

# Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Thursday, March 19, 2015



## Supes OK asphalt plant for Grist Creek quarry site

Mike A'Dair

Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

Supervisors have unanimously approved an application by Grist Creek Aggregates to build and operate an asphalt plant at its quarry just east of Longvale, some 16 miles north of Willits on Highway 162.

The plant is located on a gravel bar tucked between Highway 162 on the east and Outlet Creek on the west. It has been used as an industrial site since the 1950s, when a sawmill was located there. It has been used as a gravel quarry, rock processing plant, and occasionally as an asphalt plant, since 1972, when former owners of the site got a use permit for a quarry there.

Read the rest of **Grist Creek** | Over on Page 13

## Garbage contract: Not ready for prime time yet

Zack Cinek

Reporter  
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A committee negotiating a new city garbage contract with Solid Waste of Willits is not quite ready to take the matter back for a full council hearing.

But the garbage committee meets on March 25, a time when there could be formative talks between city representatives and SWOW.

"I think in the next two weeks we could be talking productively with Jerry Ward about contract terms," Councilwoman Madge Strong said.

SWOW's previous 15-year deal is coming to an end, and a committee has

Read the rest of **Garbage** | Over on Page 13

## Road rage attack ends in arrest of Willits transient

An apparent March 9 road rage attack on Highway 162 Covelo ended with the arrest of a Willits transient on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon.

The incident unfolded at about 5 pm at Mile Post Marker 3 after 39-year-old Dustin Henderson sideswiped a vehicle he was attempting to pass on Highway 162.

According to Sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten, Henderson allegedly pulled away and blocked the roadway following the accident, got out of his vehicle armed with what the

Read the rest of **Arrest** | Over on Page 13

## Cleanup Underway at John's Place



Above: Larry moves debris with the excavator. Below: Workers Roberto, Roman, Carlos and Ignacio pose at the cleanup site.

Photos by Maureen Moore



"Good news ... cleanup work on John's Place has commenced!" the City of Willits announced on its Facebook page Tuesday afternoon, and on Wednesday morning crews were busy at work at the Commercial Street site of the November 14 arson fire.

"They're not technically demolishing the building yet," said John Sherman, code enforcement officer for the City of Willits. "They're getting the junk out of the way," so asbestos abatement workers from Curran Environmental Services, Santa Rosa, can take out the old asbestos linoleum, which should be done by Friday or Monday.

Greg Simpson Trucking was taking out the debris and will be doing the demolition work, too, Sherman said. As soon as the Air Quality Management District issues an asbestos release, Sherman can issue a demolition permit and, at that point, it should take not more than three or four days to "take it all the way down to dirt," dig up the foundation and take up the old paving, too.

"It's a good thing for the community," Sherman said, "and now we can start the healing part."

— Jennifer Poole

## Woodhouse opposes herbicide use on bypass mitigation lands

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse put on record his personal opposition to Caltrans' use of herbicides on the 1,772 acres of mitigation lands in Little Lake Valley during a March 6 "Herbicide Forum" at the Little Lake Grange.

Jennifer Poole

Editor & Reporter  
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The forum, sponsored by Save Our Little Lake Valley and the Grange, offered short presentations on a number of herbicide topics, with speakers including a Native American basket weaver and a former vineyard worker exposed to herbicides in the Ukiah valley, as well as information tables.

A number of residents at the forum said they opposed herbicide use, including Mike Sturm, foreman of Summer Breeze Ranch, which produces Shamrock Artisan Goat Cheese, and is surrounded by Caltrans' mitigation lands on three sides.

"If they do any spraying on the ditch fence there," Sturm said, "I'm going to get overdrift. And it's going to pollute the water."

"I never thought I would be an environmentalist," he added. "Our farm has been certified by the state as being organic, and if they do that, it's going to mess up our organic status bigtime. And as a former user — I've used all these chemicals — they stay in the ground, they don't go away, and they all cause cancer. I don't want to see them out

there, and if there's some way we can stop it, I'd sure appreciate it."

Woodhouse was called to the microphone after the Willits Environmental Center's David Drell presented some background about the "gentleman's agreement" Mendocino County has with Caltrans not to spray herbicides along county highways.

"And we could have another gentleman's agreement," Drell continued, "if the board of supervisors now again say to Caltrans, and there's talk in the environmental statement about getting consensus from the board, if our supervisor Tom Woodhouse, who's right in the back there, is gonna stand with us (applause erupts), and say 'no spraying in Mendocino County,' then we can get the same kind of agreement we got on state highways. But we have to convince Tom and the other supervisors to be on our side." Calls for "Tom," "C'mon Tom," "Give him the microphone," and more applause rang out as Woodhouse walked up front.

"You won't always be applauding me," Woodhouse began. "I did sign the petition, and I am here representing my family, and we are against spraying herbicides in our valley, so it's a no-brainer."

"The one thing I did want to say, and I think it's like the 'S' initiative, that this should win, it's the right thing to do. I just want to do it as timely ... and educate people and involve kids, and make it a positive thing. We're not fighting other people, we're working together to make it better, and we just happen to be on the right side."

Caltrans' potential use of herbicides to try to eradicate non-native species, including Himalayan blackberries, yellow star thistle, and two kinds of non-native grasses, as well as to clear woody vegetation and weeds from mitigation lands, is a relatively new aspect of the Willits bypass plan.

The FAQ section of Caltrans' Willits Bypass Project News blog answered a question about the use of herbicides with: "There will be no herbicide spraying used on the bypass project," until it was updated at the end of November 2014, with this answer: "There will be no herbicides used on the bypass project right of way, but there will be limited use of herbicides on mitigation

parcels to eliminate the non-native invasive Himalayan blackberry."

Although the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan approved June 2014 contains multiple references to herbicide use, almost always with a caveat like "Nonchemical methods for invasive plant control are preferred," the draft and final Environmental Impact Reports (2002 and 2006), the original legal documents for the plan, mention herbicide use in only four sections, three of them stating herbicides won't be used.

In response to a public comment by Erylne Schmidbauer suggesting construction of the Willits bypass may spread invasive plants, Caltrans writes: "As stated in the DEIS/EIR, Mendocino County does not allow the use of herbicides, so this method would not be a mitigation component."

In another section Caltrans describes its plan to minimize impacts from invasive non-native plants spreading due to construction in the construction corridor: "If, during the three-year monitoring program, invasive weeds show evidence of spreading, Caltrans will develop an Invasive Weed Eradication Plan.... Herbicides would not be used since Caltrans does not use herbicides in Mendocino County."

There's a casual mention of "herbicides" in a section of the draft EIR 2002 dealing with "Environmental Consequences" of the construction, suggesting that "few if any" pesticides/herbicides are anticipated to be found in highway runoff, because: "There are no large industrial (manufacturing), agroindustrial (packing plants), or agricultural operation/activities in the Little Lake Valley that use large amounts of solvents, pesticides, or herbicides."

The only mention of the actual use of herbicides in the 2002 Draft or 2006 Final EIR documents is on page 96 of the "Implementation Plan" in the Final EIR, about "Invasive Exotic Plants Removal" on mitigation sites: "In areas that are not severely disturbed, invasive weeds would have to be removed selectively. They could be removed manually or by covering them with an opaque material such as black plastic. The use of herbicides would be limited to brushing or wicking only in most infested areas."

Read the rest of **Herbicides** | Over on Page 13

## Covelo, Leggett fire districts: 'Bare bones' budgets, aging infrastructure

'Bare bones' budgets, aging infrastructure

Editor's note: This is the second part of a three-part series focusing on problems in north county fire districts.

Dan McKee

Reporter  
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If the Little Lake Fire Protection District suffers from funding problems and a lack of public interest in providing candidates for the district's board of directors — which has been appointed by the county board of supervisors for the last five years — the remaining north county fire districts face even more serious troubles, according to a 2015 Local Agency

Read the rest of **LAFCO** | Over on Page 13

## Public works projects progressing or completed

Zack Cinek

Reporter  
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Construction of the city's emergency water supply system that will link wells to a new groundwater treatment plant is progressing.

When reservoirs ran low last winter, the city aimed to link the old Elias Well in the valley and the Park Well by the old ball fields to a new treatment plant.

According to Public Works Director Rod Wilburn, the foundation for the new plant is poured and the building that will house the treatment equipment is going up.

Garman Construction has finished pressure-testing a line, Wilburn said, and he believes the project should

Read the rest of **Projects** | Over on Page 10

## Van Lane arch project: 'We are ready to go to work'

Zack Cinek

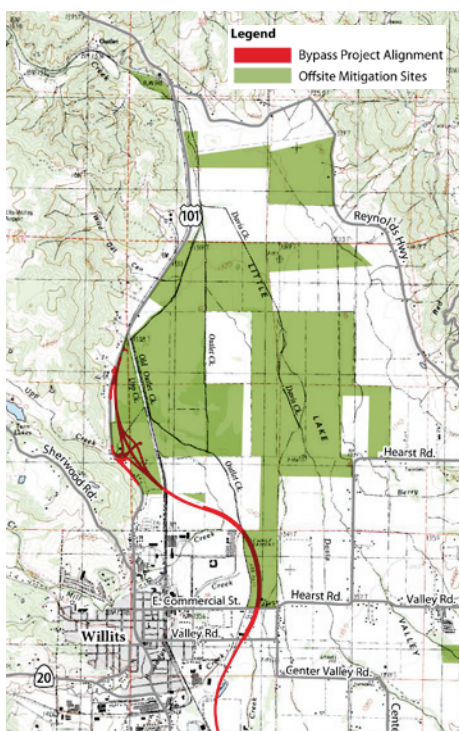
Reporter  
zack@willitsweekly.com

Downtown businessmen Tom Mann and Pete Swanton asked the city council for its support for the proposed Van Lane arch project.

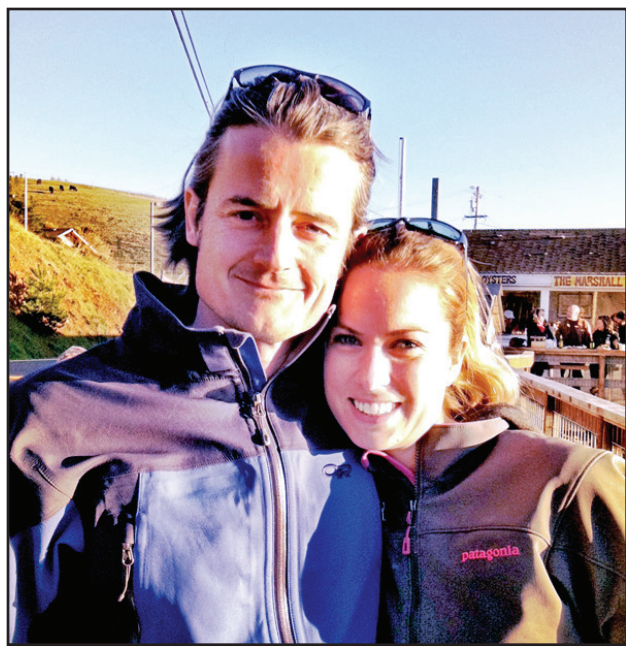
The project would build an arch across the entrance to Van Lane between the old Burrito Exquisito building and the Mazahar storefront.

"We want to let you know we are ready to go to work on that," Mann said. With "a little blessing," Mann said, "we will dig up the money

Read the rest of **Arch** | Over on Page 10







### Jason & Suzanne: Engaged!

Dave and Jenny Watts are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Suzanne Louise Watts, to Jason Dedmore, son of Deborah and Leonard Karbo, and Pat and Sara Dedmore. Suzanne Watts earned a master of science in nursing from Samuel Merritt University and works as a family nurse practitioner in Santa Rosa. Jason Dedmore grew up in Arizona and does corporate real estate. They plan to wed in 2016, and make their home in Santa Rosa.



### Warren & Kathleen: 50 years!

Congratulations to Warren and Kathleen Lewis on their 50th anniversary, March 6, 2015.

COLUMN | Messages from Phoenix Rising Garden

### Start to grow your own food

Ron Woolsey  
Columnist

There are many reasons to produce your own food, but there is some new information you should consider. We have all heard that we should not get antibiotics unless necessary, because it will encourage bacteria to mutate into strains that can resist antibiotics. But how many of you realize that antibiotics are given to livestock in huge quantities and often because it increases body weight by 15 percent, thus giving the corporate-owned farms a 15 percent boost in profits?

Now, remember that the manure from these farms then goes to the fields of vegetables that you buy in the store. You might say, "Well that does not prove that antibiotic-resistant bacteria are showing up in the supermarket." But actually that is exactly what is happening. To view the whole story, go to [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org) and type in "Frontline The Trouble With Antibiotics" or go to this URL: <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365346336>. What you see should shock you.

Some markets are taking notice of public concern. McDonald's recently announced they would no longer use chickens given antibiotics, but said the ban would not apply to cattle. Speak out. Let your concerns be known.

Read the rest of **Gardening** | Over on Page 10



## Mama Daisy

Daisy is a 3-year-old spayed female Pit Bull. She currently weighs 73 pounds. Daisy came to us as a stray dog with her puppy, Elf, who has already found his forever home. She does well with other dogs and is real beauty. With our St. Patty's Day special from March 21, there is no adopt this great companion fee of \$75, which includes her spay, and a microchip.

Photo by Rod Coats

March 17 through better time to come for the low adoption vaccines, license,

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: [www.mendoshelterpets.com](http://www.mendoshelterpets.com) or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

## Curious Rain

Rain is an 11-month-old neutered male Bull Terrier mix. He currently weighs 43 pounds. Rain is a favorite among staff and volunteers.

Photo by Rod Coats



He has a happy, cheerful personality and is a blast to watch in our group play sessions. Rain is very curious about everything and would love a guardian that could show him all the neat things there is to see and do outside of shelter life.

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Did you adopt one of the pets featured in Willits Weekly? Do you live in Willits, Laytonville or Covelo? We'd love to hear about your success story! Feel free to send us a Letter to the Editor to tell us about your new pet. [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com).

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Above, left: Teacher Liesel Hendrix smiles in the face of many pies. Above, center: Plates of pudding ready to be thrown. Above, right: Teachers Hendrix, left, and Tessa Ford, show off their "Epic Pi Day" T-shirts.

Below: 8th grade students who helped set up and clean up during Pi Day this year: from left to right: Eden, Jasmine, Melissa, Dominic, and Casey.

At bottom, left: Students waiting for their turn to throw: in front, from left to right: Cole, Giovanni, Jacob, and in rear: Taylor, and left, and Michael. Bottom, center: Baechtel Grove Principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia took the first hit. Bottom, right: Big smiles from Amaya and Claire.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



## Cupcake Wars, 2015!

The second annual Cupcake Wars was a success with around 20 entrants and four big winners. Taking home the Best Tasting award was McKenna McNelly, Eden Hinker Tye won the Best Decorated award, Lily Barrett won the People's Choice award and Michelle Collicott won for Best Decorated Table.

2015 competitors included: the Willits High School Cooking Club, Jennifer and Lily Barrett, Ariel Molina, Megan Hall, Eden Hinker Tye, ER Energy, Lisa and Kylie Reed, Kathy Tobin, Jessie Rees, Michelle Collicott, Lena and Santa Ramirez, Veronica Leon, Crystal Smith and Cathy Lawrence, Sheila Persico, Lynn Williams, a team of the Rileys, Willcuts and Christensens, Brittany Maddox, Paulette Thompson, Rose Mann, Stephanie Roeling and Kate Abernathy.

Below, left: Grady Fonsen was on quality control at the ER Energy booth. Center: Winners of Cupcake Wars including, from left: Eden Hinker Tye, Lily Barrett, McKenna McNelly and Michelle Collicott. At right: Many of the delicious cupcakes. Right, above: Judges pose with event coordinators (standing) Julia Amador Medina at left, and Kara Rodriguez, right. Judges included, from left, Willits High School Principal Jeffrey Ritchley, Saprana Rodriguez, Kathleen Lewis and 3rd District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse.



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**Seeking Applicants for Board of Directors**

Wowser, located in its 20,000 square foot facility here in Willits, is going through transformative growth and is seeking a vibrant Board of Directors.

Wowser invites you to apply for a seat on our Board. As we continue to grow as an economic catalyst for Willits, we're seeking forward thinking and business-courageous individuals who are eager to create jobs and provide skills training for the community.

We're creating a super-structure which has our Board of Directors at the top. The Office of the Chief Executive (OCE) reports to the Board which provides accountability, guidance, input, and leadership.

Wowser is seeking a working Board that has profound conversational intimacy in a safe space. A Board that is capable of vetting audacious possibilities that are realizable.

We'll be working and learning together on new and innovative approaches with all insights focused on transforming Willits to a story of success.

We want a working Board whose members roll up their sleeves and works with our leadership team.

Wowser offers ongoing board leadership development.

This is a transformational business opportunity. Join us.

Deadline for applicants: March 26, 2015.

Please send a letter to:  
Office of the Chief Executive  
Roger Wilson, Cyndee Logan, Ian Fitzpatrick  
330 E. Commercial St.  
Willits, CA 95490

For more information go to [www.Wowser.org](http://www.Wowser.org)

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- Drive and execute large scale product campaigns
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- Coordinate appropriately across other channels to ensure smooth integration of multi-media advertising campaigns
- Develop and tactically execute crowd funding campaigns
- Lead customer experience testing and optimizations throughout the customer journey (ad creative, ad placement, landing page experience, conversion forms, post-conversion relationship, A/B and multivariate testing, etc)

**Desired Candidate has:**

- At least 4 years of experience with a strong performance history and demonstrated success.
- Experience with Crowd funding a plus
- Knowledge of Ad Servers, campaign optimization tools, or online tracking technology desirable
- Exceptional ability to communicate cross-functionally within a highly energetic team
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically about complex issues, leading to thoughtful recommendations, action plans, and campaigns that drive high ROI
- Comfortable speaking about and presenting data

**Salary range: Market**

Deadline for applicants March 30, 2015.

Please send a letter to:  
Office of the Chief Executive; Roger Wilson, Cyndee Logan, Ian Fitzpatrick  
330 E. Commercial St.  
Willits, CA 95490

For more information go to [www.Wowser.org](http://www.Wowser.org)



**Seeking Applicants for an Administrative Assistant**

This support person will be a member of the Administrative Team and report directly to the Office of the Chief Executive (OCE). The Assistant will provide administrative support, manage projects, interact with high level contacts and make appropriate decisions where necessary in order to effectively carry out the business of Wowser.

**Responsibilities include but aren't limited to:**

- Administrative support for various projects in a high growth environment. Duties include managing OCE calendars, scheduling appointments, completing expense reports, screening calls, reviewing incoming mail/email and routing appropriately, and other tasks as requested
- Understand all receptionist duties in order to manage and provide back-up for the receptionist throughout the day including routing calls, greeting guests, giving tours, making badges, and seating meetings
- Communicate clearly and professionally via phone, email, and written correspondence with Wowser's investors, portfolio companies, and outside parties
- Interact with investors, donors, and prospective companies in a courteous, professional manner
- Schedule all aspects of travel (domestic & international) for meetings, conferences and other events
- Anticipate the needs of the OCE and initiate communications or schedule accordingly
- Attend Wowser functions as necessary

**Desired Skills and Experience:**

- Three years of current administrative support. A background in a corporate environment is preferred.
- BA degree preferred but not mandatory
- Some Knowledge of MS Access and skilled at Word/Excel/PowerPoint; comfortable learning new computer applications and conducting research on the internet
- Highly organized and able to prioritize and respond to a fast paced growth environment
- Strong team player; flexible and willing to take on unfamiliar tasks
- Ability to problem-solve and have good judgment skills

**Salary range: Market**

Deadline for applicants March 30, 2015.

Please send a letter to:  
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