

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits



Thursday, February 27, 2014

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By donation

Tobin, Gassen won't run for supervisor

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Candidates Mike Tobin and Arno Gassen have decided not to run for Third District Supervisor. Both men cited health concerns as the reason for their decision.

In a post on his Facebook page, Tobin said: "I'm choosing my health and mental stability, as of now. The stress of being ill and fighting every little bug as cancer is wearing on me. I don't wish to be a medical burden, unable to function

Read the rest of **Candidates**

Over on Page 11

City seeks new business to replace LoBuck\$

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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City planners sent letters to 15 grocery stores, letting them know Willits wants them to fill the former LoBuck\$ store.

Willits lost LoBuck\$, a 40,000-square-foot grocery store and an anchor of the Evergreen Shopping Center, at the end of last year, when LoBuck\$ owner C&K Market filed for bankruptcy.

City Hall mailed 13 letters this month to a variety of stores and made a few phone calls to tell grocery stores Willits has space available.

Grocery Outlet, WinCo Foods, Save Mart (Lucky's), and ethnic grocers like Artega's Food Center and

Read the rest of **Grocer**

Over on Page 9

Supes OK next step to shore up ambulance companies

Mike A'Dair
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Supervisors on Tuesday directed county staff to prepare a request for proposals so the county can locate and hire a contractor to create an exclusive operating area (EOA) for ambulance services in inland Mendocino County.

The EOA is a strategy to control the ambulance services market; within the EOA, there will only be one

Read the rest of **Ambulance**

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Above: left: a jar filled to the brim with mixed daffodils. Right: little Taytum holds a daffodil.

Right: Narcissus reach for the sun.

Below from left: Quince blossoms against the blue sky; a dainty daffodil bloom; purple hyacinth offers a lovely summery scent.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Beautiful Bulbs

Even though the first day of Spring, March 20, is still almost a month away, bulbs and blooms all over Little Lake Valley are popping up and enjoying the warm weather this past week. More rain is on its way, though, and it is still desperately needed to ensure any greenery's existence over the summer and certainly into fall. Gathering rainfall dripping from gutters and saving in containers for summer watering, washing and more might be a good idea during this week's coming storm.



Supes set Harris Quarry hearing

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Supervisors have unanimously approved an April 22 date for a public hearing on whether Northern Aggregates, Inc. has a "vested right" in gravel extraction operations at Harris Quarry, located some seven miles south of Willits on Highway 101.

The item was added to the agenda after an earlier version of the agenda had been published, forcing the February 25 agenda to be revised.

The move on the board's part was made possible by a change to

the county code adopted late last year. Supervisors decided then, if the situation warrants, the board may bypass ordinary planning channels such as the Planning Commission or even the county's Department of Planning and Building Services, and claim "original jurisdiction" over a planning matter.

At issue ultimately is the question of whether Northern Aggregates will be allowed to continue to extract gravel from Harris Quarry while the August

2013 decision of Judge Cindy Mayfield is being reviewed by the California Court of Appeals.

According to a letter by Northern Aggregates attorney Tina Wallis dated February 21: "In accordance with county policy, Northern Aggregates may continue operating Harris Quarry because it has a pending vested rights claim. Northern Aggregates worked with county staff to voluntarily limit aggregate extraction to 75,000 cubic

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

Drought Task Force comes to Willits

Photo courtesy Cal OES



Wade Crowfoot, senior advisor to Governor Jerry Brown, shakes hands with a member of the Corrections Department conservation camp crew working to put in the emergency water pipeline on East Commercial Street in Willits. Members of the Governor's Drought Task Force came to Willits Monday for their very first site visit statewide, after a closed-door meeting with county and agency officials in Ukiah. "We're here to get the first-hand accounts of how this drought is affecting California's communities and how Cal OES and the Drought Task Force can help alleviate those impacts," said Office of Emergency Services Director Mark Ghilarducci, who is also chair of the Drought Task Force. Among others making the site visit to Willits were Secretary Karen Ross of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Secretary John Laird of the California Natural Resources Agency, and Congressman Jared Huffman. Locals greeting the state officials included City Manager Adrienne Moore, Mayor Holly Madrigal, City Councilman Bruce Burton, Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, and Cal Fire Unit Chief Chris Rowney. Task force members also visited Lake Mendocino later that afternoon.

Read the rest of **IRS**

Over on Page 9

City revenues projected to be less than expected

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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About 74 percent of all sales tax in Willits comes from 25 businesses, according to a new financial report released by City Hall.

The Top 25 list shows sales from businesses trading in groceries, fast food, diesel, gasoline, liquor, hardware, heavy equipment and garden supplies were the bulk of Willits' sales tax revenue generators in 2013.

The city's sales tax report and mid-year budget report review city revenue and expenses and predict numbers when the fiscal year ends in June.

City revenue from sales tax, the city's top moneymaker, is on pace to exceed expectations by \$3,000. But overall the

Read the rest of **Revenues**

Over on Page 9

IRS OKs retirement system excess earnings fix

Mike A'Dair
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The Internal Revenue Service has approved a 2011 move by the Mendocino County Employees Retirement Association (MCERA) to pay \$9.6 million in restitution to itself for funds transferred from its pension fund to the Mendocino County retiree health fund.

At issue is the practice of diverting so-called "excess earnings" from the MCERA stock portfolio out of the MCERA pension reserve fund into a fund administered by the county that paid retiree health insurance costs.

Every few years, retirement systems estimate what investments in stock markets will earn.

Some years, investment returns come back under the expected level of earnings; in other years they come in above that level.

Under the old system, when earnings came back under the expected rate of return, the MCERA absorbed the loss.

When the stock portfolio performed above the expected rate of return, some of that profit was designated as "excess earnings" and directed into the county fund.

According to Mendocino County Treasurer Shari

Read the rest of **IRS**

Over on Page 9

Furry Friends

Hoping for a home

Mariposa Market

Endangered Species and Chocolate 3 Oz. Bars

\$2.49 on Sale during Feb



500 S. Main St., Willits
707-459-9630



Photo by Rod Coats

Playful Patrick

Meet Patrick, a very energetic & playful young dog! We are guessing he is around a year old, and based on certain characteristics that he may be a mix between Australian Shepherd and Fox Terrier. He may have something else in him, but whatever it is made a very handsome and stunning guy! He weighs 32 pounds, and he is a very athletic dog. He met two dogs during his behavioral evaluation, and he did great with both of them.

His young and exuberant personality would best be matched with a family with older children, as he can be a little nippy. We also think he would do well with a companion/family with an active and outdoorsy lifestyle. We hope you will come meet Patrick, and see if he will fit into your family!

Through the month of February – two more days! – we are having an adoption special for cats and kittens of all ages. The adoption fee for one cat is \$30, and for two cats adopted the same day, the adoption fee is \$50. We also have many barn cats available for free, to qualified adopters.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. For more information, contact Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us or come in during shelter hours.

Success!

WCS Winter Fund Drive surpasses goal

The 2014 Winter Fund Drive for Willits Community Services and Food Bank has come to a successful conclusion, raising \$33,118, more than its goal of \$32,000.

"We are very excited and very happy," said Jim Marill, executive director of WCS. "This is going to really help provide services for people in need in our community in the coming year. We are grateful to the community for their support."

Donations as of February 25: Delores Braden; Tom Fall; Everett Smith & Marian Hulett-Smith; John & Yvonne Wagenet; and Ed & Starla Warburton.



COLUMN | Intuitive Patterns



Suzanne Wagner
Columnist

March 2014

March is the moment when you realize that you cannot do it alone. It is time to allow others to bring their own gifts and skills into your life. You do not have to do everything. When you allow others to participate in the creation, not only will it nourish you but also it allows for a fully embodied manifestation with complex flavors and coloring.

We need others to pull ourselves out of our misery. We can become so attached to the struggle and needing to do everything ourselves that we push and strive but never completely arrive.

This month you are being asked to become a participant in the creation, not just a spectator. To philosophize is to speculate and imagine. To participate is to get your hands into the clay and mold that reality into being. It is the participation that creates the feeling of fulfillment. It is in the doing that you find the magic.

This month you are not at a place of completion, but you will be aware of the direction. If you stay awake and aware, when you arrive at what you believe is the completion, you will once again see more options and doorways to walk through in this journey of self-awareness.

Right now, without having to do anything, you are consciousness. Awakening to your natural state is a choice. When you choose to align with your essential self, you will discover that all around you are the elements that will allow you to manifest. But you do need to recognize those people and gifts and allow those energies to transform and shape what is attempting to emerge in the creative process.

This month look into the mirror and really get to know yourself. There is tremendous power that exudes off of those who have journeyed deep inside and have come to the place of acceptance and knowing of who they are.

If you are not magnetizing what you need in your life, you have disconnected with some essential part of your authentic self.

Enlightenment means that you are not enslaved by others' opinions or by your own ego. Authenticity is an upsetting force to some, a relief for others. When you are presented with someone just being, you either find great attraction to him or her, or you will feel not good enough. Then you might attempt to step away, become invisible, or ignore them.

When you feel that insecurity to step back or to disappear, instead just stop and stay present. Do not move forward, but also do not move away. Feel the disturbance in your energy field, and lean into the discomfort. Allow the authentic presence of another to break you out of your negative self-talk and misery. When you allow yourself moments of awareness and clarity, you will discover that no situation, community, society, person, or nation can actually confine your spirit. Let your spirit become a beacon to open others to the uplifted possibility that is right in front of you.

Do not be afraid. You are connected right now to your spiritual family. Allow others to support and help you. Together you can step out of the limited illusion in which you are experiencing. It is your commitment and choice that will allow you to do it now.

Have a fabulous month.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of the books: "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology." Her books and CDs can be found on Amazon.com. She also is the creator of a free app: "Wild Women Series," that is available for iPad and iPhone. She also gives a once-a-month Psychic Fair at Mazhar in Willits. You can reserve your space in advance at the store, 38 South Main Street. For more information about Suzanne, visit www.suzwagner.com or call her at 707-354-1019.



'Museum Road Show' a must-see

Performance brings Mendocino County pioneers to life

If you are interested in learning about the history of Willits and Mendocino County from the mid-1800s to the 1920s, attending the debut of the "Mendocino County Museum Road Show" this Friday evening at Willits High School is a must.

Rather than being presented in standard play form, the "Museum Road Show" is a collection of stories, performed verbatim from accounts of actual residents of Little Lake Valley and elsewhere in Mendocino County.

The true tales are read by an energetic cast, including Willits Shakespeare Company veterans Billy Hetherington and Bryan Arnold. The seven-member cast also features members of the Ukiah Players Company, including mainstay Kate Magruder, and Fort Bragg's Gloriana Opera Company. This theatrical delight is directed by Linda Pack, former artistic director of the Gloriana Opera Company. Pack is also known for her oral history show on KZYX radio, "Mendocino County Remembered."

One of the play's first acts is entitled "Fiddler in the Woods" and chronicles some of the adventures of Bey Barnwell, a musician from Lakeport, born in 1888. Other acts include "Local News," "Children in Peril," and "The Love of Teaching," which relates the antiquated and controversial rules regarding female teachers, implemented by L.W. Babcock. Another segment is comprised of a woman conveying her disappointment at the ethnic segregation of the area during the early 20th century, which she woefully dubs "the stinkin'."



she woefully dubs "the stinkin'."

Other highlights of the show include Bryan Arnold's turn as a smooth-talking reverend who relentlessly promotes Prohibition in 1914, stories from records of stagecoach robberies in 1878, and several stories about how various parts of Mendocino County were ravaged by the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

Each story segues seamlessly into the next, and is punctuated by folksy songs performed by the harmonious acoustic trio, All About Sally. The sound effects are eerily realistic, and the period costumes are dead on.

One quickly gets lost in the dialogue, feeling as though you're hearing the tales directly from the mouths of Mendocino County residents of yore. At the Saturday dress rehearsal attended by Willits Weekly, Willits actor Billy Hetherington said he was excited to be working with "such a fine group of actors from different theater companies." Hetherington found the show interesting to do, "because it brings to life the stories of the pioneers of our community."

"Museum Road Show" runs just over an hour, and is as educational as it is entertaining. The show is also appropriate for viewers as young as 6, and children are welcome.

The first performance of "Museum Road Show" is in Willits at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street, on Friday, February 28. The show then plays Saturday, March 1st, at the Anderson Valley Grange in Philo; on Friday, March 7 at the Little Theater at the Ukiah campus of Mendocino College; and on Saturday, March 8 at Eagles Hall in Fort Bragg.

Doors open at 6:30 pm, with a gallery show featuring traveling exhibits of artifacts, interactive displays, live music, and refreshments. Show starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth 6 to 20, with discounts for groups of 10 or more.

Information and tickets are available at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, or online at www.mendocinomuseumroadshow.org.

Left: Billy Hetherington, left, and Bryan Arnold in the "Local News," segment of the "Museum Road Show."

Below: Ricci Dedola, left, and Nicole Paravicini, in the "Museum Road Show."

Photos by Nathan DeHart



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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.**

Holly's Record

- Restructured city budget to protect street infrastructure funding
- Built a large reserve for the City of Willits to protect its finances
- Created 'Mayor's Initiative' to increase manufacturing by 3%
- Worked with Brooktrails Board member to develop a post-bypass plan for the Willits area.

"Holly and I grew up here together and I trust her. She will work for the good jobs and good wages we need. Holly hace que las decisiones inteligentes para nuestra comunidad."

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Right: The Printing Plus crew. From left: previous owner John Cedarholm, Tanja Ramming, Miguel Jiminez, Morgan Ramming, Jennifer Ramming, Arlen Ramming, Tim Ramming and Saren Ramming.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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Passing the torch

Printing Plus gets new owners and new services

As of January this year, local shop Printing Plus is now in the hands of new owners: the Ramming family of Willits.

Lead printman and design guru, Tim Ramming, is heading up the new business and is able to bring his years of industry appreciation and expertise to the new venture. Ramming was a fan of graphic design at a young age; even attending a Photoshop camp in seventh grade before eventually taking graphics classes in school and working in a print shop in Sacramento. Since returning to Willits, Ramming successfully assumed the reins of Allen Jablonski's old printing business - which was purchased and renamed King Prints in 2011. King Prints is now melding with Printing Plus to offer all customers a one-stop shop for all their printing needs ... and even more (coming soon!).

Working with Tim, and also co-owners of the new business, are Arlen Ramming, Tanja Ramming, and Tim's wife, Jennifer. Their daughters Saren, 2 1/2, and Morgan, 1, also come in and supervise when necessary.

Arlen is in charge of broadening the existing shop's offerings, working on the T-shirt and garment printing side of the business and helping develop soon-to-be-available new options, including stone and metal engravings and glass etchings for projects, including trophies and memorial pieces. Tanja is the businesswoman, helping keep track of accounts, billings and office managerial services. She's also the friendly face at one of the front desks, welcoming clients into the newly rearranged shop on East Commercial Street.

More interior and exterior upgrades are planned, too, Tim explained. Larger signage out front, the new layout of the front office, removal of old machinery in the back, and installation of the shop's darkroom will all give the building a facelift and help staff be efficient and welcoming to customers.

Being charged with continuing the legacy of community-based service started by the previous owners, John and Anne Cedarholm, is not something the Rammings are taking lightly. They plan to continue serving many non-profit and volunteer organizations with the same level of assistance. Willits Center for the Arts, Willits Community Theatre, Willits Frontier Days, the Willits Senior Center, Mendocino Historical Society, the American Legion, the Boy Scouts, Sip Some Soup, Roots of Motive Power and Sober Grad are just a few of the local groups the Rammings are proud to continue working with.

"John and Anne really set up the transition of the business in a way to allow us to continue the same service and experience to all the community," explained Tim. "We plan to do our best to keep the legacy going."

John still stops in and continues to offer guidance and assistance to the new owners, making sure things go smoothly as they progress into the even-busier summer season.

"We're already really busy, and things continue to go more smoothly each month," continued Tim. "It's great to have John's help, and everyone is getting more and more familiar with learning all the ropes of the business and the needs of each particular job."

As always, jobs in any stage of completion are welcome at Printing Plus; Tim and the staff are able to help start projects from scratch with designs for business cards, stickers, magnets, newsletters and more, and are also able to make larger and poster-sized prints, bound booklets, calendars, T-shirts, logos and just about anything else you can imagine.

Stop in and say "hi" to the new owners, or find out more about what they can offer you at 262 E Commercial Street, or give them a call at 459-9401.

- Maureen Moore



Top of row: Tanja Ramming loads a shirt onto the T-shirt press under Saren's careful watch.

Above: The outside of Printing Plus on East Commercial Street.

Below: Arlen Ramming holds the handles of the Miehle machine with Miguel Jiminez behind.



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