

# Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

By donation

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## School board, teachers agree on contract

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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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

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## Brooktrails extends drought emergency

Mike A'Dair  
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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 Schoepner noted several state and local agencies,

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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.

## Full of Flowers

### 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.

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.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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



## Nowhere near full

Photo by Maureen Moore



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.

## City to seek permanent solution to Willits' water woes

Zack Cinek  
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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 of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and CalFire announced the emergency

Read more of **Water**  
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## Caltrans and water board in talks over mitigation plan

Jennifer Poole  
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North Coast Water Quality Control Board 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 import of fill sometime in April.

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

Read the rest of **Mitigation**  
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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 **Water** | From Page 9

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.



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**Joanne**  
**LaMonica, M.D.**  
**Urology**

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

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**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

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.



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