



# Woot for Willits Weekly!



We're blown away by the support and love from all of you!

Ohmigosh. To say the first issue of Willits Weekly was a success feels like quite the understatement, as the outpouring of support, excitement and gratitude from the community was so much more than Jennifer and I ever hoped was possible. We printed 3,000 copies, and distributed them all, except a couple hundred, which we plan to hoard, sign and maybe someday sell on eBay or place into a time capsule to mark this momentous occasion.

Sunday breakfast at Ardella's was almost impossible to get through while still warm, as people kept stopping by the table to give hugs or to offer their congratulations and enthusiasm for the next issue.

Trying to keep editions on the shelves at local businesses was the only real issue – other than the crossword clues, did you really need those?! Oops! – and we are working hard to get better solutions in place to get papers into more hands.

The many requests for subscriptions and requests to pay

us for the free editions have us working hard on in-town home delivery and maybe even some by-mail possibilities in the future. With the cost of first-class postage and requirements for second-class mailing, it's just not quite possible yet, but several volunteers have stepped up to help with the distribution efforts in town.

In the meantime though, the papers will still be available at local businesses. We will try and get bigger stacks at some key places including J.D. Redhouse, the Book Juggler and Ardella's on the north end of town, Country Skillet, Gateway Realty and Willits Power Carhartt mid-town, and the 101 Donut Shop, Gribaldo's and the Willits Senior Center to the south.

Check the 12 convenience stores in town (Brown's Corner, Village Mart, TnT, Sherwood Market & Deli, to name a few) for a fresh supply of papers on Friday and Saturday mornings. Several stacks also go to Ukiah: check for papers at Schat's Courthouse Bakery, Rainbow Ag, Mendocino

County Farm Supply and the Mendocino Book Company.

Come see us at the Farmers Market on Thursdays in City Park, 3 to 6 pm, where you can be sure to get a copy of Willits Weekly every week.

Willits Weekly is a community-supported newspaper. You can get it for free, but if you like it, help support it: put a dollar or two in the tip jar at the Farmers Market; thank our advertisers (consider advertising yourself!); or become a community sponsor by sending a check with any level of contribution to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits CA 95490 or use the PayPal button at [www.willitsweekly.com](http://www.willitsweekly.com). Thanks to all our supporters, advertisers and contributors, and to our readers, too.

*Maureen & Jennifer*  
Co-Founders, Willits Weekly

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Lady Liberty vs. Alcatraz

To the Editor:

When people come to the United States from all over the world, they are welcomed on the "east" coast, before they ever make landfall, by a magnificent lady holding a bright torch of freedom high above her head. She is the ultimate symbol of freedom.

If these people were to come to the United States via the "west" coast, they could enter the San Francisco Bay passing under the beautiful Golden Gate Bridge. But, before they ever make landfall, they can see Alcatraz Island and the prison: the ultimate symbol of imprisonment and "non-freedom."

It is an ugly, dilapidated structure that has obviously seen years of neglect. It has for some reason been preserved by those who pay tribute to the previous tenants, those who romanticize their exploits and seem to be proud that they once inhabited our beautiful bay.

If I could fulfill my own wishes, every vestige of this prison would be torn down and removed from the island. The island would be re-landscaped and re-named, and a search for a more suitable structure would ensue.

The new name for the island would be held in abeyance until the new structure was determined, and the island could then be given a name consistent with the structure.

The new structure should be something magnificent. Something equal to or greater than Lady Liberty. It should be something that represents the country (not the state of California alone).

Ronald "Red" Craig  
Willits, CA

## The other side of the issue

To the Editor:

Over the last several months I've read, with interest, letters and commentaries opposing the bypass. One common theme has been the "destruction" of streams and wildlife habitats, causing "irreversible damage to the environment." Opponents have spoken out in defense of nesting birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals unable to speak for themselves. Unfortunately, there hasn't been much attention devoted to another at-risk creature found in the area – people! The people who live, work, play, shop and go to school in town.

In 1998, the California EPA completed a comprehensive health assessment of diesel exhaust forming the basis for a decision by the California Air Resources Board to formally identify diesel exhaust particles as a toxic air contaminant that may pose a threat to human health. Diesel exhaust is a mixture of thousands of gases and fine particles (soot) containing more than 40 toxic air contaminants, including benzene, arsenic and formaldehyde.

Diesel exhaust gases are suspended in the air, so exposure occurs whenever a person breathes air that contains these substances. As we breathe, toxic gases and small particles are drawn into the lungs where they contribute to a range of health problems, including cancer. Because children's lungs and respiratory systems are still developing, they are more susceptible than healthy adults to fine particles. This exposure is associated with increased frequency of childhood illnesses also reducing lung function in children.

Okay, you get the point! Diesel exhaust is not a great thing to have floating around in the air in populated areas, like downtown Main Street. I was talking to one of the owners of Adam's Restaurant in downtown Willits about the traffic, and he told me they had to launder the white tablecloths more frequently to remove the soot discoloration caused by the exhaust from passing and idling vehicles. So, if the tablecloths look like that, then what do our lungs look like? Soot can be laundered out of the tablecloths, but it's a bit harder to wash out our lungs.

It must be the spin cycle!

There has been much ado about how over-designed the bypass is, being designed to carry way more vehicles than will ever use it. There's a Caltrans webcam located at the north end of town showing a mere 8,000 vehicles a day traveling north of Willits. The premise is that 8,000 vehicles are too few to justify the expense of building the bypass. What seems to be overlooked, however, is the fact that a fair amount of those northbound vehicles using the bypass will no longer be driving through the center of town, and if Caltrans and the State of California want to spend \$300 million to remove even 1,000 vehicles a day from the middle of our town, I'm okay with that!

Yeah I know, "it's your money they're spending!" Well, it's my money as well, and I say it's time that some of the State money finds its way to Willits. We get little enough of our share as it is!

There have been suggestions that building a smaller truck route along the railroad tracks would be a common-sense approach. Well, it would remove the heavy traffic from Main Street, but, unfortunately, it would also put that same traffic right next to businesses, residential properties, the High School and the Skunk Train Depot. A real crowd-pleaser! Such a plan would merely move the problem a few blocks to the east.

And of course, that raises the question of what would happen to the traffic when it crosses Commercial Street, East Valley, San Francisco and East Hill Road. Would there be stop signs, traffic lights, roundabouts? Would the stop-and-go traffic be improved, or merely out of sight? Or would it require the building of bridges – viaducts – over these streets?

And there's also the small matter that the railroad belongs to the NCRRA (North Coast Railroad Authority), and it's still listed as an active track. There are regulations that mandate how much distance is required between railroad tracks and traffic lanes, and it's doubtful that enough space exists to accommodate both the tracks and the traffic lanes. So if a truck route were to be built next to the tracks, Caltrans would have to relocate the tracks somewhere else, and reconnect them to existing tracks. Maybe down the middle of Main Street?

Cutting large numbers of trees may create the sense of a visual wasteland, but it's important to keep it in perspective. In the overall scheme of things, not that many trees are being cut down, and the remarkable thing is, trees are one of the truly renewable resources on our planet – new ones grow. The trees that have been cut hardly rise to the level of deforestation or environmental destruction. The fish and animals will be protected – Fish and Game and the Corps of Engineers will be watching. Even though some believe these agencies take orders from Caltrans, common sense tells us that simply isn't true or credible.

One of the letters in Willits Weekly derided the name-calling that has been rampant, but I need to remind us all: after the bypass is completed and the City owns downtown, and after Caltrans and the contractors go away, we will still be left with each other. What is built will be what it is, and we will learn to live with it, to take back our town and make it into something that we can all be happy with and proud of. And, we will still greet each other on the street and at community events, and reaffirm the fact that we are neighbors, and, hopefully, still friends.

Ron Orenstein  
Willits, CA

## Angered by reconfiguration

To the Editor:

I am deeply disappointed and angered by the Willits Unified School District Board's decision to implement reconfiguration changes to the WUSD beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. I believe that the Board's decisions were made in haste without any true consideration as to what is best for our students or teachers. It is apparent that the Board based their decisions on a few quickly put-together tables and graphs that did not give the whole picture as to the district's decreasing attendance and financial problems.

Moving 3rd grade from Blosser Lane to Brookside in the Fall of 2013 will deeply impact the principals, teachers, and support staff at both Brookside and Blosser Lane for the remainder of this school year and into their summer vacations. The funding and attendance for the Willits Kids' Club after school program will most likely be negatively affected by this premature reconfiguration as well.

Many ideas to strengthen our school district were raised at the open community forum that was held by the WUSD a week before the board meeting, such as adjusting curriculum, initiating electives, and various combinations for reconfiguring grades between two or three schools.

The overriding opinion of the parents and teachers in attendance, however, was to hold off on initiating any changes for the coming school year, but rather to begin logical, thought-out discussions over the course of a year to properly design agreed-upon actions and to plan for any logistical problems.

The decision of the WUSD Board and the Interim Superintendent to move 3rd grade from Blosser Lane to Brookside beginning in Fall 2013 has gone against the concerns of the parents and teachers at that forum.

Many parents submitted written comments to the school district but responses needed to be returned in less than a week, which did not give enough time for many busy working parents and community members to give input on the proposed changes. I believe that a large majority in our community may not have been aware of the reconfiguration plan nor the vote that was to take place at the May 1st WUSD Board meeting and were thus unable to submit their comments before the vote.

Parents who did submit comments may also not realize the cascading effects to all the grades that will occur by moving 3rd grade this Fall. A permanent superintendent for the 2013-2014 school year has not been hired, and a new business manager has just been chosen, but yet the Board is going forward with reconfiguration with less than 30 school days remaining in the school year.

My faith in the decision-making capability of the current WUSD Board has been significantly reduced. The Board has not listened to the concerns of parents and teachers in our community but rather accepted a single suggestion by a temporary superintendent and put into motion changes that may negatively influence our district for years to come.

The audacity of the Interim Superintendent to propose major changes in our school district, with the understanding that she will be leaving when these changes that she initiated take effect, is despicable, and she should be ashamed. The Board's actions to take these preliminary suggestions from a temporary superintendent are even more reprehensible.

I implore current as well as former administrators and teachers of the WUSD, parents, and members of the community, to express in writing their opinions about the hasty and capricious decisions of the current WUSD Board and to convince them to hold off on reconfiguration changes until 2014.

Angela Wartell  
Willits, CA

More Letters

Over on Page 9

# Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Above: Pool Manager Shawna Jevons surveys the pool before starting lifeguard training

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



# Willits City Pool

Lifeguard training, aqua aerobics underway

The first pre-season aqua aerobics class at the Willits City Pool started May 1, with 26 people "enjoying the water and warm sunshine while getting a workout in," said pool manager Shawna Jevons. Cool weather and Monday's rain have reminded us all that summer isn't quite here yet, after all, but the City Pool continues to gear up for the 2013 season.

The pool is holding new hire interviews for lifeguards, as well as conducting lifeguard training and welcoming back top-notch trained staff from last year's season.

The water aerobics classes in May are scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Kids and families are welcome. Pre-registration for summer swim lessons is available now, on

Saturdays and Sundays between 10 am and 1 pm.

The city pool is "dedicated to serving the public and to promoting health, safety, swimming skills and lifesaving," manager Jevons said.

A new automated external defibrillator (AED) donated to City Pool by the Willits Committee for Year-Round Swimming could help save lives, too. "Should an individual suffer cardiac arrest, the AED will shock the heart into activity until emergency personnel arrive," said Sylvia Wilkyholowa from the committee, thanking everyone who donated money to buy the device.

Willits City Pool is located at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. For more information, call 459-5778 or check the Willits City Pool page on Facebook.



Top row: Assistant Manager Damian Angell is ready to blow the whistle; top center: Alicia Mehtlan fills out her lifeguard application; bottom: Damian Angell and interviewee Kayla Lyman tend to Alicia Mehtlan during the mock save

Above left: Damian Angell, Kayla Lyman and head guard James Wells haul Alicia Mehtlan out of the water on a rescue board during a mock safety demonstration

Above right: Willits City Pool staff: head guard James Wells, Manager Shawna Jevons, head guard Alex Byers and Assistant Manager Damian Angell



# Lovely dove

Mourning doves are abundant in the Little Lake Valley this time of year. Their soft coo may sound sad, but it just signals the beginning of this bird's habits of nesting, claiming territory, and raising their little ones. The other day I spotted 12 of these beautiful birds sitting on my fence. Although everyone says they are very territorial and usually run in pairs, there they were at their little bird convention in my back yard near the City Park. Ah shucks, where was my camera??

They have been very active the past few weeks, building their nests and getting ready for the next generation and of course, cooing and cooing and cooing away. – Sandy Strong

Photo by Sandy Strong

**Willits Weekly**  
A Heritage & History Journal of Community and City News

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

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The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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](mailto: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.

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# For the Foodies

COLUMN | Cat About Town

The dish on tasty treats and more



## Visiting Willits

Via My Stomach

I've been in/on retreat for about a year-and-a-half now. What that means is that I've been staying home as much as I can and only going to town once a week or so.

Filling my days with homeschooling kids and caring for critters and gardens has been quite satisfying and rejuvenating, but life is never static for me. There's always gonna be something new entering my life as I leave other parts behind.

Reporting for Willits Weekly is what's new for me now, and this project has me venturing into town more often.

Having lived here for more than 14 years now, I'm seeing Willits with fresh eyes. I see how habitual and somewhat rigid I have become in my patterns. I shop at the same stores and only those stores. It's the same with our restaurants. There are many I have not visited in years and some newer ones I've never tried.

That's changing now as I re-enter the world that is Willits, and so far I'm 2-for-2 with my experiences at Mexican food restaurants.

I recently hit up Taqueria Jalos and Taqueria Bravo, and I was fully satisfied with both.



I don't eat meat, but I do eat some dairy, and I know I can always get veggie Mexican food. I spent about \$10 to \$15 including a tip. I could have gotten by cheaper, but I have a healthy appetite and I love a beer with my Mexican food.

At Taqueria Jalos I went for the \$5 special advertised in the window, which includes two soft tacos, rice and beans. I didn't think that would be enough to fill me up, so I ordered a tostada as well.

The food was fresh and warm and the beer icy cold. The salsas were zingy, zippy, and tasty, and the service was great. The atmosphere was clean and pleasant too, but I could do without the TV. I gave it up a decade ago.... My tummy was perfectly happy and satisfied following this meal. It was just right for me on this day.

My visit to Taqueria Bravo Monday left me just as satisfied in all ways. I had a tostada and two tacos again - with a beer, yes. They have "vegetable tacos" here that I just love (at least the two times I've had them now). They are made of hot, fresh seasonal veggies like zucchini, yellow squash, and broccoli grilled or sautéed with onions and garlic and peppers. Yum!

I also really like that the tostada comes with guacamole, and even cooler is that the guacamole is very fresh and yummy and agrees with my taste buds a lot!

No worries, my old friend and true food haunts of Willits. I'm not abandoning you, but I am expanding my horizons to experience more fully what the wondrous world of Willits has to offer.



At top: The \$5 soft tacos lunch special at Taqueria Jalos, plus a tostada

Above: Vegetable tacos at Taqueria Bravo are made of hot, fresh seasonal veggies like zucchini, yellow squash, and broccoli grilled or sautéed with onions and garlic and peppers.



The Taqueria Ramirez taco truck on Blosser Lane across from the Willits Redwood Company sawmill

Photo by Zack Cinek

City's Revitalization committee:

## What food truck policy would work in Willits?

Willits' code book says it is against the law for mobile businesses to be on Main and Commercial Streets - or anywhere within one block of those streets. Continuing talks by city government indicate that Willits will be looking at other communities as examples for any potential changes to its food truck ordinances.

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
zack@willitsweekly.com

"What works in San Francisco is not going to work here," Councilman Ron Orenstein said at a Monday meeting of the City's Revitalization and Economic Development Committee.

A conversation about Willits' food truck and mobile vendors began at the last city council meeting where it was placed on the council's agenda for discussion. The council took no action at that meeting.

The Revitalization committee made no decisions, but members talked about what kind of policy would work or be supported in Willits.

"I have not been contacted by many interested in continuing a ban on mobile food places," Mayor Holly Madrigal said.

Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez spoke at the meeting, saying

he thinks the city would do best to narrowly define food trucks, looking to other towns as an example.

Willits stated policy is to ban food trucks and mobile vendors, but some actions taken by the city show a policy contrary to the code book.

In a letter to the city, Vittorio Senerchia of Senerchia Bakers says that he is looking to do business in town from a wood-fired oven on weekend evenings this summer. Senerchia Bakers sells pizza and calzone at the Willits Farmers Market.

"We are planning to add a mobile, wood-fired oven this summer, and after talking with Alan Falleri (former community development director for the City of Willits) last winter, it was clear to me that while there was a body of older local code that conflicted, it was current practice to overlook this conflict in actual practice," Senerchia wrote in a May 6 letter to the city.

Senerchia also told the city: "We look forward to opening our weekend evening business this summer on the traffic corridor, and hope you can resolve the disconnect between the code and the desired current practices of code enforcement."

## Justin's Spiced Chocolate Fudge

### Ingredients:

- 3 cups sugar
- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 1 7oz jar of marshmallow cream
- 2/3 cup evaporated milk
- 1/4 cup vodka
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 10oz bag of bittersweet chocolate chips

### Directions:

Combine sugar, butter, marshmallow cream, evaporated milk, vodka, cinnamon and cayenne into a 4 quart sauce pan.

Stirring constantly over medium-high heat, bring mixture to a rolling boil. Still stirring, continue to cook for 4 minutes.

Perform a soft-ball test or check that the mixture has reached 235°-240°F. If it fails the soft-ball test or is below the desired temperature continue cooking, retesting every 20-30 seconds. During this time the mixture will rise and bubbles may pop. If this happens frequently, slow your stirring to reduce the risk of sugar burns.

Remove from heat and quickly mix in the chocolate chips and vanilla extract until chips have fully melted and the fudge is evenly mixed.

Pour into a pre-greased 9" x 9" baking pan to cool and set.



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# Mom & Prom

Mother's Day and WHS Prom are this weekend

## Full of Flowers



Left: The Flower Lady of Willits owner Arcelia Duran and her son Steven, and (right) Annette Pinon, owner of Flowers By Annette, are ready for your orders for prom and Mother's Day.

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

## Flowers

Every year, florists around the country work hard to make beautiful arrangements extra special for all the moms on Mother's Day. This year the holiday falls on Sunday, May 12 and both Flowers by Annette and The Flower Lady of Willits are ready to help deliver a special bouquet to moms near and far. Contact Flowers by Annette at 707-459-6588 and The Flower Lady of Willits at 707-459-9075.

## PROMinees



King Nominee: Jacob Bailey



King Nominee: Kailer Collicott



King Nominee: Wyatt Sanderson

Willits High School announces Senior Prom King and Queen Nominees in preparation for this Saturday night's event, from 9 pm to 1 am. Attendees will dance the night away to the theme of "Forever in the Twilight" held at the Little Lake Grange. King and Queen winners will be announced during the event.

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



Queen Nominee: Natalie Rose Grossman



Queen Nominee: Alicia Mehtlan



Queen Nominee: Kayla Schnitzius

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# Congratulations Column

## Rowdy William Lamprich



Rowdy William Lamprich born January 10, 2013 at 9:31 pm. He was 9 lbs even and 22.5 inches long. He is welcomed by parents Chris and April Lamprich, his sisters Charley and Brodey and grandparents Celeste Potter, Chris & Marisela Lamprich and great grandparents Charles & Billie Lamprich and Leonardo & Lucé Rodriguez and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

## TOOTHLESS Rylee Gamble



Six-year-old Rylee Gamble became a member of the front toothless club on May 4th when playing with a friend helped coax out her second top tooth. "The tooth fairy will be coming tonight!" parents Brandi and Logan Gamble laughed.

## Heather Blough Turned 50



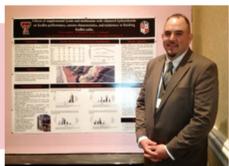
Heather Blough recently celebrated her 50th birthday. "Happy 50th Girl! The new 30! We all love ya!" her friends said.

## Brian Huddle Turned 16



Happy Birthday to Brian Huddle who turned 16 years old on May 8th.

## WINNER Andrew Hosford



Willits-raised Andrew Hosford placed in the top 5 for the Poster Competition at the Plains Nutrition Council Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX.

The Plains Nutrition Council (PNC) is an organization that brings together farmers, ranchers, veterinarians, academics, and private companies to talk about current issues that industry is facing. There were attendees from all over the world.

The poster competition is open to graduate students from any university. The panel of judges pick the top 5 posters based on a number of factors but most importantly, if the research will have an impact on improving the way that the animal agriculture industry is currently doing things.

The title of his poster was "Effects of Supplemental Lysine and Methionine with Zilpaterol Hydrochloride on Feedlot Performance, Carcass Characteristics, and Tenderness in Finishing Feedlot Cattle." For the trial, he selected the live cattle, fed them at the TTU feedlot, then harvested them at a commercial facility, collecting muscle samples to analyze tenderness.

"This research will make up the majority of my dissertation," explained Hosford. "It will result in finally achieving my goal of earning a Ph. D. in Animal Science with a concentration in Muscle Biology and Meat Science."

Send us your congratulatory notes!  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

### 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. 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.

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# What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

## Thursday, May 9

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

**Registration Closes Today:** for Family Gardening Workshop taught in Willits, Saturday, May 11, 8 am to 5 pm, by master gardener John Jeavons. Benefit for Waldorf School. \$110; 40 percent discount for members of Little Lake Grange and WELL. Register at: [www.johnjeavons.info](http://www.johnjeavons.info).

**Benefit "Dead Man's Cell Phone":** A special benefit performance for Soroptimist International of Willits tonight. Includes hors d'oeuvres and beverage for \$15. Contact Marilyn at 459-5649 for tickets to this event. See Ongoing listing for more information about the play.

**Shanachie Pub:** Lincoln Andrews & Company Jazz Jam, 8 pm. A new open jam format, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, featuring a variety of jazz musicians. Local and traveling "jazzies" are encouraged to bring their instrument of choice for a night of improvised genre-spanning jazz music.

## Friday, May 10

**Shanachie Pub:** Mendozazone, rocking reggae power trio featuring the rhythm section of veteran original roots reggae band Rootstock, Ellery Clark on bass and Lex Krauss on guitar, plus Christian Freeman on drums. Check out Mendozazone at <http://www.myspace.com/mendozazone>.

## Saturday, May 11

**Stamp Out Hunger:** Letter Carriers' Food Drive. Help fight hunger by collecting non-perishable goods and placing them in your mailbox (or in a box/bag beside) for your letter carrier to pick up this Saturday.

**Shanachie Pub:** 8 pm, featuring Malakai & Greg Schindler playing together. No cover. Greg is well-known as the "Train Singer," performing popular and traditional train songs on guitar, harmonica and whistle on the Skunk Train since 1989 and at fairs and festivals. Malakai, currently performing with bands Schindig and The Dirt Floor Band, sings and plays the silver flute, pan pipes, didgeridoo, guitar and hammer dulcimer.

## Sunday, May 12

**Pancakes for Mother's Day:** 8 to 11 am at the Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, any style of eggs, choice of bacon, ham or sausage, orange juice, coffee and mimosas. \$7 adults; \$5 children; \$5 members with card. Info: 459-6826.

## Monday, May 13

**Community Alliance meeting:** with Ellen Drell, 6:30 pm in the Willits Library meeting room. Drell, a founding board member of Willits Environmental Center, went to her first Caltrans bypass meeting in 1988, and will be sharing a history of the Caltrans bypass. Community Alliance More info: Jed Diamond at 459-5505.

## Tuesday, May 14

**Rides on a Historic WWII Aircraft:** Willits chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association sponsors the local tour stop of the B-17, named "Aluminum Overcast." Rides are \$475 and tours are from 2 - 5 pm are \$10, \$20 for families and free for veterans at the Ukiah Regional Airport today and Wednesday. More info: [www.b17.org/media/press\\_release.pdf](http://www.b17.org/media/press_release.pdf).

## Wednesday, May 15

**History Day at Willits Charter School:** The community is invited to view History Day displays at the Charter School from 4 to 6 pm today. Students from grades 6 through 11 will be presenting their research in the form of display boards, posters, skits, video, electronic presentations, oral histories and art. Many students will be dressed as their favorite historical person, or in the garb of their favorite historic era, today and Thursday during the school day.



Malakai and Greg perform Saturday at the Shanachie Pub

## Thursday, May 16

**"Betting the Farm":** a documentary about a group of Maine dairy farmers – dropped by their national milk company – who launch their own milk company in a bid to save their farms. 7 pm, Little Lake Grange. \$5 donation.

## Friday, May 17

**Willits Kids Club Carnival:** 4 to 7 pm at Willits Kids Club, 1265 Blosser Lane. Third annual carnival created by Baechtel Grove Middle School students for the younger students and the community. Games, face painting, and lots of fun. Kiwanis Club selling hamburgers (\$2) and hotdogs (\$1) to benefit the Kids Club and other fun and healthy food. Free, except students can pay \$3 to qualify to win prizes.

**Save Little Lake Valley Benefit:** Dinner theater by the Willits Shakespeare Festival, "The Complete History of America, Abridged" (the only Willits showing after a successful run in Ukiah); music by The Dirt Floor Band, and an Italian dinner (gluten free and vegetarian available. Little Lake Grange, 7 pm. Tickets: \$30, available at Goods' Shoppe.

**"The Sound of Music":** Opening night tonight and Saturday at 7 pm, plus 2 pm matinee on Sunday. The spring musical from the Willits High School theater class. Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$5 for students/ seniors.

## Saturday, May 18

**"Bass Buffet" featuring Jillian Ann:** 10 pm to 4 am at the Brooktrails Lodge. A new multi-genre, future bass music show every second Saturday, from local promoters Figure 8 Sound, Mountain Lion Hi Fi, GruntWorthy, and ZooKeepers. Multiple rooms with multiple DJs, light & laser crews AuroraScope and HyTyePromoteam, and custom visuals by Seeing Sounds. Los Angeles multimedia artist Jillian Ann (DJ, electronica producer, singer/songwriter) has just released the "Passes Away" EP on Simplify Recordings. \$10; 21+; full bar; dinner served until 9:30pm; rooms available: 459-1596. For more info, check "Bass Buffet" on Facebook.



Last year's Tea & Togs  
Photo By Dick Graham

**Tea & Togs Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show:** noon to 2 pm at the Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. The fashion show showcases fabulous finds from the Willits Seniors' Thrift Store, modeled by fabulous local models. Bring your own teacup and enjoy a selection of tea sandwiches, scones, cakes, tarts and teas. Tickets, \$10, available in advance at the Harrah Center or at the door. More info: 459-6826.

**WHS Boosters Tri-Tip Dinner & Quarter Auction:** A fundraiser for the WHS Boosters Club, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Dinner at 6 pm; quarter auction at 7 pm. No host bar. \$20 for dinner and paddle; \$5 for paddle only. Tickets at Scoops and the House Doctor, or call Mark at 489-1250 or Sheri at 272-6163.

# Jungle of Fun



Redwood Empire Fair exhibitor guide books are already out on the streets.

Even though the July 5 deadline for entries seems a ways away, now is the time to plant your veggies, start looking at sewing patterns, build your quilt blocks, test out recipes, and more. The fair will be here before you know it!

Books are available at the Willits Chamber of Commerce or at Gateway Realty.

More info: 462-FAIR or 459-5363



Letter Carrier Matthew Jennison picks up canned goods from a local mailbox

Photo by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



# Stamp Out Hunger

Annual Post Office one-day food drive this Saturday

For the 21st year, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Campbell Soup Company will partner to Stamp Out Hunger with their canned food drive. The Stamp Out Hunger Drive is the largest single-day food drive across the country with 70.5 million pounds of food being donated in 2012. This brought the grand total of the entire drive to over 1.2 billion pounds of food.

This year, donations are needed yet again to help supply food

to the rapidly increasing number of Americans struggling with hunger. You can help by placing non-perishable goods in your mailbox or bagged or boxed alongside for your letter carrier to pick up and add to the drive this Saturday.

For more information ask your letter carrier, contact the local post office, visit either [www.helpstampouthunger.com](http://www.helpstampouthunger.com) or [www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger](http://www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger), or follow the drive at [www.twitter.com/StampOutHunger](http://www.twitter.com/StampOutHunger).

# Mini Makers Needed for May 25 Fair

Deadline for applications is May 10

Saturday, May 25 is the date for the Mini Maker Faire at the County Museum in Willits, 10 am to 5 pm, and the Maker Masquerade Ball that evening at the Little Lake Grange.

Maker Faires are family-friendly showcases of invention, creativity, and resourcefulness, and tinkerers and vendors interested in having free booths at the faire, or in doing displays, demonstrations, and workshops, are welcome to apply by going to [www.MendocinoMakerFaire.com](http://www.MendocinoMakerFaire.com).

com, and click on "Makers" to download an application. Deadline is May 10. Volunteers also needed: to sign up, please call Barbara Willens at 459-2736, or email [Info@MendocinoMakerFaire.com](mailto:Info@MendocinoMakerFaire.com).

Tickets (a limited number will be sold) for the Maker Masquerade Ball, \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door, are also now available at the museum and at Mazahar, and also online at Brown Bag Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/382929>

# Save the Date

## May 19:

Poet Linda Noel/Open Reading, the Muse

## May 19:

Sober Grad's Ducky Derby, Brooktrails Golf Course

## May 24, 25 & 26:

Friends of the Library Book Sale, Willits Library

## May 25:

Mini-Maker Faire, County Museum & Masquerade Ball

## May 25:

Willits Community Walk for Health

## May 25 & 26:

Community Car Show, Rec Grove

## June 8:

WELL's 1st annual Bicycle Show and Parade, City Park

## 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.

# Ongoing Events

**"Dead Man's Cell Phone":** an edgy dark romantic comedy by prizewinning contemporary playwright Sara Ruhl at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse at 8 pm. "Dead Man's Cell Phone" continues Thursdays (7 pm, \$10), Fridays and Saturdays (8 pm, \$15) and Sundays (2 pm, \$10) through May 19. Adult language. The theater is located at 37 W. Van Lane; tickets are available at the Goods' Shoppe or by calling 459-0895 to reserve tickets by credit card.

**"The Telling Line: A Display of Illustrations":** an exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum features pen and ink drawings by illustrator and author David Weitzman, who's lived in Covelo since 1972. The museum, at 400 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Admission: \$4 adults; \$1 20 and under; free under 6. More info: 459-2736 or [www.MendocinoMuseum.org](http://www.MendocinoMuseum.org).

**"Journeys":** an art show at the Willits Center for the Arts, hosted by Manzanita Services, for Mental Health Month in May. Paintings, sculptures, poetry, dolls, jewelry, ceramics, metalwork, and the unfinished "Journeys Quilt," by participants at Manzanita, family members and friends, mental health workers, and community members. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays, 4 to 7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 3 pm. Through May 26.

# Spring Plant Sales

Get your veggie and flower starts and help out a great cause

**First Steps Daycare Plant Sale:** Saturday, May 18, from 10 am to 3 pm at Sweetwater Station on Highway 101. Aloe plants, spider plants, peach trees, veggies and more. Lemonade stand. More info: Lauren at 456-9880.

**Commonwealth Garden's Spring Plant Fling:** Sunday, May 19, from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. Vegetable, flower and herb starts in prime condition for setting out. At the Howard Foundation and Howard Memorial Hospital's Commonwealth Garden Greenhouse, 90 Haehl Creek Drive. More info: Ananda at 459-2777 or Carolyn at 455-7732.

**Grateful Gleaners Spring Plant Sale:** Sunday, June 2 at 10 am, corner of West Mendocino and Spruce streets, beginning at 10 am. A variety of plants and starts for sale.



The Willits Redwood Little League teams are winding up their season. At Saturday's game, above: a batter connects with the ball and at right: the team huddles and talks strategy

Photos by Kathy McKee



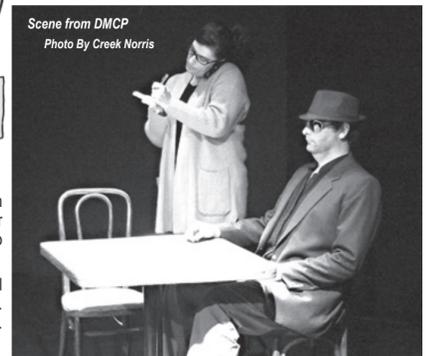
# Junior Giants Sign-Ups

It's time to sign up for Willits Junior Giants, a noncompetitive baseball program for boys and girls of all skill levels. Two leagues: 4-10 years old and 12 to 18 years old.

Stop by BodyWorks, 1511 South Main Street, to sign up (hours: Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm or Thursday and Friday evenings from 7 to 8 pm).

This is the 18th summer for the Junior Giants program in Willits. \$5 donation includes a baseball hat and glove. Practice and play on Tuesdays and Thursdays (no weekends). League play begins June 18.

More info: Keith or Cynthia at BodyWorks, 459-0594.



Scene from DMCP

Photo By Creek Norris

# "Dead Man's Cell Phone"

A hit on opening weekend

"Dead Man's Cell Phone" opened with a bang last weekend according to theatre sources. "We had a really good Friday and a great Saturday night," an excited Lynn Dee Johnson, producer of this Willits Community Theatre production, said about the attendance of the first two performances.

Kitty Norris, who is on the board of directors and who was recently awarded the Willits Community Theatre Lifetime Service Award for 2013, was also enthusiastic about the play's opening weekend.

"Dead Man's Cell Phone at the Willits Community Theatre is very, very good, and very, very funny," she said. "In the middle of a sold-out audience Saturday night, I was thoroughly enjoying the spontaneous laughter at each extremely clever line."

"It's a great play," Johnson said of this modern darkly romantic comedy.

"No wonder theatres are scrambling to present Sarah Rule's plays," Norris said, "I get what the fuss is about, and I want more!"

"Bill Barksdale is one of our very best directors.... I love his work," Norris said. "I'm going to see this show at least twice, and there are still seats available with eight more performances."

"Dead Man's Cell Phone" plays through the next two weekends with shows May 9 to 12 and May 16 to 19. Tickets can be purchased at Good's Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, or can be reserved by phone with a credit card at 459-0895.

# Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

## In the Stars...

**ARIES** | Mar 21 - Apr 20  
Aries, something irresistible keeps grabbing your attention. Don't overindulge too much or you will regret the decision later on. Exercise moderation.

**TAURUS** | Apr 21 - May 21  
Taurus, you may be tempted to run away from a challenging situation, but it is in your best interest to hunker down and face the problem. You won't be going it alone.

**GEMINI** | May 22 - Jun 21  
Gemini, you seem to quickly conquer tasks that others struggle with. It could be thanks to your ability to focus, but look over your work to make sure it's correct.

**CANCER** | Jun 22 - Jul 22  
Cancer, while many things come easily to you, there is one particular situation that continually proves problematic. You might have to scale a few mountains to handle it.

**LEO** | Jul 23 - Aug 23  
Leo, this week you might be better off tackling things on your own instead of looking to others for support. This will help minimize any potential distractions.

**VIRGO** | Aug 24 - Sept 22  
You have a few secrets you are not willing to share just yet. Virgo. That's alright. Keeping some of your agenda private will inspire curiosity and be to your advantage.

**LIBRA** | Sept 23 - Oct 23  
Libra, you may be trying to get a certain person alone so you can have some one-on-one time together. A rendezvous is possible this week.

**SCORPIO** | Oct 24 - Nov 22  
Scorpio, you are at an impasse because you are second-guessing some of your most recent decisions. You may need to shift your focus to get back on track.

**SAGITTARIUS** | Nov 23 - Dec 22  
The old adage that if you want something done right you have to do it yourself rings especially true this week, Sagittarius. Your skills are put to the test.

**CAPRICORN** | Dec 22 - Jan 20  
Capricorn, there is a certain window of time this week when you will be extremely efficient and effective. The other times you may as well throw in the towel.

**AQUARIUS** | Jan 21 - Feb 18  
Aquarius, you have to work out a few loose ends before you are free for a much-needed vacation or just time spent doing whatever it is that makes you happy.

**PISCES** | Feb 19 - Mar 20  
Pisces, sometimes love can cause pain, but this is the way to grow and learn from mistakes. There are lessons to be learned in a few days.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 11**

## 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	

**NOW WITH CLUES!**

### CLUES DOWN

- Lyric poems
- Hungarian sheep dog (var. sp.)
- A pad of writing paper
- Lists of candidates
- Base, basket and foot
- Samoa capital
- Mythological bird
- Urban row houses
- Sensationalist journalism
- Carried on the arm to intercept blows
- Estrildid finch genus
- PA 18840
- S.W. English town & cheese
- Runs disconnected
- Mourners
- Ballplayer Ruth
- Old world, new
- Atomic #25
- Sweet potato wind instrument
- Legend
- 3rd tone of the scale
- Russian jeweler Peter Carl
- Capital of Mali
- Extremist sects
- Violent denunciation
- Tooth covering
- Music term for silence
- Churns
- Smoldering embers
- Writer Jong
- Actor Kristofferson
- Adam and Eve's 1st home
- Fish eggs

### CLUES ACROSS

- Selects
- A cutting remark
- Teaspoonful (abbr.)
- Having two units or parts
- Quality perceptible to the sense of taste
- Expression of surprise
- Italian Island
- A coarse cloth with a bright print
- Propose a price
- Sedimentary material
- Tree toad genus
- Passed time agreeably
- Custodians

## Heart Health Word Search

**WORDS**

ABDOMEN EDEMA  
ALVEOLI ENDOCARDIUM  
ANGINA ENZYME  
ANGIOPLASTY HOMOXYSTEINE  
AORTA HYPERTENSION  
ARTERY HYPOTENSION  
ATHEROSCLEROSIS INFARCT  
BIOPSY ISCHAEMIA  
BLOOD PRESSURE LUMEN  
BRADYCARDIA PALPITATION  
BYPASS PLAQUE  
CARDIAC SATURATED  
CARDIOVASCULAR SEPTUM  
CHOLESTEROL SHUNT  
CIRCULATION STENT  
DIASTOLIC THROMBUS  
DIURETIC VEIN

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

### A. 14 25 11 23 23 21 25 11

Clue: Continuous force

### B. 16 13 25 4 1 8 6 13 23 16 21 2 13 25

Clue: Relating to the heart

### C. 22 11 13 25 7

Clue: Body muscle

### D. 23 13 2 7

Clue: Seasoning

Solve the code to discover words related to blood pressure. Each number corresponds to a different letter. (Hint: 13 = a)

**CRYPTOFUN**  
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

\$10 for 5 lines for 2 weeks!

# Classifieds & More

Quick ads and extra info

COLUMN | Self-Help Law



## Green Burials

Editor's Note: We thought this column by Marc Comer was a good follow-up to last weekend's "Are You Ready?" workshop in Willits about the process of death and dying.

Burials and cremations can be hard on the environment. Embalming chemicals, metal caskets, concrete burial vaults, and cremation facility emissions take a surprising toll.

It's not difficult to make funeral arrangements that are easier on the earth. Some green choices are surprisingly simple, like asking that your body not be embalmed and choosing an environmentally friendly casket or urn.

What's more, many of these options bring an additional benefit that interests almost everyone – saving money. You may save thousands of dollars for your inheritors by making a few careful choices.

Here are some things you can do:

Choose a green cemetery. The Green Burial Council, a nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable after-death practices, has developed a certification process for cemeteries that want to go green. These cemeteries agree to avoid toxins and earth-adverse materials (including metal caskets, concrete burial vaults and traditional grave markers) and to help to preserve land. You can learn more and locate facilities at [www.greenburialcouncil.org](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org).

Say no to embalming. Embalming fluid contains toxic chemicals – including up to three gallons of formaldehyde – that can seep into soil and ground water. It's also hazardous to the funeral industry personnel who have to work with it. Embalming rarely serves a legitimate purpose and is almost never required.

Ask for a biodegradable container. You can use a simple wood casket, cardboard box or shroud for burial. There are also biodegradable urns for ashes that will be buried. By law, you are allowed to use whatever type of container you like – even a homemade one. This is a great opportunity to save money, because elaborate caskets and urns carry a huge mark-up and can cost a bundle. (The average casket costs almost \$2,500. Fancier models may cost more than \$20,000.)

Avoid in-ground vaults. Vaults are large containers, usually made from reinforced concrete, that are placed in the ground before a burial. They're not required by law, but many cemeteries demand them because they make it easier to maintain the landscape. The result is that, every year, more than 1.5 million tons of reinforced concrete are buried along with caskets and bodies.

You can look for a cemetery that doesn't require vaults. In a few states, you can even refuse a vault on religious grounds. You may be required to pay an extra fee for grave maintenance, but you will avoid the cost of the vault itself (\$500 to \$10,000 in most places).

If you must use a vault, you might consider one of the following: Use a concrete grave box with open bottom or turn a concrete grave liner upside down and find something else to do with the lid. These options offer two advantages. First, they use slightly less concrete. Second, they allow the body to be in contact with the earth, which makes for a much quicker and cleaner decomposition process.

Cremation conservation. Cremation uses the fewest resources, and it's less expensive than burial, but it's not entirely clean. It burns fossil fuels and carries the risk of mercury pollution from incinerated amalgam fillings. New cremation facilities are more efficient, using about half the fuel. If you have amalgam fillings in your teeth, you can ask that they be removed before cremation.

Consider a home funeral. An increasing number of people are choosing to care for their dead at home, reducing the funeral industry's involvement or avoiding it altogether. Though home funerals are more work, many find them to be a satisfying and helpful part of the grieving process.

Most states do allow individuals to act completely on their own – or with the help of funeral "midwives" who are now available in many locations. But there are rules about how people may proceed. And a few states throw up roadblocks to acting independently, requiring that a funeral director handle the disposition of a deceased person.

Tell others what you want. Careful thought and planning won't do any good if your loved ones don't know what you want when the time comes.

If you want to take an independent approach, you may want to do some more research. One good book is Final Passages Guidebook, Creating Home Funerals, by Jerri Lyons. Contact the author at P.O. Box 1721, Sebastopol, CA 95473, 707-824-0268, or email her at [info@finalpassages.org](mailto:info@finalpassages.org) or [www.finalpassages.org](http://www.finalpassages.org).

Marc Comer is a legal document assistant and notary public in Willits. He can be reached at 459-2775 or [www.mendolegdocs.com](http://www.mendolegdocs.com).

### 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.

### 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).

### Eckankar

AWAKEN TO the divine guidance always within you. You are invited to participate in an ongoing, spiritual discussion every 4th Tuesday at 7 pm at the Willits Library meeting room, 390 E. Commercial Street. Next meeting is Tuesday, May 28. Sponsored by: Eckankar. Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Call 972-2475.

### Pinball Machines

PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

### Qi Gong

Qi Gong is a movement and meditation technique that improves and benefits the strength, balance, and flexibility of your mind, body, emotions and spirit. It reduces blood pressure, improves circulation, reduces pain, and it is easy to learn.

This class is taught by Ross Lake, a Licensed Acupuncturist. In Willits we meet on Thursdays 12:05 to 12:55 at The Muse, 34 E. San Francisco Street. For more information, call Ross at 462-4448.

### For Sale

1990 Lance Squire 9.4 Camper. Put the convenience of home on the back of your truck. Has stove/oven, refrig, toilet/shower, outside shower & awning. Sleeps 4-5. Fits on 8' truck bed. \$2,400 OBO. 707-459-6729.

### Mother's Day Massage

Massage Therapists Felicity Artemis and Suzanne Picetti are available on Mother's Day, Sunday May 12th, to give your mother, sister, auntie, or YOU a fabulous massage! at Body Rituals, Center for the Healing Arts on Main Street in Willits. Also included is a complimentary session in our state-of-the-art infrared sauna! Please call 459-2300 to make an appointment... GIFT CERTIFICATES are also available...

### Notice

Hey, Willy Willits, what do you think of this?  
— "Not a Willy fan"

### Seeking Rental

Locally employed Female with dog seeking 1 bedroom home with 6 foot fence. Prefer town or Brooktrails, good local refs., willing to pay between \$950 - \$1150. Call after 7 p.m. 707-272-7284.

### Timber Framing

GARFIELD CONSTRUCTION, New England Style Timber Framing. Hand cut joints held fast with oak pegs. Homes, Barns, Gazebos and more. Stop by our shop and see the display. 299 Highway 20, 841-7429.

**ADVERTISE HERE! 459-2633**

## The Rest of the Letters

From Page 2

### Still going strong

To the Editor:

I'm writing to let your readers know that the effort to build a better Willits bypass is going strong. A delegation representing a number of groups opposed to Caltrans' current design of the bypass made a trip to Sacramento last week and another to Los Angeles this week.

The trip to Sacramento was the third such trip of delegates representing Save Our Little Lake Valley, the Willits Environmental Center, the Little Lake Grange and others. This latest trip was the largest, with over 25 people from Willits, including Madge Strong, Willits city councilwoman, Amanda Senseman AKA "Warbler," who spent 2 1/2 months in a tree, and Lesa Oswald who has been on a hunger strike in opposition to the bypass since April 2.

Representatives from the various groups spoke to agency representatives in a number of offices, and a demonstration was held on the steps of the capitol. The delegation hoped to impress on both regulatory agencies, planning agencies and Governor Jerry Brown how wasteful and unnecessary the project is. They asked for stop-work orders and a halt to the project while real "least damaging alternatives" are explored, quantified and compared with cost-benefit analyses. Phase 1 of the project costs \$15 million per lane-mile as opposed to the state average which is \$3.5 million per lane-mile.

Another delegation went to Los Angeles to speak at the California Transportation Commission meeting. They

spoke against the allocation of another \$31 million more towards this project that serves a mere 8,000 vehicles per day. (A 4-lane freeway is designed to carry 40 to 80 thousand vehicles per day). The Commission did allocate the money. At the same time they delayed the Ryan Creek Fish Passage project which was intended to mitigate for damages to the fisheries caused by the bypass project.

Since the two mitigation plans are now in the public domain, it is clear that mitigation is still underfunded, and a long-term manager for the mitigation properties is not secured. Two permits issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and another issued by the Water Quality Control Board are not current and require amendments. CDFW has already issued stop-work orders several times to force Caltrans to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Water Board issued a violation last week.

The Sherwood Rancheria also opposes the project and says that Caltrans did not follow the law with regard to tribal rights. Two county supervisors recently reversed their support for the project and the community of those who oppose the Caltrans bypass design continues to grow as more people understand the details of the project.

Please go to [www.savelittlelakevalley.org](http://www.savelittlelakevalley.org) for more information. Please see the video "How Caltrans Sold the Willits Bypass" now on U-tube. Please also check the webcam on the Caltrans website that shows the traffic north of Willits, which is the through traffic that would use the bypass. [www.video.dot.ca.gov](http://www.video.dot.ca.gov).

Rosamond Crowder  
Willits, CA

## The Rest of WKC

From Page 1

### The Rest of Bypass

From Page 1

The plan to reconfigure schools is meant to offer more attractive alternatives to parents, to "create a program that excites more parents, so they want to keep their kids here," she said.

Pearson said it was in third grade and in sixth grade that "we see kids leave" the district schools most often.

One issue that remains unresolved is where the school district office will relocate too: the office must leave its current location on Pearl Street by July 1. That leased location costs \$30,000 a year in rental costs. Pearson's original idea was that if sixth grade was moved to Blosser Lane, the district office could relocate to Baechtel Grove, but with that plan delayed, the district office is still working on a relocation plan.

Interim Superintendent

Pearson is set to finish up her year in the district on June 30. The district is currently negotiating a contract with a potential new superintendent and hopes to publicly announce their new hire at a May 14 school board meeting.

The Willits Kids Club serves up to 250 school children every day, said director Wagner. There are often 90 to 100 kids from Baechtel Grove attending the after-school program, 70 to 80 kids from Blosser Lane, and 60 or 70 kids that the school district buses over from Brookside School to the Willits Kids Club building, right next to Blosser Lane every day, too. "There's something fabulous happening every day at the Kids Club," Wagner said. "Children having a good time after school, learning and growing and contributing to the community."

last week for two days to lobby for "an immediate halt to the further construction of the Caltrans Willits bypass project."

Michael Fitzgerral, tribal chairman of the Sherwood Valley Rancheria, told Willits Weekly Friday that the tribe was in "negotiations and consultations" with Caltrans about protection of Native American cultural and archeological resources. Fitzgerral said a temporary agreement had been reached with Caltrans to hold off on any earth-moving activities for about a week.

"The tribe is aware of, and gravely concerned about, sacred and village sites that, while known to the tribe, have not been properly identified by archaeologists working on this project," Fitzgerral said in a media statement released Friday afternoon.

"The archeologist we hired to work with us is gathering information from locals," Fitzgerral told Willits Weekly. "We want them to slow down on moving any earth until we come up with a good plan."

Fitzgerral said the Sherwood tribe had not been consulted by Caltrans since 2002.

But on Monday Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie denied that any agreement had been reached. "I spoke with our people working with the tribe," he said, "and there was no agreement."

But, Frisbie said: "We were not planning on moving dirt until Wednesday, after the California Transportation Commission vote."

Asked about a colorized version of a map of Little Lake Valley confirmed to be from a 1908 book, "The Ethnogeography of the Pomo Indians," by S.A. Barrett, that shows Pomo villages scattered throughout Little Lake Valley, Frisbie said he didn't think it showed villages inside the bypass route.

"To me, trying to trace out the current path, to me it looked like some of the villages were near, but there were not any actually within the route," he said.

Frisbie said a representative from the Sherwood tribe would be working with Caltrans out in the field, "to help provide oversight."

If there are any archeological sites discovered, he said, "they'll be right there to help confirm and ID and decide what needs to be done, so that can be assessed and we can continue on with our construction."

Fitzgerral also mention the tribe's unhappiness with a March 20 letter sent to state Sen. Noreen Evans by Caltrans director Malcolm Dougherty, which cited the Sherwood Valley Rancheria as a supporter of the Willits bypass. "That's not true," Fitzgerral said. "We were supposed to be in consultation about it so we could get our people out there, but it's never happened."

Congratulations, Willits Weekly

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# Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Above, left to right: Customer Lois Judson purchases tamales from Team Captain Kim Nailor, team member Jackie Lopez, her daughter Gali Lopez, 7, and team members Alyssa Eaton and Darlene Betts  
Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

## Relay for Life gearing up

New teams invited to come to May 15 meeting at City Hall

Willits Relay for Life team "Fishin' for a Cure" had a fundraising tamale sale in front of Village Mart Sunday, and team captain Kim Nailor said the team cleared \$657 for the day, selling more than 600 tamales.

The sale, which featured tamales made by Teresa Borjon, started at 10 am, and sold out at 2 pm. "She's so good and giving to help us," Nailor said. Members of the team, made up mostly of employees of Willits Rexall, helped with cooking 800 tamales, some of

which they donated to the Willits Charter School and the St. Anthony's festival. Nailor said she'd heard tamales were hard to make but, she said, "You don't think anything of it until you try it yourself."

Willits Relay for Life, scheduled for July 27 and 28 in the Rec Grove, already has 25 teams signed up, almost as many as the 26 teams participating in last summer's first annual event. But they're still encouraging new teams to sign up.

invited to the next Team Captain meeting, set for May 15 at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. People can register their teams or themselves online, too: check [www.relayforlife.org/willitsCA](http://www.relayforlife.org/willitsCA) for information and signups.

The Cancer Society's 24-hour Relay is not a race or a marathon. Team members can walk (or roll, people in wheelchairs are welcome) as much or as little as they like. "A lot of people don't realize that Relay is a walk, not a race," Nailor said. "The whole idea of it, the reason why you have a team, is that everybody trades in and out, walking around the track, so that – hopefully, there's at least 1 person from each team walking all the time."

But there's no disqualifying at Relay for Life: "We have one team with only two people, a husband and wife," Nailor said. "They're both survivors; they do what they can." Cancer survivors are especially warmly invited to sign up.

In addition to the Relay for Life website and the Willits Relay page, those interested in more information can call event chair Jennifer Sookne at 707-354-4219 or Nailor at 707-391-8609 or check out the "Relay For Life of Willits, Ca" page on Facebook.



Above: Little Gali Lopez shakes clacker hands to try and draw attention to the tamale stand



COLUMN | Gardening in Willits

## Your Compost Pile

Do you want to start a small vegetable patch? Just before a spring rain shower is a good time to clear off any grass and weeds and to spread some compost or rotted manure on the ground. (You can also use a hose after you've spread your compost, if the spring rains are long gone.)

Compost is a mixture composed of decayed organic matter used to provide nutrients and improve soil structure.

If you don't have a compost pile and you want to start a small vegetable garden, consider buying some composted organic material. Garden retailers sell bags of finished compost you can use right away to improve the soil in your garden. Adding decayed organic material will get your spring and summer vegetables off to a good start.

When you are choosing bagged compost to amend the soil in your small spring garden, quantity is more important than supposed quality. Don't be misled by long strings of printed sermons on a fancy bag of compost. Your plants can't read and will do better with three or four bags of steer manure instead of one fancy bag of supposed rare bacteria and Latin-named fungi.

The size of your vegetable garden plot, instructions on the bag, and suggestions from the plant nursery person will help you figure out how many bags of material you need to amend the soil. Find a nursery person you feel comfortable with and whose advice you trust. Buy your soil amendments, plants and tools where you feel you will get knowledgeable, honest advice.

A. Roebeck is an experienced Willits gardener who wants to occasionally share his knowledge and tips about gardening in our local area.



## The Rest of Wicks

From Page 1

something? Or did they forget?" Whitney asked.

Whitney said that one of his main areas of concern was that the EIRs for the project do not require that a settlement pond for the water produced by the wick drain fields be built before that water flows into Outlet Creek. "These wick drains will drain water from the soil, but without drainage settlement ponds to collect sediment, it is clear that sedimentation from these drains will flow into Outlet Creek, a salmon- and steelhead-bearing stream. That isn't the way these things are supposed to be done," said Whitney, who works as an environmental consultant.

When asked if he feared that wick drains will magnify the effects of an earthquake in our area, Whitney noted that the Mayacama fault line runs right down Main Street in Willits and that smaller, tributary fault lines are ubiquitous. "There are earthquake fault lines everywhere, and the only way you can find out what the impacts of that will be is after an earthquake happens," Whitney said.

When asked if plastics from the wick drains themselves could leach into Outlet Creek and affect the fish, Whitney said, "People should be testing their wells."

When asked if there was a chance that wick drains could mix toxins such as boron or arsenic into the groundwater in various parts of the valley, Whitney said: "It's an unknown. There's never been any study – to my knowledge – of the effect of wick drains on water tables, or naturally occurring toxins, or on aquatic wildlife. If that did happen, the affected landowner wouldn't know for many, many years. Certainly if there is a lawsuit, the city or the county will foot the bill, not Caltrans."

David Patch, another panelist in the symposium, spoke about the amount of water taken up by the wells that Caltrans plans to build during the project and gave his opinion on whether that water loss would be likely to de-water Little Lake Valley.

Patch said that he had calculated that rainfall over what he called the Southern Sub-basin of the Outlet Creek Watershed (that's Willits, Little Lake Valley and the hills surrounding the valley) annually yields 169,000 acre feet of water. Of that, about half is lost to transpiration and a quarter is lost to evaporation. He said that 25.9 percent of that water is available as flows through the sub-basin and would therefore be available for groundwater recharge. Patch calculated that between 23,000 and 48,000 acre feet of water is put back into the groundwater of Little Lake Valley each year, depending on annual rainfall.

Patch estimated that the maximum amount of water that might be removed from Little Lake Valley during the construction phase was 200 acre feet annually. This is water that might be removed by wells from the aquifers underneath Little Lake Valley for the purposes of soil compaction, making concrete and washing off equipment. (For the sake of comparison, this is about one sixth of the water that is available to the City of Willits annually, through Willits' two 600 acre-foot reservoirs.) Patch concluded that this water loss, when compared to the roughly 35,000 acre feet that is available for groundwater recharge each year, was insignificant.

"I am more opposed, or as much opposed, to the bypass as anyone I know," said Patch. "I don't think this project is going to de-water the valley, and I don't think that the de-watering of Little Lake Valley is a legitimate reason to oppose the bypass. And when people give that as a reason to be opposed to the bypass, they are doing a disservice to us, and to our efforts to stop it," Patch said.

In a subsequent conversation with this reporter, Patch said that he thinks that fears that the bypass project will drain wells in Willits are not based on an accurate perception of reality. "Overall, there's no argument that I can see that the construction project is going to drain your well dry," Patch said. He then said that there could be two exceptions to that statement. "One is, if they happen to drop a significant sized well, and it happens to be within 100 feet or 200 feet of your well, then your well could be impacted.

"The other case is, if you happen to have some very weird, uniquely bad geology underground, and there is some kind of rare but still possible connection between your well and the Caltrans well, then I guess it could impact you. It's a possibility but it's a remote possibility," Patch said.

Little Lake Valley rancher John Ford and his wife Charline were present for the symposium and after moderator Sheriff Allman left the room, Ford was asked to come up to the front of the hall and answer questions. Rosamond Crowder asked Ford about the impacts of the lack of channel maintenance on hydrology and fish populations.

"Rosamond and I disagree about this," Ford said, referring to the fact that the mitigation plans don't call for channel maintenance on that portion of the wetlands upon which grazing will be permitted. "What I have to say about that is, if that's their plan, you may as well forget about your fish populations.

"Because, okay, yes, Rosamond likes those winding wooded channels and that's great, that's the way it was say 200 years ago, fine, but you have to remember, the environment you have upstream is different now than it was 200 or 100 or 50 or even 20 years ago. You have all that blacktop there now; you have more streets and parking lots and roofs; you got a lot more runoff now; there's a lot less recharge; and so it's different now. And when you let those channels go, the valley is gonna lose its definition as a fish passage. 'Cuz if you don't maintain 'em, it won't work," Ford said.

## Puzzle Answers

From Page 8

O	P	T	S	B	A	R	B	T	S	P	3	9	8	7	4	5	6	2	1
D	U	A	L	S	A	P	O	R	A	H	5	4	6	1	2	8	7	3	9
E	L	B	A	C	A	L	I	C	O	B	1	7	2	3	9	6	5	4	8
S	I	L	T	H	Y	L	A	W	I	L	2	6	9	8	5	7	3	1	4
K	E	E	P	E	R	S	N	D	O	L	4	8	1	2	6	3	9	5	7
T	S	A	D	E	S	L	I	D			7	3	5	4	1	9	8	6	2
L	D	E	M	O	T	E					6	1	7	9	3	2	4	8	5
F	L	A	M	E	N	C	O	S			9	5	4	6	8	1	2	7	3
F	A	B	R	I	C	A	N				8	2	3	5	7	4	1	9	6
T	A	B	L	E	C	R	E	T											
A	M	E	E	R	K	O	L	N	R	A									
C	A	R	E	R	A	T	A	M	I	D									
E	K	G	R	O	I	L	S	D	E	K									
T	O	E	S	S	E	L	A	N											

Answers: A. pressure B. cardiovascular C. heart D. salt



The Whetzel/Passof Family of Ukiah received an award for 138 years of 4-H involvement: Mike and Tascha Whetzel with children Shannon and Tanner and parents: Pete and Flo Passof  
Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

## The Rest of Centennial

From Page 1

Several key speakers told of the importance of 4-H and their personal connections to 4-H, including Mendocino County First District Supervisor Carre Brown and Christine Anderson, constituent representative for U.S. Representative Jared Huffman, who represents the Second District in Congress.

Longtime 4-H alumni and supporters also spoke to the benefits and enjoyments of their time in the program, including Pete Passof, UC Cooperative Extension Forest Advisor Emeritus and a current 4-H project leader; Bob Dempel, one of Mendocino County's 1951 4-H All-Stars and long-time 4-H supporter; Sid Harper of Mendocino County Savings Bank, and 4-H alumni and sister to the hall's late-namesake, Arlene Shippey, who gave a theatrical and lively demonstration of the "Lion Hunt" dance, commonly enjoyed by 4-H camp attendees through the years.

The fashion review gave everyone a grand laugh with vintage sewing projects though modern tailoring challenges, including duct tape and under \$20 makeover classes.

Ukiah and Potter Valley's knitting group, self-dubbed The 4-H Sweaterettes and Company, also modeled their handmade sweaters, baskets and hats, and even

a wallet made by the group's male knitter, Noah Penry.

"He started knitting because he watched his sisters do it for two years and wanted to knit with them," explained Nadine Boer, vice president of the Mendocino County 4-H Council and intermediate knitting leader. "He is just about the cutest, most active kid ever."

Sectional Presentation and Gold Medal awards were handed out to winners, along with awards given to the hall's exhibits, as well as to the cookie contest winner Ariel Anton of the Mendocino Spartan 4-H Club who won People's Choice for her Apple Pie Cookies.

The evening concluded with the cutting of a giant birthday sheet cake made by Melissa Smith.

"The Centennial Celebration was a smashing success," said Boer. "4-H members from all over the county came together to proclaim and demonstrate the skills they have acquired through the 4-H program.

"The day was spent enjoying visiting with friends, meeting alumni and hearing the words of wisdom from past 4-H'ers," she said, "all in the new building on the Hopland Research and Extension Center named after the beloved Farm and 4-H Advisor Uncle Rod Shippey. It was a great day."



Alexis Davis sings the National Anthem



Entries for the Cookie Contest



Above: Roger, Heidi and Keeley Adhering at the welcome table during Sunday's event.

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Sat & Sun 2D: 3:45, 6:30, 9:15  
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(R)  
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Sat & Sun: 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:30  
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