

By donation

Thursday, February 13, 2014

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

School board.

teachers

agree on contract

The Willits Teachers Association has approved a contract proposal for the 2013-2014 school year that more or less maintains the status quo, according to Paula Nunez, lead negotiator for the WTA.

"We understand, but we also hope salaries can begin to be restored next year," Nunez said. "We already accepted that, at the very worst, things would stay in the status quo. And I can say that, for the most part, this present contract does maintain the status quo."

According to district Superintendent Patricia Johnson, the contract dispenses with the proposed five furlough days for the current year. It

Read the rest of Contract

Over on Page 11

Brooktrails extends drought emergency

Mike A'Dair



Above: Willits' two florists: Annette Pinon (left) and Arcelia Duran (right) pose with dozens of roses ready to go home to your sweetie this Valentine's Day.

ull of Happy Valentine's Day!

Willits florists, Arcelia Duran and Annette Pinon are ready to wrap, arrange and deliver all sorts of flowers and gifts tomorrow for Valentine's Day.

Both florists have coolers and display rooms stocked with beautiful roses, lilies, orchids, mums, and more and are ready to make sure your sweetie receives a beautiful and long-lasting surprise this holiday.

The utmost of care is taken to ensure these fragrant and fresh flowers are kept in the best condition, presented with skill and aesthetics and delivered safely to your honey's home or workplace.

Place your order today for local or out-of-the-area delivery.

The Flower Lady of Willits is located at 242 South Main Street, and can be reached by calling 459-9075. Flowers by Annette is located at 1701 Valley Road, and can be reached by calling 459-6588.



Above: Annette Pinon has fun making an arrangement at Flowers by Annette.



Edition No. 41

City to seek permanent solution to Willits water woes

Zack Cinek Reporter zack@willitsweekly.com

City engineers have aimed their sights on building a permanent water treatment plant to provide Willits with an emergency water supply.

For city officials, work to secure money for the project continues. The city wants to pump from the Elias well north of town and the Park well at the old ball fields.

The California Department of Public Health awarded \$250,000 to the city this week, City Manager Adrienne Moore said. A joint press release from state health agency, the California Department Corrections of and Rehabilitation, and CalFire announced the emergency

Read more of Water Over on Page 9

Caltrans and water board in talks over mitigation plan

mike@willitsweekly.com

Although recent rains have filled Lake Emily, and Lake Ada Rose is on the way to becoming full, the Brooktrails board of directors unanimously voted to extend the drought emergency at Tuesday night's board meeting.

Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose said she is now focusing on being able to make it into early next year. "Given the kind of rain season they are now talking about, we have to get through to next January," Rose said.

Brooktrails Director Tony Orth supported Rose's perspective, adding that even though the reservoirs are full or filling, the surrounding landscape still doesn't have a great deal of water stored in it.

"We need several more storms like the one we just had so the moisture can soak into the ground," Orth said. "Lake Emily is full now, but we need it to be full a month from now."

For the time being, use restrictions imposed by the board on Brooktrails residents remain in place. The board will consider lifting or amending the emergency restrictions next month.

Fire Chief Daryl Schoeppner noted several state and local agencies,

Read the rest of Drought Over on Page 11 Check out both florists on Facebook, respectively.

Right: Arcelia Duran arranges lilies at the Flower Lady of Willits. Below: The ladies hold two lovely roses in shades of pink and red.

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Water

Board

Coast North Quality Control staffers continue to meet with Caltrans about a letter the board sent January 15 telling Caltrans it must have an approved mitigation plan before contractors resume earth-filling work on the Willits bypass project.

The board is "very concerned that a final MMP [Mitigation and Monitoring Plan] has not yet been found acceptable," the letter signed by water board Executive Officer Matthias St. John stated.

"The majority of project impacts to jurisdictional wetlands have already occurred, and there is not yet an acceptable MMP to inform the scope, nature and timing of the compensatory wetland mitigation."

St. John wrote that, "to avoid formal enforcement of passed deadlines" Caltrans must have a final, approved MMP "prior to resuming import of fill material into the Project limits."

The letter cites the board's understanding that the bypass schedule calls for resuming importation of fill sometime in April.

Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie said he is confident his agency will have "a

Read the rest of Mitigation Over on Page 9

Nowhere near full



The official rainfall total for the recent storm in Willits was 6.61 inches, according to Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore. Some outlying areas seem to have gotten heavier rain: one resident of Third Gate out Sherwood Road reported a whopping 9.5 inches of rain in her rain gauge. The welcome rain made people, birds, and the landscape happy, but as this picture, taken Monday at Centennial Reservoir shows, it didn't end our water shortage situation. Rain is falling as Willits Weekly goes to press, and the current forecast shows "Chance of Rain," "Chance of Showers," or "Rain Likely" through the weekend. But Willits area residents and businesses should not slack off on their efforts to conserve water. We may need every drop come summertime, if not before.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Scholarships at Mendocino College

To the Editor:

Mendocino College is currently accepting scholarship applications for the 2014-20105 fall and spring semesters. The deadline to apply is 4 pm on Friday, February 28.

Last year Mendocino College students were awarded over 160 scholarships, totaling more than \$183,000. In 2013, 65 percent of scholarship applicants received an award. and over 87 percent of those awarded received \$1,000 or more in scholarship dollars. Awards range in value from \$100 to \$2,000.

One application is all you have to fill out to be considered for a wide variety of scholarships. Students can gualify for and receive more than one award. Some career specific awards include nursing, sciences, culinary arts, performing arts and public service. High school students, current college students, and anyone planning to enroll in the fall 2014 semester are encouraged to apply.

The application must be typed or keyed from the electronic form available on the Mendocino College website. Essays telling why you need financial assistance as well as two letters of recommendation are required. Graduating high school seniors must also include a copy of their current high school transcripts.

The essay is evaluated on things such as career and It's About Water educational goals and how a scholarship will help a student attend and stay in college. Tell a compelling story, and write about what is important to you.

I am available in the Mendocino College Foundation office to assist with questions and the application. In addition, there is an extensive list of tips on how to write an awardwinning essay and how to ask for letters of recommendation on the Mendocino College website: www.mendocino.edu/ docs/foundation/2014MCScholarshipWorkshopHandouts. pdf

I advise anyone who is thinking about applying to start right now. Applicants need to give themselves time to draft the essay, and also give anyone who is writing a letter of 28 deadline.



Scholarships are often awarded to students based on career or educational goals, grade point average, financial need, service to community groups, participation in clubs, volunteerism and hardships that have been overcome.

To apply for a scholarship, visit the Mendocino College website at www.mendocino.edu. then click "students" and then "scholarships." Other scholarship opportunities offered outside of the college are also listed on the Mendocino College website.

The Mendocino College scholarship awards ceremonies take place in May, and the scholarship money is available in August for the fall semester. For more information, contact me at 467-1018 or leberhard@mendocino.edu.

Many individuals and community organizations provide funding for scholarships through the Mendocino College Scholarship program and are invited to participate in the May awards ceremony. To participate or contribute to the college's scholarship fund or to book the awards program, contact the foundation at 467-1018 or email foundation@ mendocino.edu. Contributions are also accepted online at www.foundation.mendocino.edu.

> Lana Eberhard, Mendocino College Foundation Scholarship Coordinator

To the Editor:

There is a rumor about town that the wick drains have already been activated and are pumping water. Don't believe this. It is not true.

There are strong rewards (millions of dollars, in fact) to be made from the idea that nothing more can be done. Millions of dollars to be made from the idea that the water is already gone, and we must get past the bypass and move on. Do not believe it. They are messing with our water.

I want to write about the potentially tragic loss of functioning wetlands. Satellite studies show that 35 percent of the mangrove swamps have been destroyed worldwide in the recommendation time to get it done before the February last 20 years. If you want to know the impact of that loss, ask the people of New Orleans.

We are beginning to understand that inland wetlands are even more valuable than coastal wetlands because they filter the water - it's a crucial part of the water cycle that all life depends on for survival.

> The wick drains were a particular shock to those of us following the impacts of the Willits bypass. Wick drains are barely mentioned in any EIR. Once they are installed, the wicks are covered with 20 to 30 feet of soil. This pressure squeezes the water up and out. The purpose is to shorten the time needed to compact soil and ready it for construction. The problem is that this compacts the soil, creating a huge underground dam that cuts off the water flow. Think of the water we can see, running in the creeks, then into the rivers, and on to the oceans. There is even more water that we cannot see, underground. Don't mess with this water, just because we can't see it. It is vital to our survival.

> It is unbelievable that the impacts of 55,000 wick drains on 40 acres of wetlands was not even considered in the environmental impact report and has been allowed to continue. It is not too late to pull the wick drains out and allow the wetlands to restore themselves naturally. Think of it as part of the mitigation.

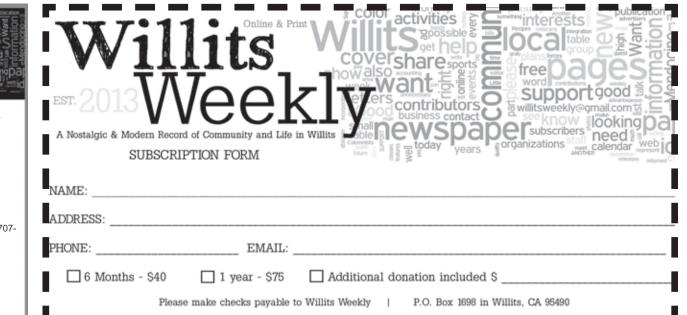
> UC Berkeley is beginning a five-year project to study how to prevent the continuing degradation of the Eel River Basin. Meanwhile, another 40 acres of functioning wetlands will be destroyed, here in our beautiful valley.

> Caltrans would like us to believe the damage has already been completed. Not true. The northern interchange can still be scaled down, before more fill is added, before more cultural sites are destroyed, before the land is squeezed dry, before this wonderful water resource is turned to desert

What kind of convoluted logic justifies sucking water up out of a dwindling aquifer during a drought? We need to slow down the flow of water, and let it soak back into the ground. That's what wetlands are for - to recharge aquifers.

I don't care if you are for or against the bypass. This is about water. They are not Caltrans' wetlands to destroy. I don't care if you call it wetlands, aquatic resources, or riparian corridors. This is our water and we need it.

Robin Leler, Willits



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Means ... Doris Wier

Columnist In the West, according to the definition in Wikipedia, Valentine's Day is the traditional day on which lovers and others express their love for each other by sending cards, presenting flowers, or offering confectionaries.

Valentine's Day, similar to other holidays and birthdays, is a day that can trigger all kinds of expectations among couples. Expectations that can turn into disappointments, especially when we let ourselves be influenced too much by the commercial aspect of the day. I would like to invite you to celebrate part or all of

Valentine's Day outside of the commercial or expected avenues. This year, take a closer look at what love means to you in a partnership and what makes you feel loved and appreciated the most. For fun, I asked different people, men and women, in Willits: "What does love mean

answers Love means compromise and tenderness. - complete acceptance and respect for another person. - sacrifice, joy, pain and suffering, silver lining. - flannel sheets. - devotion, continuity, loyalty. - putting up with everything, - my husband, my children, and laughter. - never giving up. - understanding somebody else's soul. - uninhibited acts of kindness. - flowing together.

 always forgive. unconditional chocolate - being married to my best friend - opening my heart and letting myself be filled.

- being comfortable, supported. nurtured, and challenged to grow into new parts of myself. With your partner, take a moment on Valentine's Day and play with the following questions at home, after the children are in bed, outside on a walk, in your favorite restaurant, or whatever

works best for you. First, ask each other the same question: "What does love mean for you?" Allow your answer(s) to come

more from your gut and heart than your brain, and share them with each other. They do

using the flannel sheets as an

example): "When and how does

our relationship feel like flannel sheets?" Discuss how you can

create more "flannel sheet" moments in your relationship.

Make sure you both take a turn

Afterward, reflect together

on what was new for you, what

touched you the most to hear.

Last, but very importantly, come

up with a concrete first step the

two of you can practice to make

a difference in your relationship

as a result of this conversation.

My point of view is that it is

important to express your love

more than just one day a year

on Valentine's Day. Having

expectations can actually get

in the way of expressing and

receiving love genuinely. You

are the expert on what love

means to you. You might want

to use this exercise to learn

how you can deepen your love

for each other all the time. Love

has no price and never has to

Happy Valentine's Day!

cost a dime.

Until next month...

Starting today is always best.

with your answer.



Valentine's Day

Imagination Station students create

Above, left: 2 and 3 year olds: back row, from left: Ella, Ariah, Caiden, Grace and Mackenna. Front: Novella, Kessler, Prestin and Kaylen. Above, right: Ella Fitzpatrick works on her Valentine

Below: 4 year olds: back row, from left: Ms.Cassandra, Kayla, Reese, Issac, Alexa, Caylee, Ms.Saprina, and Teacher Juan. Front: Cruz, Jakoby, Nikolai, Ember, Charlette, and Dylan.



for a cause

Many batches of pancakes, bacon and eggs were cooked and served up Sunday at the benefit breakfast for the 2014 Sober Grad party Sunday at the Little Lake Grange.

Liam UiCearbhaill, one of the kitchen crew members, said he'd cooked a good 30 pounds of bacon that morning, to accompany the tasty scrambled eggs, as well as eight batches of Hank's buttermilk pancake batter that "usually serve about 25 each," he said

Seniors from the 2014 class at Willits High School and the Willits Charter School, served plates and drinks to those enjoying breakfast to support the alcohol-free and drug-free graduation night party.

Sober Grad organizer Joyce Waters reported 206 breakfasts were sold Sunday, 20 of them in to-go boxes (available for the first time). "We were happy with the turnout," Waters said, "especially on a day of extremely welcome rain! The volunteers from the class of 2014 were wonderful with welcoming our guests, and entertaining them with song." The Sober Grad Valentine's Day basket, filled with more than \$400 worth of goodies, was on display; the basket will be raffled off this Friday to a lucky winner.

Most of the ingredients for the breakfast were donated by area businesses and community members, including, Waters said: "Barbie Svendson, Sharon Brown at Brown's Corner, Geigers/Long Valley Market, Mariposa Market, Raley's, Safeway, WalMart, Flowers by Annette, Costco, Crush Steakhouse, Applebee's, The Grange, and Pleasant View Dairy, Waters also appreciated "the wonderful kitchen crew at the Grange." including Liam UiCearbhaill, Mike Burgess, Richard Jergenson, Joyce Connor, and Fred Bieberbach.

The Little Lake Grange crew serves up a pancake breakfast every fourth Sunday – the next one scheduled for February 23 - at the Grange, 291 School Street, from 8 to 11 am.



Imagination

Station

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to you?" Here are some of their

good or bad.

Justin Stephens, webmaster

For advertising inquiries, please call 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweeklv.cor

COLUMN | Mendocino County Fisheries

Don't be a yolk popper

In past winters, after the salmon and steelhead have spawned, I typically had to remind my stream crew to be aware of where the redds (nests) were located, and to not step on any area where eggs might be hidden. One clever crewmember coined the phrase "don't be a yolk popper," which was

Joe Scriven Columnist

frequently heard during spawner surveys to keep careless feet from doing damage.

Unfortunately this winter has not provided the rain to bring the Chinook salmon back to our local

creeks. This early February storm may just be the ticket to bring up the coho salmon and steelhead so they can spawn.

After the adults are done, the eggs in the stream gravel are very vulnerable to damage and mortality. People who choose to walk in the creeks after the flows drop and the water clears should avoid stepping on redds that are visible, and also avoid areas where salmonids might have spawned.

The transition area at the downstream end of a pool and the upstream end of a riffle is frequently used by spawning salmonids to build the redds. Often times after spawning has been completed, a storm may move a lot of gravel over the redds and obscure them from view. Even though the redds have been flattened by high flows, the eggs are still viable as long as no one walks or drives over that spot.

The substrate in a salmonid redd is usually loosely aggregated, allowing water to flow through to provide oxygen to the eggs and wash away the waste products. Compacting the gravels by walking or driving can prevent the water from flowing through the substrate or can even crush these developing eggs.

If you cannot recognize what a redd looks like, please do not walk, ride or drive in the creeks for the next three months. Don't be a yolk popper!

On another note, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recently announced funding for the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. This program provides funds for a variety of restoration tasks. Since coho salmon in California are the primary target for recovery, streams and watersheds which contain this species are the areas where funds will be allocated. Although not mandatory, project proponents are more likely to get funding approval if they provide an in-kind contribution towards the project's implementation.

The deadline to submit proposals to this program is March 17. Landowners interested in this program can visit the CDFW website: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ fish/administration/Grants/FRGP/Solicitation.asp, or can call Joe Scriven at the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District office 462-3664, ext

Joe Scriven has been working on salmonid habitat projects in Mendocino County since 1998. His ability to catch steelhead has not improved during that time, but he still enjoys being on the water. He works for the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District as a fisheries biologist and project manager. Contact him at joe.scriven@mcrcd.org

WCS Winter Fund Drive reaches \$30.028

Willits Community Services and Food Bank helping them locate and get into permanent housing. thanks everyone for their support this winter. Our During that time, Marybeth found a job and put her Annual Winter Fund Drive will end on February kids in school. 28. We are getting closer to our \$32,000 goal, Donations as of February 11 but still need your support. Please help us help those in need in our community by contributing Jed & Carlin Diamond; Michael Frey; Kirk what you can to WCS and Food Bank, 229 Gustafson; Kathleen Hopper; Little Lake Grange #670; Patricia Moeller; Arpad & Cindy Peter; Al

East San Francisco Avenue, Willits. Please call 459-3333 with any questions. Your assistance is important and appreciated! Thank you!

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The following, "Marybeth's Story," is based on a real situation that is just one example of the kinds of services and programs offered at Willits Community Services. Names and other details Francis in the Redwoods. have been changed to preserve anonymity

"Marybeth" was from Georgia. Her husband and three young children were working their way across the country to California. Things were fine until her husband disappeared one day somewhere in Arizona. Marybeth had some money left from working, so she and her kids slept in their van as they continued to California, but just south of Willits, the van Marybeth was driving blew up and so they no longer had transportation or a place to stay.

Someone in town suggested Willits Community Services, so Marybeth and her kids showed up to see what help they could get. Her family had used most of their money for gas, so the first thing WCS did was to provide emergency food and to refer them to Willits Daily Bread and the Saturday Brown Bag Lunch Program.

Next, WCS staff provided emergency shelter and a referral to social services, where her family was found to be eligible for a one-time homeless assistance program that sheltered them in a motel for two weeks while

Willits Weekly | February 13, 2014

& Beth Rosen; Sally Rulison; Margaret Arnold;

Brian Corzilius & Candice Clayton; Richard &

Margaret Graham; David & Geri Hulse-Stephens;

Christopher Martin & Lucy Sharp; Barbara

Mitchell; P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter XO; Daniel

- Jim Marill, executive director of WCS

Sapoznick (In memory of Jane Gurko); and St.

not have to sound good or be The next fundraising events for Sober Grad will be the annual tri-tip dinner in April and profound. They can be funny, or the Ducky Derby at the Brooktrails Golf Course in May. Keep your eyes on Willits Weekly's surprising, like the flannel sheets Calendar for more information. or the unconditional chocolate

answers above. Pick the answer Below: Chefs for the Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast, from left to right: Liam UiCearbhaill, Fred that is most important to you, Bieberbach, Mike Burgess and Richard Jergenson. and then ask yourselves (I am







Rubber Stamps

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O.L

– Jennifer Poole

Zumba Fitness

This coupon entitles New Students to 5 Zumba Classes at Studio Joy for \$25 (regularly \$42.50).

New Students: Your first class is FREE.

Class card must be purchased in February but can be used at any time. There is no expiration date on class cards. Limit 1 card per person.

> See full schedule at: www.studiojoywillits.com 1262 Blosser Lane • 707-841-7499



Willits Weekly | February 13, 2014





Doris Wier is a certified relationship and life coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples and teachers. In addition she offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution and deepening your intimacy and connection in you

partnership. For more information call 456-9246, or check www.embraceconflicts.

PUZZIE Page Activities & fun for kids of all ages **Crossword Puzzle CULINARY WORD SEARCH**

ER S X 0 F G B Т D Х Α V N Α С С С P A R B R O I L G U E X G T F L S F N K

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

AL DENTE	CARVE	FILLET	MARGARINE
ARUGULA	CHEESECLOTH	FLUTE	MARINADE
BAKING	CHIFFONADE	FOLD	MEASURE
BALSAMIC	COAT	GARNISH	PARBROIL
BASTE	COOKING	GREASE	PARSNIP
BATTER	CRIMP	KITCHEN	PUREE
BEAT	DISSOLVE	KNEAD	REDUCE
BROIL	DRAWN	LEAVENING	ROUX
CAPERS	DREDGE	LEMONGRASS	SIMMER



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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a				8	7			
Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and			5	2	3	6		
box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the						3	9	
order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric	4					7		
clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve		7					5	2
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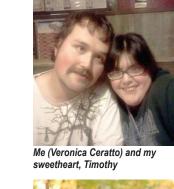
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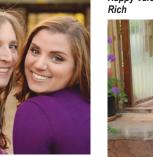


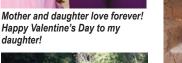
Happy Valentine's Day, Kretos! Thanks for being the best wildchase, flail, wrestle, play and mud





sweetie, Kathy Tobin, 34 years of marriage full of love, kindness and tenderness. Thank you for sharing your life with me. Mike Tobin







this day is for lovers but all three

Andrea Lovell and fiancé Austin Love always, Jennifer Drew (friend, wife, mother and anything else Yoder they need me to be)









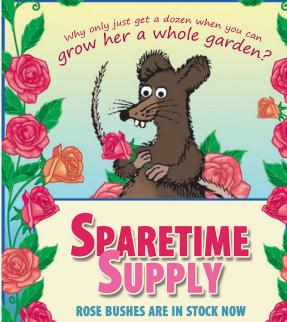
Wishing everyone a wonderful Valentine's Day full of love and happiness

From Lupe, Ana, Victoria, Alia, Anela, Cesar, and Ronnie.

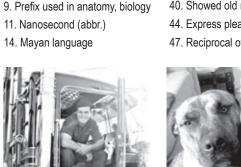
John and Roni McFadden. Happy Valentine's Day to my hubby of 42 vears

Happy Valentine's Day to my Sweetheart Patrick ~ Love & kisses, Holly <3 Ava & Henry

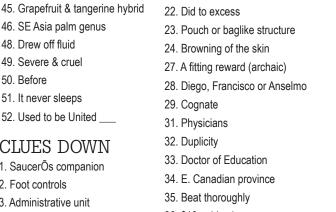








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Yay Mom! Happy Valentine's. I ove Thea

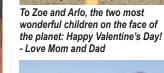


of them are the love of my life!!



Happy Valentine's Day Kim! Love,

Michelle



Happy Valentine's Day to my

partner in crime, Ricco. I love you,





Jenny Montes and Raymond Campbell. Happy Love Day, my love! Here's to many more!



Carol Anderson and Kaynin









Picture of me and my love, been together 7 years: Stephanie Vansteen and Juan Osorio







My three special boys!! My



707-489-5486 Willits, CA 95490

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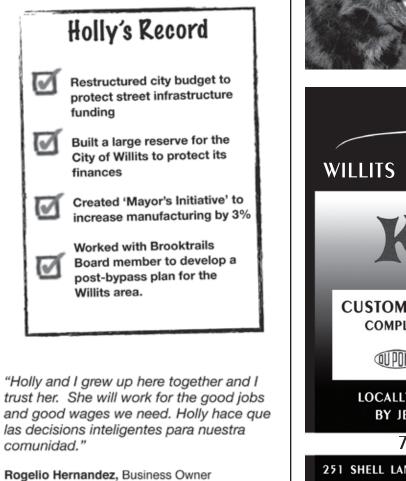
251 Shell Lane, Unit G

Accounting & Pavroll

Holly Madrigal **3rd District Supervisor**

"As a responsive and experienced leader I know we need new solutions to face the challenges ahead. I will return focus to the 3rd District and make progress on needed projects like the Brooktrails 2nd Access Road and increased economic vitality. I will work with the board and the community for the benefit of Mendocino County as a whole." Mayor Holly Madrigal

I have the energy and the ingenuity to get the job done. It's time to Move Forward.



where he can get a lot of physical exercise and mental stimulation. We think he will make a great hiking or running buddy, and then happily join you for a cuddle on the couch afterwards!

Furry Friend

Handsome Bosco

Meet Bosco, a very handsome male shepherd mix! Bosco weighs

62 pounds, and we estimate his age to be around 1 year old. He is a

smart, attentive, and curious boy who enjoys the company of other dogs almost as much as he enjoys the company of humans. He is

definitely an active and energetic dog, who will do well in a home

During the month of February, the Ukiah Animal Shelter has a reduced adoption fee for cats and kittens: \$30 for one and \$50 for two (adopted the same day). We have cats and kittens - many colors, sizes, and personalities - and this reduced adoption fee applies to our adoptable cats and kittens of all ages. Please come hang out with the cats in our cat colony room, and make a friend for life!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter, 298 Plant Road, is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. We have many other wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here as well. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.pawstoadopt.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. We

houghtbyk@

"Showin' some Love"...Bill

and Fran on our first wedding

also have many barn cats available. for free, to qualified adopters. More info: contact Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or co.mendocino. ca.us. Photo by Rod Coots



1 dog friend a big-eared shepherd could ask for! Love, Roxie





To my husband, my best friend, my soul mate. You have loved me at my worst and celebrated with me at my best. Thank you for being my number one fan. Your love and care for my health and well-being have added 10 years to my life. What a privilege it will be to spend them with you. I love you with all my heart.

Thank you to everyone who anniversary. Thanks, honey, for 40+ years of being my best friend. sent in photos!



Willits Weekly | February 13, 2014



Happy Valentine's Day to the most YES I will marry you Eric Burch!! wonderful family I could ever ask You have given me love that is for! My two girls Taylor Marie and the closest to heaven. I gave birth Jordan Michelle (above). My life to a gift of another chance at life. would not be complete without Together ... we turn into super you. My partner in life, who makes heros. Happy lovers day jesica me crazy yet happy, Marcus Kelley xoo (below). I love you all so very



My two loves! Not sure what order to put them in! (Don't tell Cam! lol) Oh not including my animals, they're in the love count, too!



still going



Buy one pound, get a half pound free!



Cherry Cheesecake Maple Bacon Pecan **Cranberry Macadamia** Peppermint Cookie







100 Kawi Place in Willits

459-7330

J

Thursday, February 13 Shanachie Pub: Jazz Night, featuring vocalist Sarah Ryan, Michael Cantwell on piano and keyboards, Aaron Bellomo on guitar, and Jesse Bessoni on drums: jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop,

world, and free form jamming. Every second and fourth Thursday. "Fellow jazz musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments and partake during the second set, so long as it fits within the moment of sounds!" 8 pm. No cover. 50 B South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, February 14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

"Flaming Idiots": a new "rollicking

comedy" by English playwright Tom Rooney opens the 2014 season tonight at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse. Directed by Damian Sebhouian, the play is about two guys who "face a serious restaurant problem": they have no customers. The theatre is offering complimentary champagne for tonight's performance. "Flaming Idiots" plays Thursdays (7 pm), Fridays (8 pm), Saturdays (8 pm) and Sunday, February 23 and Sunday, March 2 (2 pm) through March 2. Tickets are available in person at Goods' Shoppe in Willits, online at www.

brownpapertickets.com/event/566116. or by phone at 459-0895. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

Valentine's Dance Party at Shanachie Pub: featuring Dysphunctional Species, "a potent soul/funk/hip hop cocktail with an electrifying and genuine chemistry," from Point Arena. First time in Willits. Visit: www.dpspecies.com. Sponsored by Adam's Restaurant. 9 pm. \$8 cover. 50

LocaLights presents: Marjo Wilson and Julian and the **Upside Sound**

Marjo Wilson (at right)

Marjo is a local singer/songwriter: born and raised and still living in Covelo.

For many years she has fronted the Marjo Wilson Band, joined by her husband Morten Jensen on the bass and Robin Kellarstrass singing harmonies, and a host of other highly talented musicians. Major Wilson Band provides various venues countywide with a lively original dynamic dance set, and is featured every year at the Round Valley Blackberry Festival.

Marjo is a prolific songwriter and has recorded and released nine CDs of her original songs. Her music often reflects upon her home - the land, the mountains,

What's Happening Around Town Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Willits Community Center, Admission is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple,

electrical load. The evening also features fresh-baked Emandal

breads and chocolate chip cookies provided by the Seventh Day

Adventist Church. To sign up, or to donate items for this year's silent

auction, or to become a Sip Some Soup sponsor (\$250 tax-deductible

"Flaming Idiots": Willits Community Theatre, see Friday, February

Patrick Ball, Celtic harp and spoken word: one show only this afternoon

which includes two ballots to vote for best-

tasting soup and for favorite table decoration.

Soup makers still needed! Soup makers

pay a \$25 fee, which includes two

tickets and ballots. Individuals,

businesses and organizations

are encouraged to sign up to

compete. What soup makers

have to do: make about 2 gallons

of soup and bring their own crock

pot, serving utensils and table

14 for details.

decorations (for half of an 8-foot

table). Soups may be reheated

in the Community Center kitchen,

as needed, to fill and refill crock

pots. No hot plates allowed, due to

donation) call Cindy Savage at 459-3947.

459-5506, or at Goods' Shoppe, 56 Main Street, 459-1363. B South Main Street. Info: 459-9194. Adam's

Restaurant Valentine's Day menu: oysters, lobster, surf n' turf, lamb, and a quail appetizer. and baskets of prizes including goodies from local merchants, and a tickets to the Valentines Party every half hour starting at 5:30 pm.

Saturday, February 15 Grand Opening: Harrah Senior Center's newly enlarged Thrift Store has a grand opening celebration today from 9 am to 4 pm, 1501

Baechtel Road. "We will be selling our famous barb-qued hot dogs and root beer floats," plus silent auction and door prizes.

Free Kids Talent Show: from 1 to 3 pm this afternoon at the Muse performance space, 30 A East San Francisco Avenue. "Bring your kids and let them perform on stage, in front of an enthusiastic audience, or come watch the little great gems of our community! Talents of all ages and levels are welcome! Last-minute improvisations welcome too!" This event is free. Voluntary donations will go to the Muse rental fee. Feel free to bring drinks or glutenfree snacks to share. Call or email Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or zeyny34@yahoo.com for information or to add your stage-struck kids to the list of performers.

> Willits Charter School's Take-Home Valentine's Dinner: 6th annual dinner Jose. Dinners for two: BBQ tri-tip, \$30; grilled chicken or portobello mushroom, \$25; singlemeal tickets \$20. Included in each meal: baked potato, green salad, dinner roll, dessert

benefits 6th Grade Museum Field Trip to San and votive candle. Pick up dinners from 4 to 7 pm in front of Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main street. Tickets are available at the school.

Mendocino Film Festival Spotlight on Willits

Saturday, February 22. Film lovers can enjoy three film programs at the Novo Theatre, two Q&A sessions, and a reception at the Willits Center for the Arts.

documents the journey - all the way to Mongolia - of an autistic boy and his family seeking equine therapy. Visit www. horseboymovie.com for more info. A Q&A following the movie will be hosted at Brickhouse Coffee

equine therapy, Joell Dunlap of the Square Peg Foundation and Erin Livingston of the local Therapeutic Riding Assists Individuals Learning Skills (T.R.A.I.L.S.) program.

theme is communication, and the presentations are both thought-

WCT director **Damian Seouhian** For someone who had "zero experience" with theatre until

Mendocino College Theatre Festival of New Plays, and

Shakespeare Company. Sebouhian also had two short

For Sebouhian, there are always more challenges. The

current one in "Flaming Idiots" is one of "comedic timing."

Sebouhian explains: "For this play there are many actors,

speaking, moving, entering, and exiting in a small space."

It could be chaos. But with Sebouhian's careful attention

to planning and detail, he envisions all the parts will work

"Flaming Idiots" opens Friday, February 14 with a

champagne reception, and plays through March 2, with

smoothly into a finished whole for an evening of laughs.

The reception at 5:30 pm will be held at the Willits Center for the "Grow More Food; Use Less Water": this three-day "Grow Biointensive" Arts and is presented by Adam's Restaurant and Shanachie Pub,

musical performance by Schindig. The final film at 7 pm, "This Ain't No Mouse Music," follows the efforts of Chris Strachwitz of Arhoolie Records, as he captures authentic American music in its natural habitat. Visit www. nomousemusic.com for more info. Recording engineer David Silberberg will host a Q&A afterwards in the Noyo Theatre's largest venue.

Tickets, \$11 per film or \$20 for any one film plus the 5:30 pm reception, are available at the Novo Theatre box office and online at BrownPaperTickets.com (keyword = "Spotlight on Willits"). Info: 707-937-0171 or visit www.MendocinoFilmFestival.org or

www.facebook.com/MendocinoFilmFestival.

Long Valley

Guilters

hold Community Challenge Quilt Event

The Long Valley Quilters have decided to host their first Annual Community

Challenge Quilt event this year. Many groups do this, choosing a theme of a book

Gardening Workshop

featuring culinary delights, cheese and beer pairings, and a short through Sunday, March 1. The workshop includes lectures and discussion

Thought Possible on Less Land Than You Can Imagine," book on Grow Biointensive Sustainable Mini-Farming, which is currently in use in over 130 countries in English, Spanish, German, French, Hindi and Russian, and Dan and Margo Royer-Miller, a husband and wife team, now wrapping up their sixth season of biointensive farming and working in western Ohio. For more information, and to register, visit www.growbiointensive.org, or call Ecology

Action at 450-0150.

Willits

in the Willits schools is set for

Annette.

at 2 pm at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Sip Some Soup: the annual fundraiser for Willits Daily Bread, 5 pm at the

"The crystalline, bell-like resonance of the legendary Celtic harp also takes Ball's listeners into deepest realms of the imagination." Tickets, \$15, are available online at brownpapertickets.com/event/537987; in person at Goods' Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, or call 459-0895 for

credit card orders. Visit: www.patrickball.com. SIP SOME

Monday, February 17

Dances of Universal Peace: Sacred circle dances drawn from the world's wisdom traditions to cultivate the heart and create inner & outer peace. Easy to learn, musical accompaniment, no charge. The Muse. 30 East San Francisco Street. 7 to 9 pm. 3rd Monday of every month.

Thursday, February 20

Shanachie Pub: Steven Bates, coastal guitarist. 6 pm, no cover. 50 B South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

"Nuclear Night": presented by Now and Then Films, "Our Nuclear Nation: Radiation Concerns from Fukushima Daiichi.'

Excerpts from short films including "Nuclear Nation" will be shown. 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Featuring issues revolving around nuclear power in general and the Fukushima threat specifically. Discussions to include: personal radiation monitoring with Geiger counters & health measures you can take to protect yourself long-term from radiation in your body. "We hope to guide the process between false hope and scaring everyone so much that they cannot act. We don't want people to leave with a feeling of hopelessness

3-Day Biointensive

gardening workshop by Ecology Action is set for Friday, February 28 "on Sustainability and Efficient Resource Use, Crops and Diet, Fertilization, Compost and Compost Crops, Soil Preparation and Preservation, Seed Propagation, and Income," and one afternoon of demonstration at the Common Ground Research Garden/Mini-Farm. Presenters include John Jeavons, author of the "How to Grow More Vegetables: Than You Ever



and helplessness. In a few words: Our goal is to inform and empower.' Suggested donation: \$5. Info: 459-6362.

Mendocino

MENDOCINOFILMFESTIVAL.OR

"Flaming Idiots": Willits Community Theatre, see Friday, February 14 for details.

Friday, February 21

'Flaming Idiots": Willits Community Theatre, see Friday, February 14 for details.

Shanachie Pub: Darius Lux, singer/ songwriter. 8 pm, no cover. 50 B South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 22 Mendocino Film Festival: Spotlight

on Willits: the first event of this year's Film Festival features three film programs at the Noyo Theatre, including "The Horse Boy," "This Ain't No Mouse Music," and a program of nine short films, plus two Q&A sessions. and a reception at the Willits Center for the Arts. For details see articles elsewhere on Calendar page and on page 10. Tickets, \$11 per film or \$20 for any one film plus the 5:30 pm reception, are available at the Noyo Theatre box office and online at BrownPaperTickets.com (keyword = "Spotlight on Willits"). Info: 707-937-0171 or visit www.MendocinoFilmFestival.org or www.facebook.com/MendocinoFilmFestival.

Shanachie Pub: House of Love. 9 pm, no cover. 50 B South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194

Sunday, February 23

Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Choose our Sourdough Multigrain or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order, real butter, juice, and organic coffee or tea." Every fourth Sunday. \$7; \$6 for seniors; \$4 for children under 10. Extra sides of organic fruit in season, applesauce, or Amish maple syrup \$1.

"Flaming Idiots": Willits Community Theatre, see Friday, February 14 for details.

"LocaLights" Concert Series: first concert in the series tonight featuring a solo performance by singer/songwriter Marjo Wilson, followed by Julian and the Upside Sound. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details. 7 pm at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Tickets, \$10; \$15 for front-row seats; and \$5 for last-row seats, available at the Goods' Shoppe. Call David Partch, 459-7054, for info and advance tickets, or check http://willitstheatre.org/localights-atwct-produced-by-david-partch.

Save the Date:

Water Wise Gardening forum, February 28, Little Lake Grange Savannah Fuentes Flamenco, March 1, Shanachie Pub

"Grow More Food; Use Less Water," 3-day Biointensive Gardening Workshop, February 28-March 3

Willits Educational Foundation's Drive Through Tri Tip Dinner, Friday, March 7

Guitarist David Rogers, March 8, Willits Community Theatre

Ongoing Events:

expansion to an evening tournament-like event. \$5 (no gift certificates or passes accepted), 57 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-6660

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Beginner's classes in basic and mainstream square dance at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street from 6:45 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Every Monday night. Info: 459-9526.

The Mendocino Film Festival has chosen Willits to host the first provoking and hilarious. event of the 2014 festival season, "Spotlight on Willits," set for

The first film, at 2 pm on Saturday, is "The Horse Boy," which

at Commercial and Main streets, led by experts in the field of

A program of nine short "feel-good" films is set for 4 pm. The

he moved to Willits in 2001,

Damian Sebouhian has more

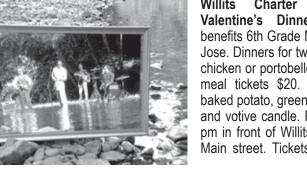
February 14, Sebouhian has

written, directed, and acted

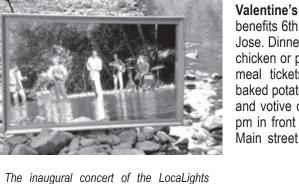
in more than 20 plays locally.

than made up for lost time.

Shanachie Pub: featuring blues singer/songwriter with a twist, Jacob Green: a OneManGreenBand playing homegrown music with energetic rhythms and captivating melody. 8 pm. No cover. Visit www.jacobgreenmusic.com. 50 B South Main Street. Info: 459-9194. Sunday, February 16



Donation



series is set for Sunday, February 23 at 7 pm at the Willits Community Theatre, featuring Marjo

Wilson, followed by Julian and the Upside

Sound. This series, produced by David Partch,

features local musicians and emphasizes

acoustic sound. Tickets to each LocaLights

concert are \$10; \$15 for front-row seats; and \$5

for last-row seats. Advance tickets to the whole

series are available, for \$45 for regular tickets

and \$70 for front-row seat tickets. Tickets will

also be available at the Goods' Shoppe. Info: willitstheatre.org, or call David Partch, 459-

7054, for info and advance tickets.

the animals, and the people of what she fondly refers to as "the wild lands!" She sings of things like "personal freedom" and "natural born rights" with a country roots flavor, a deep sense of beat, and a rocking core.

Marjo is also an accomplished fine artist. Her paintings of ranch life, animals, roads and river scenes can be viewed at the Blue Sky Gallery in Willits.

More recently Mario has returned to a time of quiet inward reflection she needs to write new songs and explore new facets of the songwriting process and techniques. The Willits audience on February 23 will be privileged to experience Marjo as a solo act ("just me and my guitar") for the first time in years. She writes: "Right now I'm in a process of learning how much I don't know ... a humbling but very challenging and very interesting process. I'm excited to see what it all may bring out of me." This show is certain to be exciting and unique.

Julian and the Upside Sound (pictured below)

Julian McClanahan-Calvert recorded his bass, vocals; Darin Smith, cello; and Caleb first CD, "Father and Son," at age 9 and his Morelli, bass, banjo, accordion. etc.

Here's the schedule of events for 2014:

Feb. 23: Marjo Wilson, followed by Julian and the Upside Sound; Apr. 6: Malakai, followed by the New Blu Trio; June 1: Verne Morninglight, followed by Chanterelle; Oct. 12: David Partch, followed by Just Enough; Dec. 6: Char n' Chris, followed by Redbud



second, "Lighthouse on a Cliff." at age 10. When he was 11, he went with his father to Zihuatanejo, Mexico, for one year. He played a lot of music with Juanito Zihua's

salsa band and took virhuela and violin lessons from the members of Mariachi His work has appeared in venues including the Willits Apatzingan. This experience allowed him Shakespeare Company, Willits Community Theatre, to find his own voice as a musician.

Two years later he accompanied his father on a year-long Fulbright to Sheffield, England. Their fourth album, In 2010 Sebouhian wrote, directed, produced and acted "Expectations," reflected the experiences in "Deadline," a full-length original play at the Willits of that year. Back home in Ukiah, Julian formed his own plays produced in New York in 2011 and 2012: "Zombie Killers Brigade" and "Loaves and Fishes." trio. The Julian Trio. in 2007. Together they

released four albums. Now that he is a senior in high school, his current band (Upside Sound) has become a quintet and he has just released his fifth album. The band members include: Julian

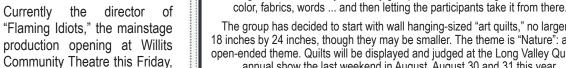
McClanahan-Calvert, violin, mandolin, virhuela, vocals; Brad McClanahan, guitars, vocals; Michael Charnes, cittern,

performances at 7 pm on Thursdays, 8 pm Fridays and Saturdays, and two Sunday matinees at 2 pm, Sunday,

February 23 and Sunday, March 2. Tickets can be purchased at Goods' Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/566116, or reserved with a credit card by calling the theatre at 459-0895

Ukiah Players Theatre.

– by Annie Samson



The group has decided to start with wall hanging-sized "art quilts," no larger than 18 inches by 24 inches, though they may be smaller. The theme is "Nature": a very open-ended theme. Quilts will be displayed and judged at the Long Valley Quilters'

> Forms for submitting these and other guilts will be available around May from The Fat Quail Quilt Shop website, www.thefatquail.com, or by stopping by the shop in Laytonville, 44550 North Highway 101; 984-6966. The annual guilt show is always free and everyone is welcome to come! If you have made guilts, please consider sharing your art for all to see and enjoy.

annual show the last weekend in August, August 30 and 31 this year.

Long Valley Quilters say: "Anyone interested in joining our small group is welcome. We meet the third Saturday of each month at the Fat Quail from 10 am to about noon. Besides putting on the annual show, we make pillow cases for Hospice, have made several quilts for Wounded Warriors, and we get together and work 11 on other sewing projects." 1000 000

Dinners can be picked up Reduced adoption fee for cats in February between 4 and 6 pm at the During the month of February, the Ukiah Animal Shelter is offering a reduced Willits Rodeo Grounds on East Commercial Street. Tickets are adoption fee for cats and kittens: \$30 for one and \$50 for two (when adopted the available at Cat's Meow and same day). "We have cats and kittens - many colors, sizes, personalities - and this the Goods' Shoppe, by calling reduced adoption fee applies to our adoptable cats and kittens of all ages. Please Warren Lewis at 459-4429, come hang out with the cats in our cat colony room, and make a friend for life!!" or through Linda Colvig, Joan

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption Thomas, Anne Hammond, Mike hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Colvig and George Husarek at Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of more of our the schools. Ticket deliveries wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.pawstoadopt.com or happily arranged. visit our shelter during shelter hours. We also have many barn cats available for

Overall, in 2013, the Willits free, to qualified adopters. Educational Foundation was able

Info: contact Adoption Coordinator, Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or to donate a total of \$16,152.75 to houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us or come in during shelter hours.

the Willits schools.

CERT training in Brooktrails in March

The Mendocino County Office of "CERT training is fun and empowering. Emergency Services and North It will provide you with knowledge, Coast Opportunities Volunteer skills and tools to support you, Network present free Community your friends, neighbors and family Emergency Response Team (CERT) in times of emergency or disaster. training in Brooktrails, coming up in After successfully completing CERT March. This 21-hour training is set training, you can choose to become for Saturday, March 15, from 9 am part of an active CERT team that to 5 pm, Sunday, March 16, from 9 assists with traffic control. light am to 4:45 pm, and Saturday, March search and rescue and emergency 22, from 9 am to 3:45 pm. At the preparedness education and Brooktrails Fire Department at 24876 awareness

"Sign up and attend CERT training to event or special meeting for receive instruction on survival skills, free in our Calendar! Email rescuer safety, disaster medical details (date, time, location, operations, fire suppression, basic contact info, cost if any) disaster medical operations, light to willitsweekly@gmail. search and rescue, and more."

To pre-register for the class call Janet Rayner 707-684-0738 or email brooktrailscert@gmail.com. For more information on local CERTs visit www. brooktrailscert.com.

com. Send us your digital photos or graphics as well (higher resolution photos are best). There is no charge for promoting Willits Laytonville or Covelo events in Willits Weekly's calendar

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Through Girl Scout Cookie Sales: through March 16, around town and door to door. Tri-Tip

"Art in the Middle": the February show at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Dinner Street, Features art work from Willits middle-school students. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from The annual fundraiser for noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1726. music, art and library projects

Port

GRANGE,



Willits Center for theArts 71 E. Commercial St. 4:30-7:30PM

Willits Community Drum Circle: 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932

> Smoking Cessation Program: Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HMH Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Big Screen video games: Fridays from 4 to 5:30 pm at the Noyo Theatre. Arcadestyle games, multi-player, with both casual and cartoony fighting games. Everyone gets a chance at the controller. Moderated by assistant manager Steve Thornton: "Gamemaster Steve." Fridays afternoons to start, with hoped-for Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/ MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565

Work Days for Grange School of Agricultural Arts: scheduled on many Saturdays at the school site at Ridgewood Ranch, 16200 Highway 101. Skilled and unskilled help needed. Bring gloves and tools, if you have them. Follow the "Farm School" signs. Please drive slow on the ranch. Lunch available for those who RSVP by Friday each week (drop-in volunteers welcome, too). Work days (rain or shine) set for: February 15 and 22. These volunteer days will focus on renovating the schoolhouse, building student housing, planting cover crop, and pruning in our well-established orchard. Custom work days or events can be scheduled by contacting director Antonia Partridge at (707) 272-1395 or farmdirector@californiagrange.org. More info at http://californiagrange.org/agschool/mission.html.

Shanachie Pub: Open mic every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm. 50 B South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Just For Fun Choir: directed and accompanied by Nancy New. Meets Mondays at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, from 1 to 2:30 pm. Accepting new members of all ages and abilities. Info: call Nancy New at 459-1276.

Brooktrails Lodge Winter Schedule: every Thursday night at 8 pm: "Dream Capsule Entertainment," featuring local musicians and talent; Happy Hour, and Ladies' Night specials. Every Friday night: Open Mic, with drink specials and prizes. Every Saturday night: "Electro-Dance" at 7 pm. Info Shawntee Wirth at dreamcapsuleindustries@gmail. com or 459-6792.

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 at the Laytonville Grange, 1620 Branscomb Road. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, jewelry, aprons, children's clothing, knife sharpening and more.

Pg. 7

Get in the WW Calendar! Willits Weekly wants to list your





Top: Around 20 drivers stand with their buses – and Christopher Moore (second from left) - before departing Willits Above: Loren Soltes heads through a creek crossing (Photo by Kristen Breaux) Below, left: Guys work on their buses in Moore's back yard. Below, right: Damon Dayton poses with his "Shasta Bus."

Photos by Maureen Moore See more: http://photographress.zenfolio.com/shastabustrip2014



BEST TIRE VALUE

Shasta **Bound**!

Over the river and through the woods ... in a VW van

2014 marked the 14th year for the Mt. Shasta Snow Trip and, last weekend, a brave bunch of mechanically inclined folks aged 20-through-60-something made the treacherous trek from Bartlett Springs Road in Lake County to the city of Mount Shasta. The trip takes place intentionally on the most tedious of back-county dirt roads and is driven in nothing other than pre-1967 Volkswagen split-window buses and trucks

The group of 38 VWs starts out at the "rampage area" in Lake County at 4 am. They drive until midnight, then camp out, leave by 7 am the following day, and drive the rest of the

the task.

started

the

an off-road adventure in a Porsche. Telling his friends about it upon his return, the group decided "they could go where he went," but they were going to take the challenge on with buses. The group grew quickly as others wanted to try to accept the challenge, too, and the trip was soon dubbed "The Mt. Shasta Snow Trip." The group included buses with 12 different state license plates this year.

"Lots of the drivers are top techs or self-employed mechanics," explained one of the original trekkers, Damon Dayton. "We all come prepared with great tools and parts and are able to work on the vehicles on the road when needed. It makes it a really fun trip.'

Inevitably, sometimes, some Volkswagen commiseration or extra assistance is needed, however, and a frequent pit stop on the trip is to the back yard. VW gravevard and overflowing tool shed of Willits' own Christopher Moore. Calling Moore a "fan" of the old split-bus Volkswagens is an understatement, and the pilgrimage of these nextgeneration gear heads is always something he looks forward to each year.

"The plan is never to actually have to stop there," laughed Dayton, "but somehow, we always end up at Mr. Moore's, working on buses, talking about Volkswagens, and getting everyone back up and running." way to the city

of Mt. Shasta, By the end of the trip this year, the final tally of major with the goal of issues and replacements for the trek included five reaching Roxy's transmissions, two engines and several fuel pumps.

Vet's Club for a "The trip is not for the faint of heart," noted five-time celebratory drink trip veteran Kerner Breaux. "It's really an adventure! Few before the bar people get to see those parts of California, and we have closes at 2 am. drivers from all walks of life who attend - it's fun to be a This year, 27 or so part of it!" vehicles finished

Breaux's wife, Kristen, also attended for the second time this year, and photographed along the trip route. Many The adventure members kept friends and family updated with photos and as posts about their progress and mishaps along the way via "Piercy the "Mt. Shasta Snow Trip" group Facebook page, as well Challenge," when as online at www.TheSamba.com. On The Samba site, Brian Piercy took their popular thread was enjoyed by many members of the public who couldn't attend in person, including Christopher Moore, who delighted in watching the progress of the group after leaving Willits.

> Anyone interested in joining the group to participate on the trek next year, or anyone interested in reading more about the adventure, can check out the group page on Facebook for more info.

> > – Maureen Moore



Classifieds

For Rent

Armco: 459-9601.

For Sale

2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse. Close to

shopping. Garbage paid. Laundry facility

on hand. Small backyard. \$795/month. Call

Beveled glass-top table, round, with 4

covered chairs. \$500. Cost more than \$1,200

when purchased new six years ago. Also for

sale, a black leather car coat, size 1X, with a

Weekly watering, maintenance of outside

plants, drip system, and lot needed for Willits

Pet Care Center. Come by for application

and information. 90 South Street in Willits.

Position available for person who loves

to work with people and pets. Experience

preferred but not required. Please bring

Wanted: Secluded cabin/home in woods to

rent or buy. Responsible 55-year-old man

seeks very private location anywhere within

resume to Willits Pet Care Center.

hood. \$50. Call: 459-2976.

Available immediately

Help Wanted

Home Wanted

David: 530 265-8785.

Phillip J. D'Angelo, DDS

Cosmetic/Family Dentistry

Old Cars Wanted

email agrossman@pacific.net.

Pinball Machines

Room for Rent

deposit. Loraine 459-5363

Rummage Sale

PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

Furnished large room w/walk-in closet.

private entrance & bath, in shared home.

No smoking. No pets. \$600 month + \$900

ALWAYS LOOKING for Cars, Scooters 8

Motorcycles! '40s thru '50s. Show Car to

Parts Car. Please call Alan: 489-7165 or

707-459-4664

Gardener Wanted

Algebra. Geometry College Preparatory Mathematics, Individual Instruction. Mac Smith 459-MATH **Camper Wanted** Camper for 2000 Ranger, 6 foot bed (54 inches wide), with stove, sink, toilet, etc. Good condition only, please. 459-1798.

Camper for Sale

19.5-foot Prowler camper trailer. Sleeps 2 to 3 people. Kitchen: good-sized frig. small freezer. 3-burner stove, oven, double sink. Bathroom: step-in bathtub w/shower, sink, closet. Outside shower. All hookups: electric, gas, sewage, water, cable. 4 new tires. Heater/air conditioner. 2 large propane tanks. 2 batteries. In very good condition. Only 2 owners: second owner has used it only 10 times. \$4,250 or best offer. Jim: 841-7337.

Community Hu Song

In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song Thursday, February 27, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

Computer Help

Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$35/hr. Tutoring \$15/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamergin@yahoo.com.

Dog Training

Dog Training Classes - Puppy and Beginning level. March 4 to April 8. Willits Community Center. Must Pre-register no later than Feb. 25. Info: Sallie at 707-463-3647 or wellmanneredmutts@gmail.com or www. wellmanneredmutts.com.

For Rent

For Rent

Office/massage or art studio for rent. Centrally located. 1 room, with shared reception/waiting room. Off-street parking. Utilities included. \$250/month. Available now. 707-621-3900

for rent in Willits. \$600/month plus \$1,000

1 bedroom, 1 bath downtown apartment

Every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm at 1st Baptist Church, 145 Wood Street. Rain or shine. We accept rummage donations, and

The rest of Mitigation From Page 1

suitable MMP so we'll be able to start was expected to take, but that an average moving soil sometime in April." number of work days for a whole year, not

Frisbie said Wednesday morning "ideally

St. John also told Willits Weekly the water

board was "identifying a date" for staff to

meet with a group of Willits area residents

who spoke publicly at the board's January

meeting to request enforcement of Caltrans'

failure to meet its permit deadlines. St. John

said he would be providing a written report

on the Willits bypass situation at the March

board meeting but, he said, the bypass will

Willits City Councilmember Madge

Strong, one of the group attending the

January water board meeting, said the

Willits bypass project had a long history

already of missing deadlines, with no

"Every time there has been a deadline,

"We're hoping the water board either

makes good on this threat." she said, or

is "prepared to issue a cease and desist

if it makes more sense to restore some of

the acreage at the northern interchange

back to wetlands as mitigation for damage

Strong said she did not want Caltrans to

"walk away" from the bypass project. "That

high-functioning rich wetlands" instead of

do not have a mitigation plan.

not be a separate item on the agenda.

just construction season, was normally "This project is going to be built," he said. around 250 work days. Frisbie said there'd been a full-day meeting on between the water board and Caltrans on January 13, and another two full days mitigation should be done concurrently, of meetings in Willits last week. "We feel with any highway project, "but it's not unusual for mitigation work to continue well like we've been making good progress," he said. "They are a regulatory agency. It's after construction is completed." their job to make sure we're following the laws

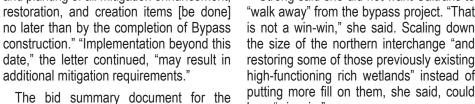
Frisbie said it wasn't the board's "goal" to shut down the project: "We're working with them," he said. "If we stopped working with them, we would expect them to assert their authority, but we are working with them."

The water board's St. John said the word "may" would be more appropriate than the word "would," when it came to putting the bypass project on hold. "That is just one of the options on the table," he said. But, he said: "The mitigation requirements are what they are, and we aren't relaxing our mitigation requirements."

enforcement. The difficulties of getting the delayed mitigation plan approved in April include the need to scale down - or find more money Caltrans has said 'we're working on it,' and for – the planned mitigation work that went the water board and other agencies keep giving them extensions. What we said was out for bid last year. Bids for the "mitigation planting, erosion" phase of the Willits 'no more extensions.' They've already failed to meet many significant deadlines. bypass project came back with estimated costs three times higher than Caltrans had They do not have adequate funding. They expected.

phase of the mitigation project was \$13.1 million, but the lowest of three bids, from DeSilva Gates, already a contractor on the order, to force Caltrans to the negotiating bypass construction project, was \$39.33 table with the resource agencies" to see million

what must be in any approved MMP is a requirement that "completion of construction and planting of all mitigation enhancement, restoration, and creation items [be done] no later than by the completion of Bypass



be a "win-win." "construction" phase of the bypass project

described the "total number of working "Caltrans could complete their project days" to be expected as "2000." Back in within their budget, and they could satisfy, October, Frisbie told Willits Weekly he we believe, the requirements of the wasn't sure how long the mitigation work resource agencies."

elsewhere

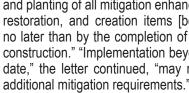
Water From Page 1

funding Monday.

The press release also reported that several 15-member Corrections Department conservation camp crews, each led by a CalFire captain, have been working since January to help the city's water department install several miles of piping to tie the two wells to the roposed emergency water treatment facility.

45 minutes of Willits. Serious meditator. Caltrans' estimate for this "construction" New Patients Welcome One item on the water board's list of

construction." "Implementation beyond this the size of the northern interchange "and



ires LES SCHWAB



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from potholes to nails —

any road hazard,

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WILLITS 1565 S Main St · 707-459-5938

Roberta Munson It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Grace Roberta Munson, 79, on February 5, 2014 in Willits.

Our beloved mother, wife, grandmother, and friend, has begun another journey as she joins her loved ones who have gone before her.

She was born in Willits to William and Laura (Page) White on August 18, 1934, and attended Willits schools. Her life changed forever on April 29, 1950, when her father, Mendocino County Sheriff Deputy William A. White, was killed in the line of duty, leaving his young wife, Laura, and his four young children.

On July 8, 1956, she married her husband of 57 years, Leonard R. Munson. Since Willits is a small town, they had known each other since they were small, and Leonard fondly remembers that he used to throw rocks at the then 4-year-old Grace as she followed him to school. After they married, she became his business partner of 57 vears at Munson Automotive.

She worked at Northbrook Nursing Home for more than 22 years, first as an aide, then becoming their Recreational Director. She cared so much for the people she worked with there. The family wants to express their deepest thanks for the wonderful loving care Grace received during the last months of her life.

Her many hobbies included knitting and crocheting. But she was most passionate about her garden and her many antiques. She was quick to share her knowledge about gardening and antiques with all who would listen

Her many accomplishments included being named the Soroptimist "Woman of the Year" in 1984, and "Bowler of the Year" back in the '60s, but most of all, she prided herself in the ability to best any man at the pool table

Through all of those years, though, her greatest love and blessings came from her family.

She was predeceased by her parents and an infant sister, Barbara. Surviving her are: husband, Leonard R. Munson; sons Rick and Steve Munson; daughters Debbie Munson and Karen Patereau, all of Willits; brothers Larry White (Willits), and Richard White (Arizona); and sister Laura K. Nielson (Sunnyvale).

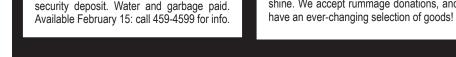
She leaves nine grandchildren: Derek and Darbi Hendry, Beau Suttles, Roger L. Patereau III, Kristine and Matthew Patereau, and Joe, Bryan and Monica Munson; as well as 11 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation Friday, February 14, 2014 at 2 pm, followed by the funeral service at 3 pm, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 265 Margie Drive, in Willits She will be interred at Willits Cemetery.

DEATH NOTICE

Laura Llewellyn Schnitzler passed away in Willits on February 1, 2014, at the age of 80. Services may be announced at a later date. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary

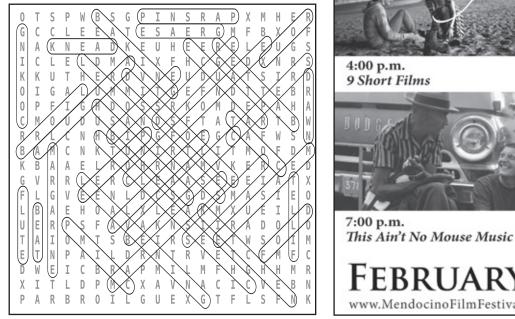
Willits Weekly | February 13, 2014



CLASSIFIEDS! \$10 | 30 words | 2 weeks!

Puzzle Answers

From Page 4														
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CHICK DAYS Start FEBRUARY 20th at J.D. Redhouse!

4:00 p.m.



SPOTLIGHT ON WILLITS NOYO THEATRE

FEBRUARY 22, 2014

www.MendocinoFilmFestival.org facebook.com/MendocinoFilmFestival

Consulting firm Water Works Engineers has helped craft a plan to save money, where possible, on the estimated \$1.8 million cost of a permanent facility.

Joe Ziemann of Water Works Engineers told Willits City Council members at a special meeting last week that obtaining a filter currently in production for another project is one way the city can save money. Ziemann said it would take an estimated six to eight weeks to install the new treatment plant.

Just last week it looked like the city would have to fund a temporary emergency treatment plant while it pursued a permanent fix.

MENDOCINO

FILM

FESTIVAI

^{the}Horse Boy

2:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

Reception

The Horse Boy

But as much as the region needs rainfall, wet and muddy working conditions may hold up the project. "The rains have us," City Engineer Tom Mannatt said.

The CDPH's money came quickly, but funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or other sources may take longer

The CDPH's \$250,000 goes towards buying and installing pipe, fencing, disinfectants, a pump and well replacement, the Monday press release explained.

Interim City Finance Director Gordon Elton briefed council members last week on the city's water funds.

> No calculations on the budget effects of reduced water use have been completed as of last week. "We do not have any calculations of what that is, said Elton.

There is speculation the effects of drought. a major earthquake, or an occurrence like last summer's algae outbreak could be lessened by having an emergency water supply.

In response to the emergency, City Manager Moore said she had authorized more spending than the city manager is allowed to do.

Council members backed up Moore's actions with unanimous support

Read the rest of Water Over on Page 12





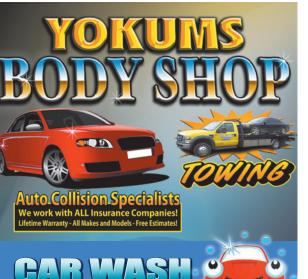


Top row: Left: Judges Dave and Laurie Smith Center: Judges Roberta Zimmermaker and Liesl Hendrix. Right: Judges Gina Hirsch and Tiffany Greene. Right: Fair officials, volunteers and judges: Suzanne Matheson

Sharon Hannah, Jaeva Cash, Jackie Pealatere and Sheri Cronin pose for a photo during the Tuesday morning judging marathon. Photos by Maureen Moore

Grow More Food, Use Less Water: A 3-Day Biointensive Gardening Workshop

Feb. 28 - Mar. 2 in Willits Info and Registration at: www.growbiointensive.org Or Call Ecology Action at: 707-459-0150











2014 Science Fair

The hard work of more than 230 students for the 2014 Science Fair is now on display at the Willits Community Center

Judging took place Tuesday, and 71 projects were qualified as contenders to move on to the county competition on March 29. Willits Unified School District had 34 qualifiers, Willits Elementary Charter School had 18 qualifiers, and Willits Charter School had 19 qualifiers.

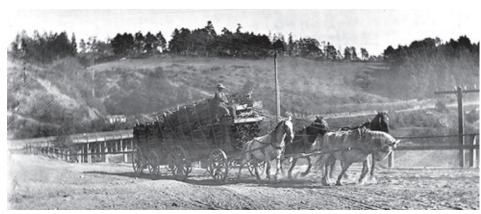
There were also 36 special awards that were given out by local businesses including J.D. Redhouse, PG&E, Sara Hanna Consulting, Flower Lady of Willits, The Book Juggler, Curves, California Forestry Vegetation Management, Padula Lumber. Elmac Industries. Instawave Networks. Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic and TD Hanna Consulting. A total of 235 projects are on display and will be available for public viewing until 3 pm today (Thursday) at the Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.



Mendocino Film Festival Spotlight on Willits

The Mendocino Film Festival has chosen Willits to host the first pm reception, are available at the Noyo Theatre box office event of the 2014 festival season, "Spotlight on Willits," set for Saturday, February 22. Film lovers can enjoy three film programs, two Q&A sessions, and a reception at the Willits Center for the Arts. The Film Festival will host events in all four Mendocino County

and online at BrownPaperTickets.com (keyword = "Spotlight on Willits"). The Mendocino Film Festival events usually sell out, so plan ahead. Further information: call 707-937-0171 or www.MendocinoFilmFestival.org or www.facebook.com/ endocinoFilmFestival.



Mendocino County Museum **Road Show** animates local history

The Mendocino County Museum Road actress and theatre impresario Linda Pack, Show - the start of an annual tradition artistic director and general guiding light for celebrating local history in local communities the Museum Road Show. Pack has recorded - debuts in Willits, on Friday, February 28 at more than 100 readings from oral history Willits High School. transcripts for "Mendocino

station KZYX.

Those stories include a poem teamster

Walter Gschwend wrote to commemorate an

epic haul he made from Low Gap to Needle

Rock in one day, a depiction of the 1914

Willits children's march for Prohibition, and

the musical education of Bey Barnwell, who

returned to Mendocino County after classical

music training to conclude, "You can't play

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for

Chopin and peel tan bark at the same time."

Roberta Werdinger The Museum Road Show, Contributina Writer an old-fashioned traveling variety show, will bring Mendocino County history to life in stories

and song. After its debut in Willits, the show will go on to play one night each in Anderson Valley, Ukiah and Fort Bragg.

Presented by a specially convened troupe born in the 19th century. The appeal of oral of the county's most talented thespians and musicians, each show blends story and history for Pack lies largely in the way it song to highlight Mendocino County's most dignifies lives that would not have made it dynamic resource: its people. Seven actors into the history books. "These are ordinary from the Willits Shakespeare Company, the stories," Pack stresses. "We're not telling the Ukiah Players Theatre, and the Gloriana stories of Edison or Jefferson.... Everybody's Opera Company will bring 35 local people just living their lives as best they could, and to life, accompanied by the warm, evocative their stories are more important because of sound of All About Sally, an American roots that group based on the coast.

What knowledge would you have if your family had lived in this area for thousands of years? What was it like to arrive in a wild. mountainous county to carve out a living? What did people do for fun before the advent of TV and cell phones? Most importantly, how did people take the daily pains, challenges and joys of their existence and weave them into a story (some details of which may be a

The underappreciated yet fascinating art of oral history is all about answering those view in the lobby. Refreshments will be for sale. The band will play an introduction. The Theatrical Show will start at 7:30 pm. youth 6-20, with ticket purchase discounts

No one knows more about the dramatic



The rest of Drought | From Page 1

each property owner in Brooktrails will including CalFire, the Little Lake Fire Prevention District, the Brooktrails Fire pay more to support the Brooktrails Fire Department and the Mendocino County Department. Proposed rates are \$99 a Air Quality Management District, have year for single-family residences, \$99 lifted restrictions on outdoor burning for vacant or unimproved lots. \$150 for imposed last month.

duplexes, \$200 for triplexes, \$250 for fourplexes, \$275 for multiplexes, \$200 for commercial establishments, and \$300 for Brooktrails approves fire tire, Measure hotels or motels.

Although discussions concerning the

fire tax increase have been ongoing for

more than six months, and although

Brooktrails public officials unanimously

for the proposal is far from universal.

proposed tax hike was going to be hard to

support, especially in light of a CalFire fee

recently imposed by the state. "The state

is making us pay \$135 a year to them. So

with that, there is no way I am going to

But Schoeppner offered a gloomy

vote for this," the gentleman said.

In other business, the board of directors put finishing touches on two important pieces of political craftsmanship. It held public hearings on ordinances approving a proposed increase in fire tax rates and on support the new fire tax rate, support revisions to the Brooktrails Utilities Code which incorporate changes mandated by One audience member complained the the passage of Measure D.

After the public hearings were closed, the board approved the fire tax increase County Remembered," a and a resolution putting the new rates on long-running feature on radio the June 3, 2014, ballot. It also approved the changes to the Utilities Code. All the votes were unanimous, with recently The material originates in a Mendocino

D changes

resigned director George Skezas absent. County Historical Society project commissioned in 1976 for the United States Bicentennial, collecting the stories of a wide array of local residents, some of whom were

prognosis if the measure is rejected. "If we The new slate of rates, which will go don't pass this fire tax, there's gonna be before voters in June, provides that some grave consequences," he said.

County bond ratings upgraded again

Fitch Ratings upgraded the ratings on Mendocino County's 2002 pension obligation bond series from BBB- to A. The upgrade affects \$74.2 million in debt owed by the county

At the same time, Fitch upgraded the county's implied general obligation bond rating from A- to A+ and revised its outlook upward on the county's financial condition from positive to stable

The move was made by Fitch on January 23.

Mike A'Dair According to Keely Webster, writing in the financial newsletter, Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com The Bond Buyer: "Analysts cited the county's improved financial

position resulting from cutbacks and management reforms

as the reason for the upgrade. Management has raised fund balance targets and Doors for the Mendocino County Museum established policies to help meet these new goals, has updated treasury practices and Road Show will open at each location at 6:30 pm, with a gallery show of related exhibits to has produced its first capital improvement plan in seven years."

> According to a press release from Fitch Ratings: "Overall debt levels are moderate and expected to remain so, given no additional planned borrowing in the intermediate term. Pension funding requirements are considerable and rising, though total carrying costs are manageable."

Fitch noted the county suffers from a lack of economic vitality. According to Fitch: "the county continues to face challenges from a long-term economic contraction that preceded the recent downturn. After falling for many years, employment levels increased modestly over the past two years while population has stagnated. In addition, wealth and income levels remain well below state and national averages."

Supes move to extend plastic bag ban

tiny bit exaggerated)?

questions. Oral historians record interviews with a wide variety of ordinary people, transcribe them, and enter them into historical archives. The results reveal a rich under layer of human drama that might otherwise have gone unremarked and unrecorded.

for groups of 10 or more. For more info, visit www.mendocinomuseumroadshow.org or and human possibilities of oral history than call the museum at 459-2736.

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cities this year, plus Anderson Valley and the village of Mendocinc

Residents of Willits have many varied interests, and the film selections for the Willits event reflect that variety, as do the event sponsors

The Noyo Theatre, operated by Jeff and Lois Hoover, is what makes Spotlight on Willits all possible. This modern film venue has all the latest gear, but more importantly, has management focused on local promotions, in addition to standard fare.

Sparetime Supply is the main event sponsor for Spotlight on Willits. continuing the company's solid tradition of supporting the changing culture of the area.

The first film, at 2 pm on Saturday, is "The Horse Boy," which documents the journey - all the way to Mongolia - of an autistic boy and his family seeking equine therapy from the proper horse. Anyone who has experienced the joy and love of a pet or animal friend will appreciate the relief and peace when the right connection is finally made. Visit www.horseboymovie.com for more info.

The Willits Pet Care Center, owned by Dr. Barbara Mack, sponsors this film. As a bonus, paintings of horses and more, by her daughter, Rachel Mack-Fisher, will be on display during the reception

A Q&A following the movie will be hosted at Brickhouse Coffee at Commercial and Main streets, led by acknowledged experts in the field of equine therapy, Joell Dunlap of the Square Peg Foundation and Erin Livingston of the local Therapeutic Riding Assists Individuals Learning Skills (T.R.A.I.L.S.) program.

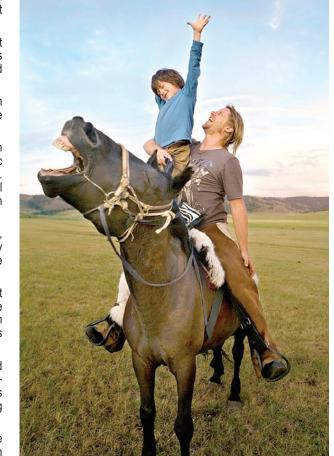
At 4 pm, Main Street Music and Video, which offers a broad selection of eclectic videos, sponsors a program of nine short "feelgood" films, including two Academy Award-winners. The theme is communication, and the presentations are both thought-provoking and hilarious.

The reception at 5:30 pm will be held at the Willits Center for the Arts and is presented by Adam's Restaurant and Shanachie Pub. In addition to Adam's culinary delights

there will be featured cheese and beer pairings provided by Penny Royal Cheeses of Anderson Valley and specialty beers from the North Coast Brewery. The reception ends with a short performance by local musical favorites, Schindig Their original music is the perfect introduction to the last movie of the

The final film at 7 pm, "This Ain't No Mouse Music," is sponsored by Wagenet Enterprises. This film follows the tenacious efforts of Chris Strachwitz of Arhoolie Records, as he captures authentic American music in its natural habitat. Visit for www.nomousemusic.com more info. Recording engineer David Silberberg will host a Q&A afterwards in the Noyo Theatre's largest venue.

Tickets, \$11 per film or \$20 for any one film plus the 5:30





Willits Weekly | February 13, 2014

NUMBUIUW

A 'ho-hum' mid-year report from county

In a fairly ho-hum mid-year financial report foresee major increases in existing revenue issued Tuesday, the Mendocino County sources, or any new revenue which would Executive Office stated things were going well and urged the board of supervisors to continue with the status quo.

Mike A'Dair According to the report, the county will have a budget surplus of \$3.2 million at the end of the current fiscal year. The reason for the projected

surplus, the report says, is that most board to exercise continued caution when county departments had "expenditures and considering expenditure increases in order revenues that varied from their budgeted to keep the county on the road to financial amounts." In other words, most county recovery. departments are on track to spend less than what they were budgeted. SEIU Local 1021 Field Director Jason

Klumb called the mid-year report "another The \$3.2 million can be compared to the example of the county's policy of over-\$6.8 million surplus from 2012-13, \$3 million from 2011-12, and a deficit of half a million dollars from 2010-2011.

The high 2012-13 surplus was due in large part to the receipt of one-time funds stemming from the dissolution of county redevelopment agencies.

The mid-year report, developed by Assistant CEO Kyle Knopp and Deputy CEO Heidi Dunham, cautioned supervisors to hew to the conservative style of governance laid out by CEO Carmel Angelo, a style the community?" nationally known bond rating agency Fitch

Ratings seems to like but most county employees do not. County employees have not had a pay increase since 2010 and, with the

10 percent pay reduction imposed by the county in 2012, are actually now working at a 2007 pay scale. Alternately, Fitch Ratings just increased the county's implied general obligation bond rating from A- to A+, touting

the county's "notable progress in addressing weaknesses previously cited by Fitch." According to the CEO's mid-year report,

"Over the next five years, staff does not

The board of supervisors on Tuesday Supervisor John Pinches casting the extended the countywide ban on plastic single no vote. "I just don't know if it's going bags to include restaurants and other to work," Pinches said, explaining his vote. public eating establishments. "I just think taking this to the restaurants is a step I'm just not going to take." He The revised ordinance includes in the added several employees in restaurants ban restaurants that provide and fast-food places he plastic single-use carryout bags Mike A'Dair visited recently didn't like the to customers, but exempts ordinance revision. them from charging customers nike@willitsweekly.com

a minimum of 10 cents per significantly increase the county's bottom recyclable or reusable bag. line.... The county will continue to experience Under the revised ordinance, paper bags increases in operating costs, are considered to be recyclable and with the biggest impacts therefore OK to use. expected to come in the form of The board introduced the ordinance health insurance and retirement Tuesday. It will be "read" a second time

cost increases.... We urge the on February 25 and, if approved a second time, will become law 180 days after the second reading.

2013, not to institute a plastic bag ban in The vote was 4-1, with Third District the City of Willits.

The rest of Contract

reduces the stipend to teachers who have estimating expenditures and creating earned a master's degree, moving from 5 way." another year-end balance, which then goes

percent of the teacher's annual salary for into the General Reserve. We keep seeing each master's degree earned to a more these surpluses. They mean the county modest \$2,000 stipend limited to only one could include the employees in its budget, if master's degree, even if the teacher has

it wanted to. At what point does the board of supervisors realize there is money to begin restoring wages for county employees? step increases for veteran teachers from When will they begin to reinvest in our 39 years to 36 years and increases the retirement age from 58 to 61.

Third District Supervisor John Pinches "This is a good compromise and a said he was pleased with the report. "It step in the right direction," Johnson said. "I appreciate the efforts that both sides means all our expenditures are right in made to achieve this agreement, and I line," Pinches said. "It means that, basically, especially wish to commend the work we don't have any budgeting problems or done by the representatives of the Willits budgeting blips. I guess it means the board Teachers Association." of supervisors is 'on top of it.'

Johnson said California Gov. Jerry "I feel really good about what's Brown's proposal to make changes to happened," Pinches added. "In every area the way school districts in California are of county finances, we've made tremendous funded has raised hopes at Willits Unified. improvement and we've done it with flat revenues.

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From Page 1

"We are working hard to learn this new Johnson said one of the keys to understanding the new Local Control Funding Formula is that many of the old spending restrictions are kaput. "In the old way, you would get restricted money and that money could only be spent on certain

According to Mendocino

Solid Waste Management Authority

(MSWMA) General Manager Mike

Sweeney, if the revision is approved.

restaurants and fast-food outlets may

The law does not apply to Willits. The

Willits City Council voted on January 23,

continue to use plastic bags during the

180 days before the law takes effect.

things. Now those restrictions are gone." Director of Financial Services Cynthia Brown told the board that, if the governor's proposal is approved by the Legislature, Willits Unified will see only a small benefit in the current school year (\$20,000). However, in the following year the benefit could rise to \$737.000.

Brown reminded the board the district will be making a final payment on the \$5 million Bond Anticipation Note associated with the 2010 Measure B school bond. "The way we used to do things in the Brown noted the final payment will be budget is out the window," Johnson said. \$735,000 and is due in July.

earned multiple master's. The contract also reduces the extent of



Members of an inmate work crew from the Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp, led by a CalFire captain, help lay pipe along East Commercial Street to tie two city-owned wells to a proposed emergency water treatment facility.

The rest of

when they ratified a list of project expenses last week.

"At this point we would be looking for this to be entirely grant-funded," Moore said. The CDPH's money was the first money to come in.

The city will have very soon spent about \$300,000 in cash on the project, Councilman Bruce Burton noted.

About \$1.3 million is on hand in the city's water fund, Interim Financial Director Elton told council members and city employees. "In the short run, that is in order to pay bills that come to you."

Council members also renewed the status of the city's water emergency ordinance – a decision they will make every 30 days.

Willits' water ratepayers remain in conservation mode. City water conservation policy asks businesses to cut water use by 30 percent, while homes are held to 150 gallons per day.

City Hall awaits word from the state health department on what kind of water treatment plan it will need with the two wells.

"What puts out the best water quality the most economically is what we are shooting for," said Water Manager J.C. England.

Welcome Joanne LaMonica, M.D. Urology

Please Join Us in Welcoming Dr. LaMonica to the Ukiah Valley Rural Health Center.

Dr. LaMonica will be joining Robert E. Blackwelder, MD, urologist, who has been practicing in Ukiah for over 35 years.



The Tom Woodhouse for 3rd District Supervisor campaign kicked off Friday night with a grand opening of the campaign headquarters at 2 North Street. The Woodhouse HQ is the first to open for the 2014 election cycle. "It was uplifting, and we are very excited to get going on the campaign," Woodhouse said. "We had 120 people that showed up - volunteers and committed supporters - and a lot of connections were made. The food lasted, and everybody was in a great mood because of the rain." Woodhouse took campaign contributions, and offered bumper stickers and window signs. To get in touch with the campaign, stop by 2 North Street or call 707-367-6334.

Woodhouse for Supervisor campaign kickoff

Left: Tom Woodhouse with his wife, Carlyn, inside campaign HQ. Below: Lena Hofmaister holds a bumper sticker and a window sign.

Photos by Jennifer Poole





Dr. LaMonica specializes in caring for both men and women suffering with conditions of the urinary system. She brings extensive skills in performing minimally invasive, advanced laparscopic procedures. **Dr. LaMonica is now accepting new patients.**

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