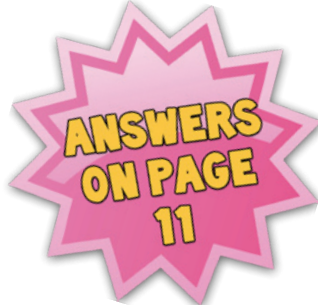
## Willits High School

12th Grade: June 13 at 6:30 pm at Maize Field



# Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages



## Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 7 | 4 |
|   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |
| 6 |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 6 |   | 4 |   |   |   | 8 |   |
|   | 7 | 2 |   |   | 6 | 9 |   |   |
| 9 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   | 1 | 7 |
|   | 5 |   |   |   |   | 7 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 8 | 2 |   |   |   | 9 |
|   | 9 |   | 6 |   |   |   |   |   |

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!

- |             |             |              |           |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| ARRANGEMENT | JUG         | CONTEMPORARY | SCAT      |
| AUDIENCE    | KEYBOARD    | CYCLE        | SESSION   |
| BLUES       | NEW ORLEANS | DISSONANCE   | SOUTHERN  |
| BOOKINGS    | ORCHESTRA   | ELEMENT      | STAGE     |
| BOTTLENECK  | PARTNERSHIP | FAME         | TALENT    |
| BRASS       | PERFORMANCE | FUSION       | TICKETS   |
| CAJUN       | RAW         | GENRE        | TRUMPET   |
| CALLIOPE    | RECORDING   | JAM          | VOCALS    |
| CHANGES     | RHYTHMIC    | JAZZ         | WASHBOARD |

## JAZZ WORD SEARCH

F E E F S D R A O B H S A W A C V P B Z  
 N O B O T T L E N E C K C R G V I I C N  
 V H C I M H T Y H R V H T E F H E O E S  
 K O N U J A C V P D K S L N S F N P S E  
 K I C M L T U S I S E E F R K T O O E S  
 B Z A A O H T W S H M S E N E I U M L S  
 H J Z F L A C R A C E F N O M L T Z V C I  
 A P R A G S R R N U T G P L H O G S Y O  
 N U P E J B O T S R S O A E D L U R C N  
 K V D J S N R I A L R C R N E T J K A O  
 E E I I V R O P P A V N S L E F P S T W  
 Y T A L E N T G R E C N A M R O F R E P  
 B O B Y V N O Y G N I D R O C E R J H E  
 O C K S A B C T N E M E G N A R R A C H  
 A E K I F R M E Z I Z W C L J B L U E S  
 R S N A E L R O W E N B H C H A N G E S  
 D K O C B T E P M U R T I C K E T S D R  
 A U S G N I K O O B T A C S E M A F U B  
 A K D I S S O N A N C E T G E N R E C O  
 I I B E Y B Y Y N O S P W Y F R L S Y L

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

**CRYPTO FUN**  
 Determine the code to reveal the answer!

- Solve the code to discover words related to spring.  
 Each number corresponds to a different letter.  
 (Hint: 26 = n)
- A. 4 25 1 2 26 9**  
 Clue: Season
- B. 5 22 24 20 11 1 4**  
 Clue: Blooming plants
- C. 20 13 1 12 2 26 9**  
 Clue: Changing temperature
- D. 4 14 26 4 18 2 26 11**  
 Clue: Produces light

## Crossword Puzzle

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |    | 9  | 10 | 11 |    |
| 12 |    |    |    |    | 13 |    |    | 14 |    | 15 |    |    |    |
| 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |
|    | 19 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 20 |    | 21 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 22 | 23 | 24 |    | 25 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|    | 26 | 27 |    |    |    |    | 28 |    |    |    | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 32 |    |    |    | 33 |    | 34 |    |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |
| 36 |    |    |    |    | 37 |    |    | 38 |    |    | 39 |    |    |
| 40 |    |    |    |    |    | 41 |    |    | 42 |    | 43 |    |    |
| 44 |    |    |    |    | 45 |    |    | 46 |    | 47 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 48 |    |    |    | 49 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 54 | 55 | 56 |    |
| 57 |    |    |    |    | 58 |    | 59 | 60 | 61 |    | 62 |    | 63 |
| 64 |    |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |    |    | 66 |    |    |
| 67 |    |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |

### CLUES ACROSS

- Fishing hook end
- A jump forward
- Girl entering society
- Largest toad species
- Measure = 198 liters
- Jeff Bridges' brother
- Past participle of be
- SE Iraq seaport
- Paddles
- Biotechnology: \_\_\_\_onomics
- Perfectly
- Japanese sash
- Flower stalk
- Bosnian ethnic group
- Longest division of geological time
- Hoover's organization
- Thigh of a hog
- Fabric woven from flax
- Upper limb
- Basics
- Satisfies to excess
- The cry made by sheep
- Go quickly
- Allied headquarters in WWII
- Paradoxical sleep
- Point midway between N and NE

### CLUES DOWN

- Founder of Babism
- "A Death in the Family" author
- One who feels regret
- Maine's Queen City
- Research workplace
- A division of geological time
- Paid media promos
- Abdominal cavity linings
- Apportion cards
- Ranking above a viscount

- Not idle
- Former SW German state
- Constrictor snake
- Pica printing unit
- Where wine ferments (abbr.)
- Egyptian goddess
- Boils vigorously
- Oral polio vaccine developer
- Master of ceremonies
- Fr. entomologist Jean Henri
- Scottish hillsides
- Islamic leader
- Bakker's downfall Jessica
- TV show and state capital
- A citizen of Belgrade
- Supervises flying
- Sebaceous gland secretion
- Conditions of balance
- Ancient Egyptian sun god
- Part of a stairway
- Time long past
- Hawaiian wreaths
- Maine's Queen City
- Resin-like shellac ingredient
- Semitic fertility god
- 60's hairstyle
- Honey Boo Boo's network
- Soak flax
- Volcanic mountain in Japan
- Point midway between E and SE



Three generations of Horsemen. From left, Colton Weiss, John Weiss and Bob Weiss  
 Photo courtesy of Willits Horsemen Association



Maureen & Christopher Moore, 1986ish



Jennifer Poole, father Herb and brother Herbie, 1965

## Father's Day 'Foto Call'

Willits Weekly seeks photos of dads and their kids for upcoming holiday

The day to celebrate our Dads is just around the corner, falling this year on Sunday, June 16. Willits Weekly would like to encourage the community not only to try and track down that no-fail golf tie, or, ...erm, Concho Bolo tie in these here parts, but also to submit a photo of you and your dad for our June 13 edition.

Because, really, what would be a better Father's Day gift than having your smiling faces published in the hometown newspaper for all to see - something to be clipped and hung on the fridge for weeks to come?

High-resolution photos are preferred and can be sent to willitsweekly@gmail.com. If you only have a print copy, contact Maureen at 972-7047 to help get it scanned digitally. Please include names of those in the photo, from left to right.

We will try and print as many as we can in our June 13 edition, and we look forward to helping create a happy Father's Day for all.

## A Playful Weekend

The Willits Horsemen will be holding two events this weekend: the first-of-the-season Junior Horsemen Gymkhana on Saturday and the 64th annual Beef Barbecue and Playday on Sunday. Attending these events is fun for attendees and entrants, and all are welcome to come see the new arena on East Commercial Street. See the calendar listings on pages 6 and 7 for more information and contact info.

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# Classifieds & More

The rest of **Letters** | From Page 2

## Correction

The "Reconfiguration too fast" letter in the May 23, 2013, edition was written by Joan Thomas of Willits.

## Thanks for the help with SOLIV benefit

On May 17 there was a benefit for Save Our Little Lake Valley at the Little Lake Grange. By the end of the evening we turned over more than \$4,000 to the brave group working so hard to end the destruction Caltrans is inflicting on our home.

We would like to thank all of those who put their time, effort, product and money into making this event as wonderfully successful as it was.

The idea came from the Willits Shakespeare Company, which also put on a production so good it received two standing ovations (including one before the show was over). Billy Hetherington, Bryan Arnold and Christopher Martineau held the stage and our attention with the skill and humor that make them such wonderful performers. Beth managed the stage (and so much else) with a deft hand and a friendly attitude. Lanny Cotler was essential in setting up the light and sound. The stage and tech crew did a marvelous job (especially considering the short time they had to prepare).

The Little Lake Grange No. 670 hosted the dinner. The organizing committee included Peter Norris, Beth Reidel, Roger Wilson, Dickey Weinkle, Cyndee Logan and Liam UiCearbhaill. We were aided by wonderful volunteers, including Annie Waters, Mike Burgess, Tara Logan, Ellie Bruce, Tiffany Logan, Mike Foley, Anna Wilson, Kimbal Dodge, Jane McCabe and others whose names escape me now, but whose efforts made certain the night was a success.

The Dirt Floor Band rounded out the evening with dancing that lasted late into the evening (it was hard not to dance to their wonderful tunes). Frey Vineyards donated wine and John Ford Ranch donated meat for the pasta sauce.

Our special thanks to Sara O'Brien for her amazing skills at selling tickets.

And our final thanks to all the members of Save Our Little Lake Valley for all the work you are doing.

Liam UiCearbhaill  
Willits / Little Lake Grange No. 670

The rest of **Kustoms** | From Page 4

Kustoms by Spence an easy choice for quick repair jobs.

In addition to his repair work, Spence also enjoys restoration work for clients, as well as working on his own cars. Recently, he has been working on a 1961 Plymouth Fury, which he drives around town and enters into local parades. He also can be seen around town in his blue 1969 Chevy truck, which bears the white Kustoms by Spence logo on its doors. Kustoms by Spence was one of about 17 area businesses to sponsor a plaque award at the Willits Chamber of Commerce's 32nd annual Car Show last weekend.

Contact Jeff to set up an appointment or estimate by calling 456-9088 or learn more at [www.KustomsBySpence.com](http://www.KustomsBySpence.com). The shop is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm and is located at 251 Shell Lane, Unit J.

## Alterations

Nice Jeans! Need them hemmed? Call, text, or e-mail Genevieve at 707.841.8230 or [hautemama22@gmail.com](mailto:hautemama22@gmail.com) Other small alterations available.

## Bat Houses

GOT BATS? Quality redwood bat houses and bird houses, \$45 and up. Buy one at the annual Brooktrails Women's Club Crafts Fair & Flea Market, Saturday, June 1.

## Consignments Accepted

GAVEL DOWN SALES, located at 1611 South Main Street, is open Wed through Sun, 10 am to 6 pm, and is accepting quality home furnishings for consignment. Contact Kapila at 707.459.1300.

## Eckankar

HAVE YOU HAD a spiritual experience? You are invited to participate in an ongoing, spiritual discussion every 4th Tuesday at the Willits Library meeting room, 390 E. Commercial Street. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

## For Sale

TONNEAU COVER with mounting hardware. Fits Ford Explorer Sport Trac pickup 2001-2005 (54"). Black. Slight scuff on one corner. \$300. 707-459-2852

## Help Wanted

NEED COOK; 3 years experience. Call 707-456-9226

## Help Wanted

Ardella's Downtown Diner now hiring all positions. Apply within. No phone calls please.

## Help Wanted

MAZAHAR BOUTIQUE looking to employ retail + office person. Must be experienced. Energetic, positive, team oriented, fashion lover, artistic, remarkable work ethics. Please apply in person at 38 S. Main Street.

## Home for Lease

4 bd/2ba one level, West Side Willits. Sunny large landscaped lot, peaceful. All appliances, dream kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace, large in-ground pool, carport, garage, storage rooms. \$1950 + first and last, \$2000 deposit includes yr round pool svc. Pet considered, no growing or indoor smoking. Available now. 459-1868.

## Moving Sale

MOVING SALE 238 Madden Street on Friday, May 31, from 2 to 5 pm, and Saturday, June 1, from 9 am to 5 pm.

## Old Cars Wanted

ALWAYS LOOKING for Cars, Scooters & Motorcycles! '40s thru '50s. Show Car to Parts Car. Please call Alan: 489-7165 or email [agrossman@pacific.net](mailto:agrossman@pacific.net).

## Parking Lot Sale

Gavel Down Sales at 1611 S. Main St. is having another parking lot sale this Sunday starting at 9am. Items include: Automotive Parts, Pontiac Blocks, Heads, Carburetors, Contractor Supplies, Leaf Blower, Pipe Threading Kit, Sander, Grinder, Hand Tools and much more.

## Pinball Machines

PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

## Volunteers Needed

Harrah Center is looking for people, any age, with a heart for service. We can use all skills and coordinate for your free time. Call us 707-459-6826 or come in 1501 Baechtel Rd, Willits

## Zumba Fitness - Studio Joy

THE Place for Zumba Fitness in Willits! 1262 Blosser Lane, 841-7499. See our full schedule at [www.studiojoywillits.com](http://www.studiojoywillits.com). We have Zumba for Every Body. Offering Zumba, Zumba Gold and Zumba Toning. Coming soon: ZumbaTomics.

## Football Time!

Football season is around the corner. Anyone interested in coaching football or cheer, please stop by Round Tree Glass for an application.

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# Bond Story Makes Headlines

and wins awards for local reporter

The Willits Unified School District was featured on the front page of the Bond Buyer financial daily last month, in a

story titled "Lawsuit Says Financial Advisor 'Duped' School District into Overpaying."

"A small California school district said its financial advisor 'duped' it into overpaying hundreds of thousands of dollars for services in a lawsuit that is playing out amid controversy in the state over school bond election and borrowing practices," the April 16 story by reporter by Randall Jensen begins.

The story details (still ongoing) litigation between the school district and its former financial advisor, Caldwell Flores Winters, Inc., and gives a brief history of the Willits district's troubles with the \$18.87 million in bonds it issued in July 2010.

Willits, like more than 200 other school districts around the state, issued expensive and controversial capital appreciation bonds. WUSD issued \$3.78 million of CABs which will cost \$21.9 million to pay back; the total debt package from the \$18.87 million will cost \$38.6 million to repay.

Bond Buyer, usually available by paid subscription, has dropped the firewall on its Willits bond story, to allow Willits readers to check out the whole story here: [http://www.bondbuyer.com/issues/122\\_73/lawsuit-says-fa-duped-school-district-into-overpaying-1050712-1.html](http://www.bondbuyer.com/issues/122_73/lawsuit-says-fa-duped-school-district-into-overpaying-1050712-1.html)

Willits Weekly is pleased to announce that editor/reporter Jennifer Poole was awarded a Certificate of Merit this month by the California Teachers Association, as part of its 2013 John Swett awards. The award is for a series of stories written in 2012 for The Willits News on the Willits school bonds. The John Swett awards, named after the founder of the CTA, "herald outstanding coverage of community and campaign issues that touched California's schools, community colleges and state universities during 2012."

In December 2012, the same series of stories were awarded a "DFMie" award for investigative reporting by Digital First Media, the company running MediaNews Group, which owns The Willits News.

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## Grateful Gleaner plant Sale

The Grateful Gleaner plant sale will be held Sunday, June 2 this year, from 10 am to 4 pm, at 405 West Mendocino Avenue in Willits (the southwest corner of West Mendocino and Spruce).

There will be an exotic and eclectic variety of plants, including perennial herbs and flowers, fruiting bushes, trees, and annual flower and vegetable starts. Miscellaneous garden pots and trellises will be for sale, as well as the latest version of John Jeavons' book, "How to Grow More Vegetables," at a bargain price.

A half-dozen Japanese maples will be offered this year, donated by Mendocino Maples Nursery on the coast, which specializes in growing exotic Japanese maples.

The money raised from the sale will be used to coordinate the continuing operation of the Grateful Gleaners.

This year marks the 10th year in which the Willits Grateful Gleaners have harvested unsprayed fruits and vegetables from the property of non-commercial home orchards (produce that would normally go to waste), and distributed it to our local non-profits and schools to feed those in financial need, the elderly and children. In the past nine years, the all-volunteer group has harvested over 22 tons of fruit and vegetables.

If you would like to become a volunteer gleaner or donate plants to our sale, contact Karen Gridley at 459-2101.



Karend Gridley poses with several of the plants for sale

Photo by Jennifer Poole



## Volunteer opportunities at Howard Hospital

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is seeking additional volunteers. Positions offer flexible hours and the opportunity to work with a wide variety of departments in the hospital.

Volunteer opportunities are many, and include: bringing patients to visit the pet therapy dog; delivering meals, flowers, books to patients; assisting with the orthopedic joint program reunion luncheons and educational seminars; spiritual care services; helping in the Commonwealth Garden; clerical work; creating care packages for patients; fundraising for hospital equipment; planning social and team-building events for employees, physicians and staff; and much more.

To volunteer, contact Becky Hope at 456.3245 or Rebecca.Hope@ah.org.

## Maureen's favorite

**'I really want to eat 15 cookies in one sitting and not feel bad about it'**

### Ingredients

- 1 can chickpeas, drained
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ cup + 2 tablespoons natural peanut butter
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ cup chocolate chips

### Directions

Preheat your oven to 350°F  
Combine all the ingredients, except for the chocolate chips, in a food processor and process until very smooth.  
Make sure to scrape down the

### Cookie

sides and the top to get the little chunks of chickpeas and process again until they're combined.

Put in the chocolate chips and stir it if you can, or pulse it once or twice. The mixture will be very thick and sticky.

With wet hands, form into 1½" balls. Place onto a Silpat or a piece of parchment paper.

If you want them to look more like normal cookies, press down slightly on the balls. They don't do much rising. Bake for about 10 minutes.



Recipe and photo from Erin of Texanerin Baking (<http://www.texanerin.com>). See site for many more delicious recipes that are gluten-, grain- and dairy-free, but taste just as good as traditional recipes

## Help the Skunk Train Get Up and Running Again



"The Skunk Train is facing a crisis, and so is our city and county if the train stops running!"  
—Lynn Kennelly, director, Willits Chamber of Commerce



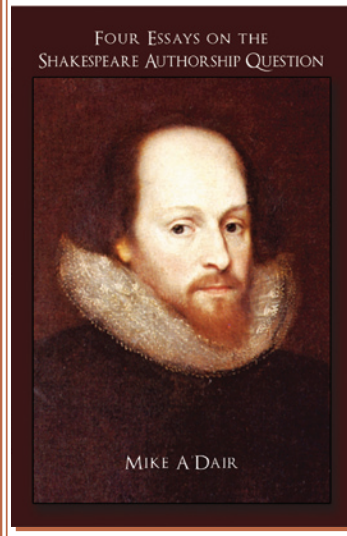
A collapsed tunnel a few miles east of Fort Bragg has stopped the Skunk Train in its tracks. With equipment stranded west of the tunnel, trains aren't running out of Willits either. The Skunk Train has started a "Save Our Skunk" crowd-funding campaign on the GoFundMe website to help raise the \$300,000 needed to clear the tunnel.

Visit [www.gofundme.com/SaveOurSkunk](http://www.gofundme.com/SaveOurSkunk) to learn more about the crisis and to donate. Any level of donation is welcome.

— AD DONATED BY WILLITS WEEKLY —

## FOUR ESSAYS ON THE SHAKESPEARE AUTHORSHIP QUESTION

by Mike A'Dair



Who was William Shakespeare, really?

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## NOVO THEATRE Willits, CA

Times for 5/31-6/6/13

**AFTER EARTH**  
(PG13)  
Runs: 1 hr. 40 min  
Fri: 6:35, 9:00  
Sat-Sun: 1:15, 4:10, 6:15, 9:00  
Mon-Thurs: 5:40, 8:00

**HANGOVER Part 3**  
(R)  
Runs: 1 hr. 40 min  
Fri: 6:00, 8:15  
Sat-Sun: 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15  
Mon-Thurs: 6:00, 8:15

**EPIC in 2D & 3D**  
(PG)  
Runs: 1 hr. 33 min  
(3D) Sat-Sun: 1:45, 6:35  
(2D) Fri: 6:15, 8:30  
Sat: 11:15, 3:45, 8:45  
Sun: 3:45, 8:45  
Mon-Thurs: 5:15, 7:30

The 11:15am show on Saturday for Epic in 2D will be a special Sensory Sensitive Screening (Lower sound, Lights half-up) for Autistic children



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For more information and to reserve, visit: [seabiscuitheritage.org](http://seabiscuitheritage.org)

\$20 per person  
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Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation  
16200 North Highway 101  
in Willits, California 95490

Telephone: 707.459.5992  
[www.seabiscuitheritage.org](http://www.seabiscuitheritage.org)  
[seabiscuit@instawave.net](mailto:seabiscuit@instawave.net)

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# (Part 2) Who Cares?

## Many Willits residents moved by compassion for homeless

Part 1 of this story ended with me saying, "I'll share more next time from Bill's description to me of what happened." I WILL get to that part eventually, but first I digress.

I called this story "Who Cares?" because that is what kept bouncing around in my brain after I heard about Bill being run over. Who cares? I never heard anything in the news about it. So what? He just disappeared from the streets. One less street person. Who cares?

As the story continues to play out for me, I'm discovering who DOES care. That's why I'm going to share more background story before I write about my talk with Bill. It will illustrate how my experiences with Bill are but one example of "Who Cares?" in our community.

When I finally caught up with Bill, about a month had passed since I heard about his hit-and-run from Neighbor Bob. I wanted to follow up with Alicia to let her know of my own first-hand evaluation of Bill's current state.

"I had a one-on-one with Bill today," I wrote in an email to Alicia on April 4. "He smelled like Bill, talked like Bill, and tried to smooch and grope on me just like Bill. He wasn't sober enough for me to get good

info," I continued, "but I'm supposed to meet up with him next Tuesday for lunch. I've got an idea for a story with him as the main character. He said he was sober, but he smelled like booze, acted excitable and not-very-coherent and had a tall, frosty beverage in his pocket."

Sadly, but not surprisingly, a month after his return to the streets of Willits, Bill was back in the same shape I had witnessed him in for the better part of the two years I saw him almost daily, with the addition of a wheelchair now. In the past, occasionally he would get to stay in a local motel for a night or two, and would get all cleaned up and shaven. At these times – when being cared for or when caring for himself – he seemed more alert and clear mentally, and more controlled in his actions and words. His stories were quite lucid at these times, and having heard the same stories more than once, I tend to believe his memories are as clear and solid as the average person's (mine anyway).

"He had a rough night last night because of the rain. You know the story," my email to Alicia continued, "He was REALLY excited to see me though.... That was genuine love I felt. He told Cooper [my 9-year-old son] if anyone ever teases him or tries to mess with his sister, just let him know and he'll show 'em what's what!"

"Oh Bill. Ha ha Cat. You take his love so well. I don't know how you can stomach it :) ... thank you for the update. Bill is a special guy in his own way. I sure care about him and am happy to hear he is doing OK," Alicia's email concluded.

I was running errands in town with Cooper, when I saw Bill in his wheelchair crossing the street and getting onto the sidewalk behind Village Market. He was in a conversation with one of the postal workers about to cross the street. I looped around and parked, and by then Bill was at the post office.

I was determined to say hello to him and find out more about his hit-and-run experience. He was already in a conversation with another person when we approached him.

His blankets had gotten soaked in the rain the night before, and were on the other end of town where he had slept. The woman he was talking to had agreed to go get them and bring them back, so he could take them to the laundromat and dry them.

We introduced ourselves, with Bill's help, and she explained she's just a local who is familiar with Bill and his story. Though it took about 10 minutes for her to get a clear description of where the blankets should be, she patiently listened to Bill's detailed but rambling description of where to park, where to walk, exactly where the blankets should be, and where to meet him to drop them off. She had other things to do and places to be shortly, but she had just enough time to spare for Bill. She honestly was concerned about his comfort.

She left. Bill and I had a sweet reunion and brief conversation but, as I said, he was a bit too animated for a serious conversation that day. We made a date for the following Tuesday to have lunch, and when that day came, I was stressing out because I was running late. I didn't want him to show up and leave and have it take me weeks to meet up with him again.

"Of course I can't call him. He has no phone," I grumbled to myself, as I headed out the door. "Will HE even show up? Does he remember? Does he keep track of the time and date?"

I kept my eye out for Bill all the way through town. I was 10 minutes late, and rushed in to the restaurant looking for him. There was no one in sight, but two young guys were working behind the counter. I told them I was looking for Bill: "in the wheelchair, you know?"

One of the guys said he hadn't seen Bill yet today, but I should look for him off in a very specific direction to which he pointed. "Aha," says I, "another person/business familiar with and friendly to Bill."

I knew exactly where he was pointing because I had parked in a strategic manner so I could walk to that exact location to look for Bill if he wasn't at the restaurant. I surveyed the area. I didn't see Bill, but I did see his blankets.

Grrrrrrr ... He stood me up.

I had stops to make in town, so I kept my eyes out for him. Sure enough, as I was

making my last run down Main Street, there he was at the post office again. I parked, and even though he wasn't in any better shape than the last time I saw him, I decided I would do my best to have a conversation with him and hear what he had to say. But this conversation will have to wait until Part 3....

For Part 2 of my "Who Cares?" story, I had planned to speak with Willits Police Department Chief Gerry Gonzalez. My idea was to discuss Bill's particular situation, the topic of our local homeless population in general, and the public education program Gonzalez is working on with Willits Chamber of Commerce President Ron Moorhead, which discourages giving hand-outs to panhandlers.

After Part 1 of the story was published, I heard that Bill had been arrested on May 8 by WPD, and I called Chief Gonzalez to find out more. Reportedly, Bill was hanging out near or in front of a local restaurant when a 16-year-old female student walked by him. Bill allegedly said he was hungry and asked her for food. She reportedly told him all she had was some Skittles and offered him some. He reportedly grabbed her butt.

Gonzalez said Bill was arrested on suspicion of sexual battery, but pled out to misdemeanor battery and is back on the streets. He said his department has been dealing with complaints regarding Bill for years, but that unless there is a victim willing to press charges, or unless he is caught in the act of doing something, there is not much they can do. He likened it to "triage and then they're back on the streets."

I will say Bill has never been shy about his robust libido, his fondness of women and his desire for companionship. In my experiences with him, I have learned to stay out of arm's reach when he appears intoxicated because of his wandering hands. I in no way excuse him for being grabby and lecherous, and I in no way condone this behavior with anyone.

I do have compassion for him though. That is how I was raised, and that's who I am. I choose to engage and interact with all living beings – without judgment.

I am just one citizen. How do we as a community deal with these people, who are a part of our everyday lives whether we like it or not? That's the question I'm raising.

Regarding Bill, I have witnessed the deterioration of his condition over the years. Is this someone else's problem? I don't think so. When I brought up the question of Bill's mental health, Chief Gonzalez said: "Yeah, he's got issues. He's routinely intoxicated and becoming more aggressive ... a little on the dangerous side."

So I ask: Who cares now?

### The rest of Brooktrails | From Page 1

stating local residents' bypass concerns was going to make Caltrans substantially revise project plans, urging the board to rescind its March 26 letter of support for the bypass. Doing so, he said, might make a difference. But directors had already reconsidered rescinding the letter on May 14, but decided not to on a 3-1 vote.

Director Rick Williams, acting as chairman due to an alleged conflict of interest of board Chairman Tony Orth, told Wagenet directors would not reconsider the issue a second time. "That vote's behind us," Williams said. "We may do something in the future."

Wagenet pointed out it was unlikely Brooktrails residents would vote to pay for a second access road to Brooktrails, and Williams almost agreed.

"We need to recognize we live in extremely challenging physical conditions here," Williams said. "There are so many constraints. We have a challenging geography; there are steep slopes, hills, highly erosive soils; there are earthquake faults all over the place.

"We should recognize that building a second access road is going to be very expensive, and when it comes time to build it, the county may not be able to help us as much as we would like. We are going to have to pay for a lot of it ourselves.

"When it comes time to make that decision, that's a decision we may not make," Williams said.

### The rest of Tilton | From Page 1

who came to talk about Caltrans spoke in support of naming the gymnasium.

"It is his gym; it should be named after him," Boosinger said, adding he had not attended the meeting to talk about the gym.

Councilman Larry Stranske said he thought it was a good move to name the gym after Tilton.

"I think Tom helped young people," Stranske said. "That is a really hard age," Stranske added. "I think that is a fitting thing to have his name on it."

Willits' Colleen Pappadakis said it was her idea to name the gym after Tilton or "Mr. T," the name most of his students called him by.

"It takes somebody to actually do it," Pappadakis told the

council. "Hearing this objection is really upsetting."

Burton had pulled the item from the consent calendar, but after discussion, Stranske moved for the council to vote.

Naming the gym Tom Tilton Gymnasium passed with "yes" votes from council members Stranske, Madge Strong, Mayor Holly Madrigal, Burton and Ron Orenstein.

Like Boosinger, Anne Vanderhorck came to talk about the bypass, but told the council Tilton taught all three of her sons. "I could not think of a better name for that gym," Vanderhorck said.

Willits' other stand-alone gymnasium at Willits High School was named to honor retired coach and teacher Steve Short in 2010.

### The rest of Streets | From Page 1

Strong said that she was also concerned about other effects of the bypass like using city water for dust control on the jobsite.

"The relinquishment agreement language is very iffy," Strong added.

People speaking to the council complained Caltrans is not honoring its agreement. "Our only other recourse is to wait until it is all over and try and sue them," said Sheryl Smith.

William Boosinger argued the agreement between Caltrans and the City should have been "iron-clad."

"This is another example of a boondoggle coming home to rest repeatedly," Boosinger said.

At present, Willits' ad hoc committee continues its negotiations with Caltrans. City Hall sources anticipate the topic to return to the council in June.

### Dislike of bypass

As work on the bypass continues, pile drivers, denuded land and the sight of trees left standing with their limbs removed have become commonplace in some areas of Little Lake Valley.

Willits resident Judi Berdis was one of many to speak against the freeway construction at last Wednesday's city council meeting.

"When I first moved here from LA, I thought it was so beautiful; it added years to my life expectancy," Berdis said.

She added she likes to tour her Willits guests around Little Lake Valley, but not this year.

"I can't stand to tour them around the valley because it is such a horrible war-like zone," Berdis said.

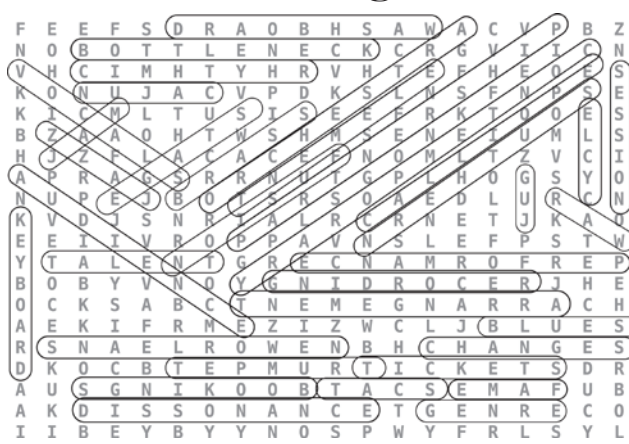
A full room spoke of their dislike for the freeway project as well as the relinquishment agreement scheduled for discussion on the council agenda.

Anne Vanderhorck said she wanted to know why Willits didn't push for easier fixes. Behemoth oak trees have fallen in Caltrans' clearing of the right-of-way.

"Three hundred years is older than this country," Vanderhorck said. "If I cannot control things here, then I cannot control things anywhere."

Vanderhorck said that it tears her heart out to see what is happening in the valley and asked the council members to walk the project themselves.

## Puzzle Answers From Page 8



CRYPTO FUN Answers: A. spring B. flowers C. warming D. sunshine

## Keep Your Relationship Healthy And Vibrant

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Doris Wier, Certified Life and Relationship System Coach (ORSCC), 707-456-9246  
[www.embraceconflicts.com](http://www.embraceconflicts.com)



# Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits

## Mini Maker Faire



**Jennifer Poole**  
Editor & Reporter  
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

**Clockwise from top:**

**Cynda Valle paints outdoors at the faire**

**Robin Hough shows off her handmade shawl**

**John Rule of Galaxy Raku holds a piece of a luminary featuring the Raku technique**

**Keith Rutledge and Pat Norris test the personal electrical resistance exhibit**

**Members of Redbud trio: Bb Dress, Tobin Hendricks, and Yoli Rose, play of the gathered crowd**

**The 3D printer was "printing" many interesting items in real time at the faire**

**Laurel Miller shows off her fancy fascinator**



Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



The 1st annual (yes, it will be annual) Mini-Maker Faire at the Mendocino County Museum on Saturday featured creative "makers" of many Mendocino County varieties.

Inside, people clustered around a 3D printer, owned by Peter Kafin of Fort Bragg, which used .15 mm plastic filament in various bright colors to "print out" 3D figurines, puzzles and gear-like creations. "It's like a hot glue gun nozzle," Kafin explained. The plastic is distributed in a very thin layer according to the software's directions, then the "table" drops down a tiny bit and the next layer is built.

Kafin bought the printer at the end of December. "It seemed like the coolest technology," he said. "I'm supposed to be studying for the bar."

In contrast, low-tech "maker" Robin Hough of Willits made a point of telling visitors to her booth that all the fleece-to-garment processes she was demonstrating – carding, spinning, skein-making and weaving – are done off-the-grid. The wool she uses is from local sheep and goats – gleaned from carcasses that would otherwise be thrown away. Hough says people know to call her and let her know they've got fleeces, and sometimes just drop them off at her doorstep. "It's like zucchini," she said.

A basket at Hough's booth contained raw, unwashed sheep's wool ("feel the lanolin," a card read), baby goat locks, Merino wool and other fiber samples. At the end of the demonstration, Hough showed off a beautiful brown wool shawl, with some blue and orange woven in that she'd made on her triangle loom.

Keith Rutledge of the Renewable Energy Development Institute in Willits, and local electrician Ralph Pisciotta, also of REDI, were giving simple demonstrations of basic concepts of electricity, using light bulbs and fans. Electricity is all around us, but many of us don't understand

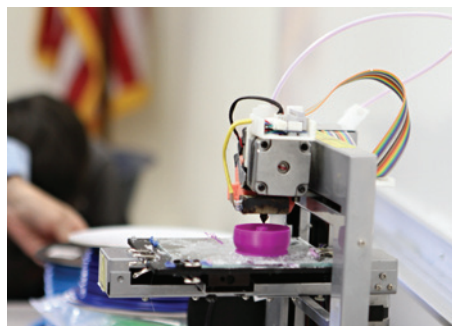
much about how it actually works. "We teach for all ages," Pisciotta said. "We teach as many adults as children." A solar-powered motor at the REDI table was turning a small globe of the Earth; another station showed off how simple binary logic was the basis of our powerful computers.

"What is your personal internal resistance?" one of the demonstrations asked, where you could use a digital volt meter (only 9 volts) to measure resistance to electricity on different parts of your body. "Our bodies have internal resistance to electricity," Pisciotta said, "but we do conduct electricity. That's why we die from it."

Richard Jergenson, just back from the world's biggest Maker Faire in San Mateo County, showed off the Gridbeam building system developed by himself and his brother Phil Jergenson. Gridbeam won a red ribbon for "Educators' Choice" from the Maker Faire this year.

Children were intent on putting things together with boxes of wooden gridbeams (and nuts and bolts) laid out on the ground. "All the kids have been building something – they don't know what," Jergenson said. "They've never seen this before, but they're all building."

Jergenson said were 100,000 enthusiastic attendees at the San Mateo Maker Fair, and 1,000 exhibitors, and he told many of them about this summer's Kinetic Carnival in Willits, and next year's (maybe not-so-mini) Maker Faire at the museum, too. "We invited as many of them as we could," Jergenson said.



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