

Easter Week Services

Thanks to the *Willits Christian Churches Fellowship* for providing a synopsis of Easter Week services at their member churches; *Willits Weekly* added some information about Easter activities at other churches. Please call *Willits Weekly* at 459-2633 if you want to add information about your church's services. Please call the church of your choice for any questions or details. Palm Sunday is April 13 this year; Maundy Thursday is April 17; Good Friday is April 18; and Easter Sunday is April 20.

Agape Bible Church (290 S. Lenore Ave., 707-459-1905) will be holding a Maundy Thursday service during which "The Christ, the Cross and the Crown" will be performed by a multi-church choir. Please call the church for Easter Service times. 9 am and 11 am Easter Sunday service, April 20.

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church (803 Coast St., 707-456-9668) will hold an Easter Service during their normal worship services, 10:30 am, on Sunday April 20.

Bible Baptist Church (1764 S Main St., Willits, CA 95499, 456-9083). Please call the church about Easter Week services.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (265 Margie Dr., 459-5332). Please call for information about Easter services. An Easter Egg Hunt and Party is scheduled for Friday, April 11 from 5 to 7 pm.

Christ's Church of the Golden Rule (16200 N Highway 101, 459-5382). Please call for information about Easter services.

First Baptist Church (145 Wood St., 459-2144). Please call for information about Easter services.

Grace Community (25 Hazel St., 707-459-3106) Please call the church for Easter Service times.

Seventh-day Adventist (399 W. Mendocino Ave., 707-459-5714) will hold an Easter Service during their normal worship services on Saturday, April 19.

Shiloh Gateway of Worship Church (68 E. San Francisco Ave., 707-459-2846) will hold an Easter Service during their normal worship services on Sunday April 20.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church (61 W. San Francisco Ave., 459-2252) will hold Palm Sunday services on Saturday, April 12 at 5:30 pm and on Sunday, April 13 at 9 am (in English) and at 10:30 am (in Spanish). "Stations of the Cross" is set for Friday, April 18 at 12 noon, and a Vigil Mass will start at 7 pm (sundown) on Saturday, April 19. Easter Sunday Mass is set for 9 am (English) and 10:30 am (Spanish).

St. John's Lutheran Church (24 Mill Creek, 707-459-2988) will hold Maundy Thursday Communion service at 7 pm, Thursday, April 17. Easter Day, April 20: Easter breakfast at 9:30 am; Easter Egg Hunt for children (weather permitting) at 10:15 am; Easter Worship Service at 11 am.

St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church (66 E. Commercial St., 707-459-3066) every Friday evening until April 11 will be praying the Stations of the Cross, followed by soup and bread; Maundy Thursday Services; Good Friday service; Saturday evening Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday service.

Willits United Methodist Church (286 School St., 707-459-2855) will offer a Walk of the Labyrinth, on Maundy Thursday, April 17, from 2 to 8 pm. The community is invited to walk the outdoor labyrinth, which will be set up with stations at which you can stop during your walk, pick up a meaningful remembrance, as well as music to accompany you on your walk. Including a soup & bread dinner at 5:30 pm, and a short worship service with Holy Communion at 6:15 pm. WUMC will hold Easter service during their normal worship services, with an Easter Egg Hunt after church on the church grounds.

Also, on Easter Day, there will be a combined churches event hosted by the Ministerial Association on Sunday morning, April 20 at 6 am, at the Rec Grove Park. Pastor Richard Whipkey (Grace Community Church) will be the speaker, and Pastor Bill Nobles (Amazing Grace Church) will provide music. A brunch will be served at Agape Church immediately following (attendees can also bring food if they like).

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters from area residents, focusing on Willits issues, activities, events and people, have priority. Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred.

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.



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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Yes on Measure K

To the Editor:

I'm writing to ask you to vote Yes on Measure K. You can vote for Measure K if you reside in Brooktrails, as a renter or a home owner, and are a registered voter.

Voting Yes on Measure K increases the fire tax by a mere \$34 a year (that is 9 cents per day). It's certainly worth pennies a day to keep our fire department equipped and able to continue to respond to our emergencies.

You don't have to be a property owner to need these services, and you don't have to be a property owner to vote for them. The consequences affect all of us living in Brooktrails. Thank you.

Sarah Schuyler, Brooktrails

Yes on Measure K

To the Editor:

Election time is almost here. On the ballot, again, is the tax measure for the Brooktrails Fire Department. No, none of us like to have our taxes increased, but the amount of the increase is so minimal, only \$34 per parcel owned, per year. Add that to your already existing fire tax of \$65, and it only comes to \$99 per year per parcel owned.

We need to pass this measure so equipment can be purchased. One piece would be a water tender truck that is needed if a fire breaks out in an area with no hydrant near. Other items are needed to be replaced because they are just plain old and worn out.

Many of the firemen that come to our rescue are volunteers who are giving of their own time to protect us. It is time for all Brooktrails residents to get out and vote YES on Measure K. Support your fire department and make it possible for them to buy the equipment needed to protect us. The next fire or medical call may be yours! I urge all Brooktrails voters to get out and vote YES on Measure K on June 3. It may save your home, or your life.

Kay Wright, Brooktrails

Looking for 2014 Sweethearts

To the Editor:

Soroptimist International of Willits (SIW) is now accepting applications for 2014 Frontier Days Sweethearts.

The contest is open to young women residing anywhere in Mendocino County between the ages of 16 and 21 as of July 1, and who have never married.

Judging is based 40 percent on ticket sales, 40 percent on horsemanship, and 20 percent on poise and appearance. The Sweetheart contest helps young women raise money for college or other expenses, as the contestants are awarded 15 percent of the funds they raise.

Interested applicants should contact Loraine Patton at 459-5363 for details. Applications can be picked up at Gateway Realty in Willits or downloaded from www.willitsfrontierdays.com: Go to the web site, click on the "Sweethearts" heading under the big Willits Frontier Days banner, to see more information about the contest. Scroll down to the bottom of the "Sweethearts" page and click the "Sweetheart Entry Form" link to open the application form.

Fill out the application, mail to or drop it off at 100 South Street, Willits. Applications need to be received by Loraine Patton on or before April 23, 2014.

Loraine Patton, Willits

Bypass northern interchange

To the Editor:

I'd like to set the record straight on some of the facts surrounding the Willits Bypass.

The "northern interchange" consists of everything north and west of the railroad tracks. A document called a LEDPA Analysis put out by Caltrans to the agencies in 2012 described the impacts of the bypass by section. The northern interchange is listed as having 31 acres of wetland impacted. The interchange is a good deal larger than the wetlands. The roundabout area in the existing plan is not wetland. You may remember the farm with the big barn that once was there. This area is easily 9 acres. Thus the interchange is easily 40 acres.

It is quite certain that all of the fill from the mill site, that recently got a use permit to remove 884,000 cubic yards, is going on the northern interchange. Using the SHN report

on the fill from the mill site already on the northern end of the bypass, it is possible to calculate what is still left to place. Somewhere in the amount of 150,000 cubic yards are needed to complete the area north of the mile-long bridge that spans the roadway and east of the railroad tracks. That leaves 734,000 cubic yards needed on the northern interchange. It is hard to picture, with a 30 foot overpass over the railroad tracks and a 15 foot overpass over the connector road. Don't forget the railroad is on a levee 10 feet above the rest of the wetlands. This amount of fill will cover an area of 31 acres about 14 feet deep. This sounds about right, as an average, not forgetting that some 3 feet of fill has already been placed.

Contrast this with the amount of fill it would take to build a triangle of earth to bring the two-lane bypass directly from the railroad overpass to the at-grade roundabout intersection Caltrans has in the plans already. The distance from the railroad overpass to the roundabout is roughly 2,000 feet. The fill would start at some 35 feet deep and 300 feet wide, going down to 0 feet deep by 35 feet wide. The average, 17.5 feet deep by 132.5 feet wide by 2,000 feet, long would take about 172,000 cubic yards to fill such a wedge.

This means that somewhere in the area of 560,000 yards of fill would not be needed if the northern interchange were reduced. At the recent hearing for the mill site the spokesman for Mendocino Forest Products came up with the number of 100,000 cubic yard savings. 100,000 cubic yards would fill 31 acres only about 2 feet deep. This is far enough off to be completely absurd.

The northern interchange as a roundabout is already designed and in the plans. It just needs one leg widened and another eliminated. The Purisima Road Roundabout on State Route 246 is a good example of a three-leg roundabout Caltrans not only accepts, but also promotes as a "safety improvement." The Willits roundabout was specifically designed for extra-large STAA trucks. It would need to accommodate many fewer vehicles than either the Highway 246 roundabout or the four-leg roundabout recently built on Highway 20, by Caltrans. A change order is possible, and Caltrans does them all the time.

This project does represent the largest wetland fill in California in 50 years. It has been suggested that both Redwood Shores and Farm Island in the San Francisco Bay were much larger wetland fills. While they were large, the filling was done before the 1960s. Bair Island was filled by Leslie Salt before Redwood Shores housing development was built. Farm Island operated as a farming community before the housing developments, also. "Save the Bay" was formed in 1961 and in two years was successful in stopping all bay filling and passing legislation in 1965. The Clean Water Act was signed until 1972, and the definitions of wetlands have changed over time.

The 380,000 tons of greenhouse gasses produced by building this project was calculated using Caltrans figures in the Draft Environmental Impact Report for how much gasoline would be used to construct the bypass. Anyone want all those numbers?

Wick drains do destroy wetlands, and Caltrans has yet to explain how much of the wetlands downstream of them will be impacted. Every acre of wetland is precious in our state that leads the nation in destroying over 90 percent of our wetlands. The nation and our state have a policy of "no net loss" of wetlands. Before mitigating, it is required to avoid damaging them in the first place. A smaller bypass and a smaller footprint for a two-lane northern intersection would certainly avoid at least 25 acres of wetland.

In this time when we are turning to groundwater for human needs, the recharge of groundwater that a wetland accomplishes is crucial. Mitigation for lost wetlands is notoriously unsuccessful. The 2002 EPA report on wetland creation concludes, "Functional replacement of wetlands has not been conclusively demonstrated."

The Outlet Creek Basin Assessment shows that Outlet Creek has undergone a serious drop in flow since the 1990s. It has likely become a "losing stream," which means the water table has dropped so much it no longer feeds the stream. No matter how big the aquifer is, if you take out more than you recharge every year, you are "spending the principal." This is happening to the biggest aquifer in the country, the Ogallala aquifer, which spans the central plains between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River. Most likely it is happening here, and the plan to pump more groundwater while destroying wetlands in the same aquifer is not a good idea.

What can we do? Call on our elected officials to support using the roundabout intersection as the northern interchange of the Willits bypass is a start.

Rosamond Crowder, Willits



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Outwit the Drought!

Drip irrigation talk by author Robert Kourik

Friends of the Willits Library sponsored an exciting presentation last Sunday at the Willits Library with gardening expert Robert Kourik. He spoke to a standing-

room-only crowd on the value of using drip irrigation.

"Daily drip irrigation during the drought: A discussion about daily versus intermittent irrigation" was the topic of his presentation.

This innovative speaker has written several books on gardening and has been called the "drip guru" by Organic Gardening magazine. "Maybe not the most flattering title in the world," Kourik said, "but I like it." Quite a timely presentation for our little community: where we are facing a drought year and all the challenges that come with maintaining landscapes and gardens in Willits.

Water is one of our most precious resources. It is the life blood of not only our gardens, but all living things. How water is distributed and shared and conserved has become a national issue as well as a local one. As we become more aware of the importance of this vital natural resource, finding ways to use it wisely and learning how to conserve it becomes ever more important.

"Drought years teach us to appreciate water and to become more water wise," writes Mary Buckley, a Mendocino County University of California Cooperative Extension master gardener, in a flyer entitled "Water-Wise Gardening in a Drought Year" (<http://cemendocino.ucanr.edu/files/186022.pdf>).

Kourik presented practical and useful tips for using drip irrigation not only to save water, but to have healthier plants as well. Totally informative and with a great sense of humor, Kourik's discussion and slide show featured strategies for gardening in dry times for every type of landscape and garden. He explained how crop yields can be up to 48 percent higher with drip irrigation, while saving water.

"For the home gardener, the bottom line is the health of the landscape and garden," stated Kourik. "Here, drip irrigation's value shines far above all other watering methods." He believes that drip-irrigated plants usually grow better than those that are hand-watered or watered with sprinklers. "Trees grow faster, with wider trunks, and you get better blooms on flowers and healthier vegetables.

Community Foundation gives grants to seven North County projects

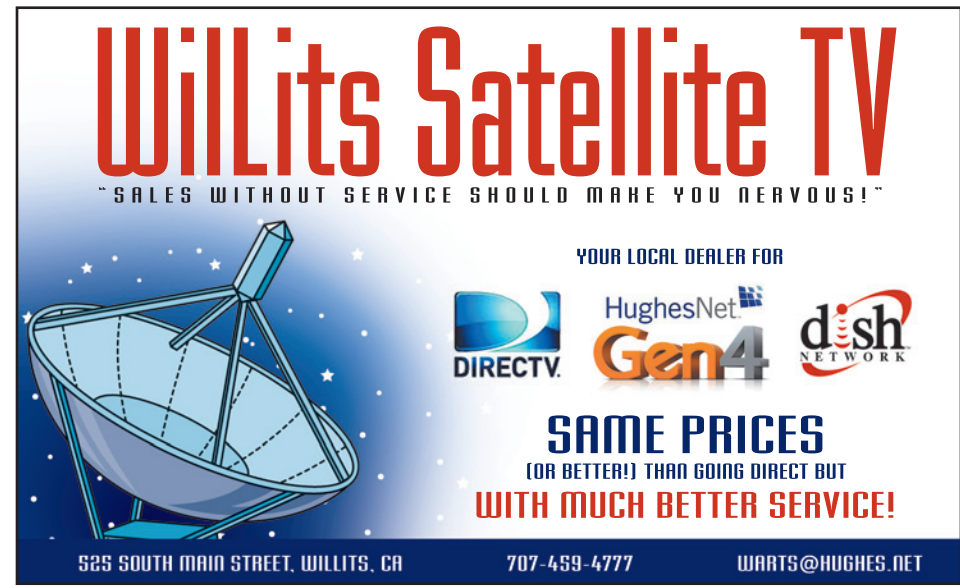
Seven non-profit organizations from Willits, Laytonville, Leggett and Round Valley have been awarded more than \$20,000 from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County's 2014 Community Enrichment Grant Program. The grants will provide funding to emergency services, youth services, health and nutrition promotion, and education.

"We had great applications from all over the county," stated Director of Grants and Programs Megan Barber Allende. "The grants to the northern inland region were very well distributed across a broad spectrum of areas of interest." The grants come from the Community Endowment Fund, one of 140 funds from the Community Foundation administrators. "The Community Endowment Fund is undesignated, so we're able to provide funding in the areas where we see the greatest potential for impact and community enrichment. Our regional advisors help us determine the local priorities."

The Commonwealth Garden in Willits is one of the programs that received Community Foundation funding this year. The funding will help with the completion of a new produce stand, which will include a sales counter, cold and dry storage, a bathroom, and an office.

The Commonwealth Garden is located on Howard Memorial Hospital Foundation property, and its primary purpose is to provide produce for the hospital. According to Garden Coordinator Keith Johnson, in the last year volunteers from the garden were able to fulfill a good percentage of the hospital's produce needs. "Sometimes they needed something we weren't growing, but of the things we were growing, we were able to meet all their orders," Johnson said. "This year we expect to produce more of some items than the hospital will be able to use. With the new produce stand, we'll be able to sell excess to the public."

The Commonwealth Garden was one of 26 organizations to receive a 2014 Community Enrichment Grant from the Community Foundation. Susanne Norgard, executive director for the foundation, notes: "When we established the Community

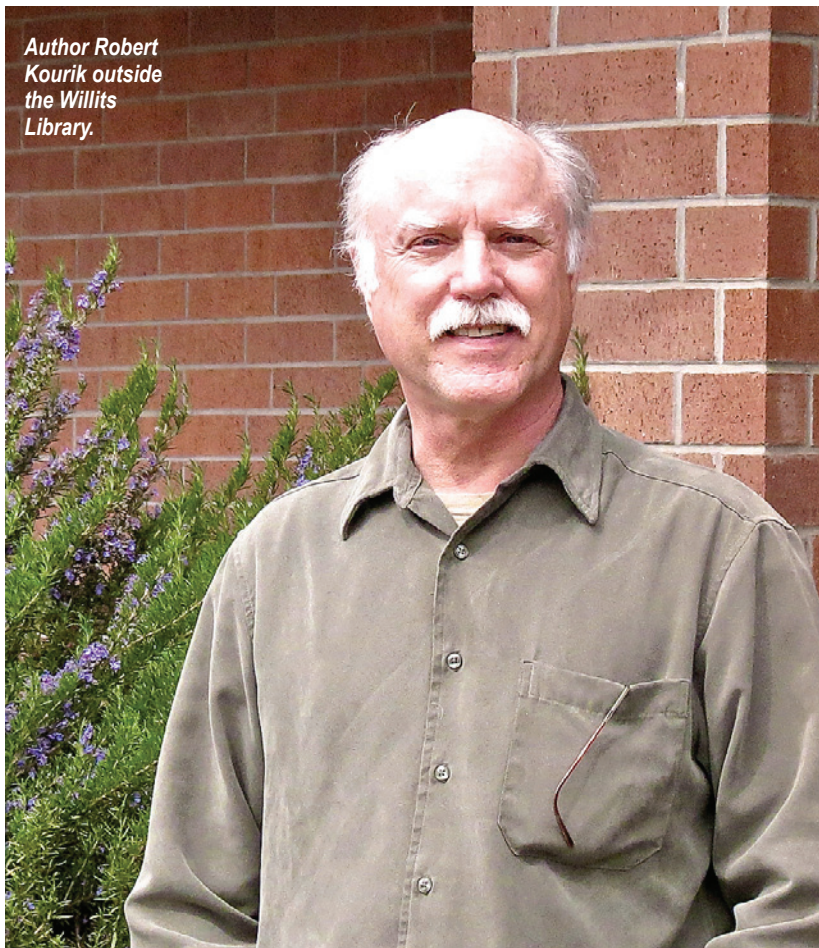


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Author Robert Kourik outside the Willits Library.

And all this with less fungal disease, mildews, or rusts, due to the drier foliage of the drip-irrigated plant," Kourik said.

He presented many graphs to prove his points, and took the listeners through the basics of setting up a drip irrigation system for a typical garden and also for more advanced landscapes. Showing a simple schematic of a drip irrigation system, he explained how to use the solid drip hoses or tubing, compression tees and elbows, emitters, pressure regulators and filters. All the things that I had found quite confusing, were so easily explained by this knowledgeable speaker. It actually looked like something that I could do myself.

Although Kourik says he is not beholden to any one company for supplies and information, he did state that our local irrigation company, DripWorks on Sanhedrin Circle in Willits, has some of the best drip irrigation products at the most reasonable prices.

For more information on setting up and maintaining a drip system, I would highly recommend his book "Drip Irrigation for Every Landscape and All Climates." The book's subhead reads: "Helping your garden flourish while conserving water! Outwit droughts with expert guidance." It has all the information, pictures, graphs and tons of answered questions needed to have a fully functional drip-irrigated garden and landscape.

Read the rest of **Kourik** | Over on Page 4



Above: Garden Coordinator Keith Johnson with greenhouse starts for the 2014 garden.

Endowment Fund in 2004 with donations from people throughout our county, our goal was to have a flexible way of funding the important needs of the community as they change over time. The fund is now large enough to produce earnings that allow us to provide \$100,000 a year in grants to local causes." Norgard went on to explain that as the fund grows, so does the Community Foundation's ability to make grants. "Anyone can contribute to the fund, and it's a great way to give back to the community."

Willits Community Services also received a grant from the Community Foundation to help them expand food storage capacity. Other area grantees included Laytonville Healthy Start, the Leggett Fire Protection District, Friends of Round Valley Public Library, and the Round Valley Indian Health Center.

For info on helping with the Commonwealth Garden, email fishnfool57@att.net. For info on how to contribute to the Community Foundation's Community Endowment Fund, visit www.communityfound.org or call 468-9882.

- Neil Davis, Community Foundation of Mendocino



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What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy
in and around Willits



Thursday, April 10

"Mendo Matters" radio show: 9 am on KZYX Radio, 91.5 FM. Join host Paul Lambert of Willits and his guests, Wayne Briley of the Redwood Empire Hazardous Incident Team (REHIT) and Brooktrails Fire Chief Daryl Schoepner "as we discuss the dangers of honey oil labs and the rapid increase in fires from honey-oil labs, six in the last six weeks." Plus your questions and calls at 456-9991.

Tea with the Principal: Willits High School Principal Jeff Ritchley invites parents to meet with him from 3:30 to 5 pm in Room 6 at the high school: "Our second semester is quickly coming to an end," Ritchley writes. "In two months we will have graduation, and seniors will be off to college, universities, military, or a career technical field. This is an exciting time for seniors, and if you believe that your son or daughter has missed any step in the process please give the high school a call, and we will help your student get on track.... GO WOLVERINES!"

Town Hall Meeting on Measure K: hosted by the Friends of the Brooktrails Firefighters and Brooktrails Township at 7 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center, 24850 Birch Street. A question-and-answer meeting that will explain the need for Measure K (Brooktrails fire tax). More info: please call the Brooktrails Fire Department at 459-4441.

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly 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 2nd and 4th Thursday, 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, April 11

HazMobile in Willits: The HazMobile household hazardous waste collection team will be at the Willits Corporation Yard, 380 East Commercial Street, on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 from 9 am to 1 pm. HazMobile accepts toxic materials like paint, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, solvents, acids, bases, toxic cleaners, auto and household batteries, mercury and fluorescent light tubes, that can't go in the trash, for recycling or special disposal. Free to households; 15 gallon limit/per day. Info and schedule, call the Recycling Hotline, 468-9704, or visit www.mendoRecycle.org.

Shanachie Pub: Blue Luke & the Elements, with "The Living Drums." 9 pm. \$7 cover. This Dance Party 'Fun' Raiser!!! features Luke Andrews,

aka "Blue Luke" (guitar), Lincoln Andrews (bass), Chris Zeigler (tenor sax), Michael Cantwell (keyboard), Steve Loeb aka "The Living Drum" (drum set and congas, Amaduo Camara-Djembe). Funky fusion jazz Afro Latin rock blues. Visit: www.myspace.com/lukeandrews. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, April 12

HazMobile in Willits: See Friday, April 11 listing for details.

Nature Walks at Ridgewood Ranch: the last documented walk this spring: "White deer lake hike. Wildflower meadows, oak woodlands, scenic lake. Moderate 5-mile round trip with 500 foot elevation." 10 am. Free but reservations required: 707-391-3872. Knowledgeable naturalists, herbalists, birders, and animal trackers are along on most trips; Outing duration will vary from 3 to 6 hours. Children 10 and older are welcome; no smoking, no pets. Heavy rain cancels. For more information about what to wear and what to pack, visit: www.seabiscuitheritage.org/conservancy.html.

Brooktrails Firefighters Association Spaghetti Feed: annual fundraiser, 5 to 8 pm, at the Brooktrails Community Center, 24850 Birch Street. Choose vegetarian or meat sauce. \$10 for adults; \$5 for age 12 and under. Info: call the fire station at 459-4441. See front page article for more info.

Troop 42 Spring BBQ Fundraiser: to benefit Boy Scout Troop 42. 6 pm at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. BBQ tri-tip and chicken, salad, baked potato and garlic bread. \$20. Tickets at Goods' Shoppe, or call 707-841-6644 or 707-272-6281.

Funkacillin: Funky music to boogie to, featuring Lex Krauss (guitar), Cherie Sheraque (vocals), Jim Dooley (trumpet and keyboard), Blair Rowland (drums), Nick Ford (bass), and Phil Montalvo (percussion). Free show at Boomer's Saloon, Highway 101, downtown Laytonville. 9:30 pm to 12:30 am. Visit: www.facebook.com/funkacillin or www.funkacillin.com.

Sunday, April 13

Flag Football Camp: The Willits Kiwanis Club is starting a Flag Football Camp, for youth ages 7 to 14. Sundays from 11 am to 12:30 pm, starting April 13 and continuing through June at Willits High School. One-time fee of \$10. Info: 707-841-7052.

"Conscious Cannabis Cultivation": the third talk in the "Cannabis Renaissance" series, presented by Long Valley Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville. 4 to 6 pm. A cultivation panel focusing on best management farming practices, featuring Kristin Nevada, Kevin Jodry, and Scott and Rosebud Ireland. Topics: pest and drought management, sustainable essentials, testing-

wisdom, product analysis/sidestepping the high costs of amendment- mania, and much more. Free, with donations appreciated. Info: 984-6587.

Shanachie Pub: Dallas Burrows Band, "a professional adventurer, creator and performer of the living, breathing, dying art form we call the song." 9 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194. Visit: www.facebook.com/dallas.burrow or www.reverbnation.com/dallasburrow.

Monday, April 14

Harrah Senior Center Pie & Ice Cream Social: 2:30 to 3:30 pm, at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Featuring the Just For Fun Choir. \$1.50; \$1 members. Bring your friends and family for ice cream, pie, games, and entertainment. Info: 459-6826.

Memorial Gathering for Deputy "Bob" Davis: "We will meet Monday, April 14 at 7:30 pm at our memorial stone for Deputy Sheriff George "Bob" Davis in front of the Willits Police/Sheriff Office Building, 125 East Commercial Street. We meet each year around sunset to pause, remember and pay our respects for a warrior who gave all ... the ultimate act of love for country and community. We will be doubly saddened this year due to the recent sacrifice given by our brother Deputy Ricky Del Fiorentino (Coast Sector). Hope you can join us for a few minutes of reflection." - Mike Tobin

Tuesday, April 15

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Capt. America: Winter Soldier 2D," "Muppets Most Wanted" and "Noah." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6600.

Avenues to Wellness: Doreen Blumenfeld, CHT, a specialist in stress management, is featured in the Avenues to Wellness talk tonight from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. "Learn about what happens in your brain when stressed; discover your patterns of perceptions; develop a personal sense of control; strengthen your ability to deal with adversity and stress; master simple tools to re-balance your nervous system." Free. Refreshments will be served. Info: call 459-2777, visit www.avenuestowellness.org, or email atwforhealth@gmail.com. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

Jr. Horsemen Meeting: 6 pm on the second Tuesday of every month, at the Willits Horsemen's Clubhouse, East Valley Road. Kids do not

need to have a horse or even ride horses to become members: just a general interest in horses or horse-related activities. Interested in learning more: contact Kathryn Baechtel at kbaechtel@yahoo.com or 489-6565. See article elsewhere on calendar page for this season's events.

Wednesday, April 16

Auditions for "Willits On Stage 2": Willits Community Services is holding auditions for its 2nd annual Variety Show, "Willits On Stage 2"; the show is set for Saturday, April 26 at 7 pm at the Willits High School Auditorium. "A marvelous variety show, featuring friends, neighbors and special guests." Tonight is the third and last audition date for the show - any talents are wanted! - from 6 to 8 pm. Auditions at the Willits Methodist Church, School and Pine streets. "Want to perform, help out or get involved? More info: 456-9429." Tickets for "Willits On Stage 2," a benefit for Willits Community Services and Food Bank, are \$10 advance; \$15 at the door; kids under 5 are free. Tickets at Goods' Shoppe, Main St. Music, Mazahar and the Good Food Store in Laytonville.

Black Bart Gunfighters Meeting: 6 pm at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 S Main Street. The fun-loving group of Willits residents who've been providing authentic Western entertainment for more than 40 years now is seeking new members. Now is a good time to think about joining up, with time to get costumes ready and to practice skits before the busy season starts up again this summer. Anyone interested can send a message via the Black Bart Gunfighters' website: www.blackbartgunfighters.com, call 877-459-6044 and leave a message, or drop by tonight's regular third Wednesday of the month meeting.

Thursday, April 17

"More Than Honey": Now and Then Film Series presents this documentary about honey bees, 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Honey bees give us much more than honey. More than 30 percent of our foods require bees to pollinate; we need them to eat! Over the past 15 years, most colonies of bees have been decimated throughout the world, but the causes of this disaster remain unknown. Fifty years ago, Einstein said: "If bees were to disappear from the globe, mankind would only have four years left to live." Visit: www.morethanhoneyfilm.com. Suggested donation of \$5 to \$10 benefits the Now and Then Film Series project. Info: 459-6362.

Friday, April 18

Willits Harrah Center Easter Bake Sale: Get your Easter goodies and

support your Senior Center, from 8:30 am, until sold out. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

"The Dining Room": A.R. Gurney's "comedy of manners" opens tonight at 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, behind Shanachie Pub. "The Dining Room" was first produced in 1982 in New York, set in a single dining room where 18 scenes from different households overlap and intertwine. The show runs from April 18 to May 4, with performances on Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and two Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10. Tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com/event/profile/600848; or phone the WCT office at 459-0895 for credit card orders. A special benefit performance for the Soroptimists will be held on Thursday, April 24 at 7 pm; tickets for this event are \$15 and available through Marilyn Harden at 459-5649. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.



Shanachie Pub Anniversary Party: with Schinding and Knocks & Jollies. 8 pm. \$5. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

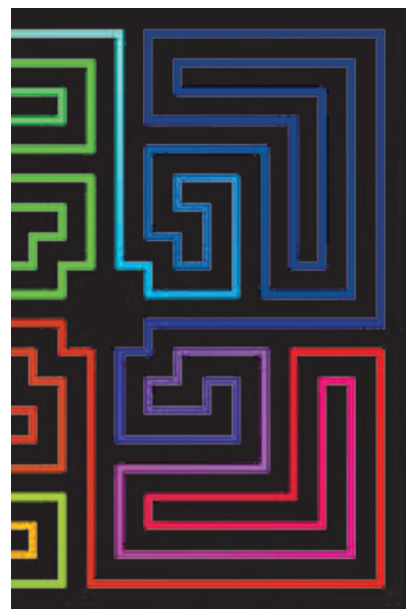
Saturday, April 19

WCT Master Class in Playwriting: 10 am to 1 pm at the Willits Library Conference Room, 390 East Commercial Street. Presented as part of the Willits Community Theatre series of master classes. "Creating Characters for the Stage" features noted author and teacher Ann Samson, who will share strategies for turning your monologue or story into a stage production. Bring your own material or use published works provided in class. \$25 adults/\$15 students; scholarships available. More info: visit www.willitstheatre.org or call 459-0895.

Ridgewood T.R.A.I.L. Riders Arena Dedication and Open House: 11 am to 2 pm at Ridgewood Ranch. Ridgewood TRAIL Riders: Building confidence, self-esteem, physical and emotional independence through therapeutic horsemanship. Event activities include program demonstration, introduction to the new veterans' program, facility tour, volunteer opportunities, horse meet and greet, and refreshments! "Join us as we celebrate over 20 years of service and dedicate our arenas in appreciation of the support of our local Rotary Clubs and in memory of Kathrynne Livingston." Info/directions: visit www.ridgewoodtrail.org or call Erin Livingston at 707-391-3873 or Aimee Swearingin at 707-354-0714.

Labyrinth Walk on Maundy Thursday

The Willits United Methodist Church invites the community to walk the outdoor Labyrinth at the church, 286 School Street (across from the Grange), on Thursday, April 17 from 2 to 8 pm. "Labyrinths have been used for centuries by many different spiritual practices and religions. This is in remembrance of Maundy Thursday in the Christian faith, the day on which Jesus Christ was arrested and condemned to death. The Labyrinth will be set up with stations at which you can stop during your walk, pick up a meaningful remembrance, as well as music to accompany you on your walk." Willits UMC will also have a soup and bread dinner at 5:30 and a short worship service with Holy Communion at 6:15 pm. The community is also invited to attend the dinner and worship."



Please Support Our BIGGEST FUNDRAISER Of The Year!!

Willits Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner

Fri, April 25, 2014

Tickets may be purchased at: **Cat's Meow 29 S. Main St. Willits**

PRE SALE ONLY! Or Call: **Linda Matz 459-6201 Julie Orr WHS 459-7700**

Dinner Includes: Complete meal for 4 people. Marinated, BBQ'd Tri-Tip, Baked Potatoes, Salad, Rolls & Cookies.

Willits Sober Grad is a non-profit organization that works each year from September through June to raise funds which are used to put on a safe, sober party for graduating Seniors of the Willits Community Schools on Graduation Night. These schools include: Willits Charter School, Willits High School, San Hedrin High School, La Vida Charter School and New Horizons School. Since it's inception in 1987, no High School Senior has died on Graduation Night.

'The Dining Room' opens April 18 at Willits Community Theatre

Evocative, overlapping family dramas move the action inexorably in A.R. Gurney's "The Dining Room," which opens at the Willits Community Theatre on Friday, April 18 at 8 pm.

Gurney's deft portrayal of middle-class characters taking turns around a main table brings forth a sharp sense of familiar reality. During the Depression, a father tells his son how he must micro-manage his own life. A female college student typing up her term paper for a master's degree argues with her husband.

The room begins to resonate with its own energy from the ambitions of a maid deciding to leave her long-held position, the embarrassment of two illicit

lovers interrupted by a son's early return home, a psychiatrist needing an impromptu waiting room, and a circle of children celebrating a raucous birthday party.

A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, Gurney wrote several plays before the resounding success of "The Dining Room" allowed him to write full-time. With this eloquent play, the dining room itself becomes the center of an elegant, captivating, and always flawed human universe.

"The Dining Room" runs from April 18 to May 4, with shows on Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and two Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10. Tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com/event/profile/600848; or phone the WCT office at 459-0895 for credit card orders. A special benefit performance for the Soroptimists will be held on Thursday, April 24 at 7pm; tickets for this event are \$15 and available through Marilyn Harden at 459-5649.

The theatre is located at 37 W. Van Lane, behind Shanachie Pub.

- Steve Hellman

Relay for Life Dance

"A Family Affair" dance to promote this summer's Willits Relay for Life event is set for Saturday, April 26, 7 to 10 pm, at the Harrah Senior Center. Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 for kids. "You've been asking for a dance, and we are going to give you one! This dance will be a fight for life - a fight against cancer!" All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. Featuring DJ Mike Tobin, from Body Works Gym, with "toe tapping, hip swinging, get out of your chair and dance music..." and some slower, wrap your arms around me music, too." Plus food, root beer floats, beer and wine will be available. The Willits Relay For Life will be held July 26 and 27 at Recreation Grove Park.

Save the Date

Sober Grad Take Home Tri-Tip Dinner, April 25, tickets at Cat's Meow

Enchilada Dinner To Go to benefit Baechtel Grove, April 25, Willits Community Center

"Willits On Stage 2", WHS Auditorium, April 26

Benefit Concert at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, May 4

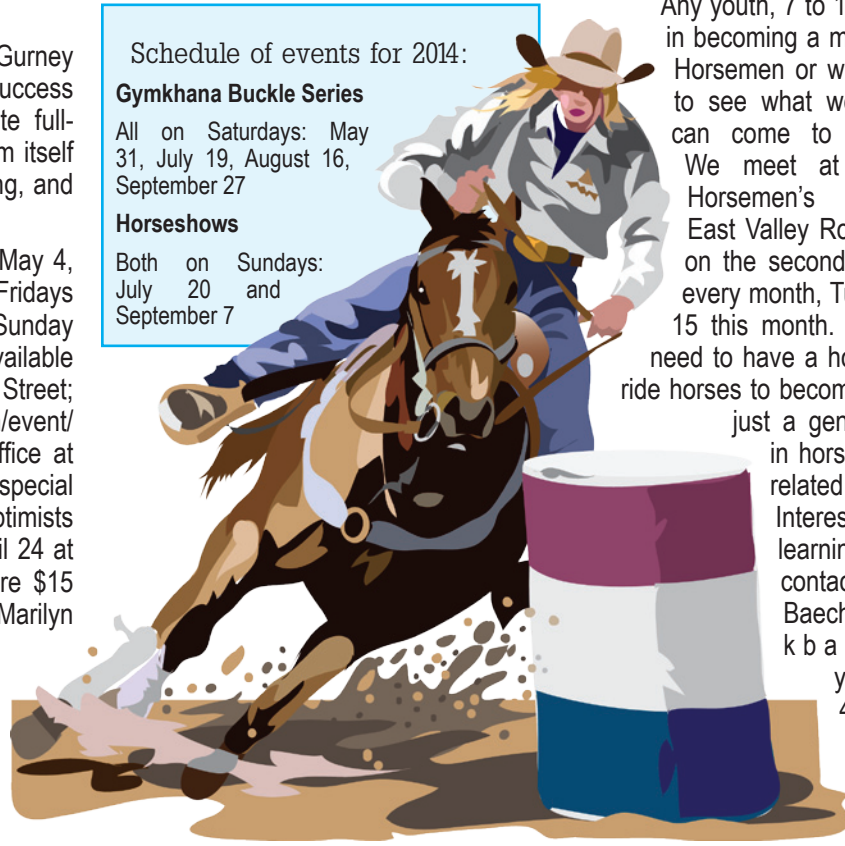
Willits Frontier Days Equine Educational Clinic, May 17

Celebrate Seabiscuit's Stud Barn listing in the National Register, May 24, Ridgewood Ranch

Jr. Horsemen Events

Jr. Horsemen will be selling BBQ tickets starting mid-April for the Horsemen's Playday, a public event set for Sunday, June 1. We will also be selling raffle tickets for a redwood playhouse as our fundraiser this year. We are hoping to add a round pen to the grounds with our profits from the raffle.

Schedule of events for 2014:
Gymkhana Buckle Series
All on Saturdays: May 31, July 19, August 16, September 27
Horseshows
Both on Sundays: July 20 and September 7



Any youth, 7 to 17, interested in becoming a member of Jr. Horsemen or who just want to see what we are about can come to a meeting. We meet at the Willits Horsemen's clubhouse, East Valley Road, at 6 pm on the second Tuesday of every month. Tuesday, April 15 this month. Kids do not need to have a horse or even ride horses to become members: just a general interest in horses or horse-related activities. Interested in learning more: contact Kathryn Baechtel at kbaechtel@yahoo.com or 489-6565.

Doreen Blumenfeld featured at Avenues to Wellness speaker series

Do you have trouble sleeping at night because of worry or an active mind? Do you feel overwhelmed by life? Does your stomach hurt when you are stressed? If you want to understand how your brain reacts to stress and learn some simple ways to "flip the stress switch" to regain balance, join Doreen Blumenfeld, CHT, and "Learn the ABCs to Reduce Stress," Tuesday, April 15, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Harrah Senior Center's Lakeside Room, 1501 Baechtel Road. The program is free to the general public.

Blumenfeld is a health educator, former counselor, and presenter for the Mendocino County Wellness Program for over a decade. She has been in private practice for 20 years as a clinical hypnotherapist and has created the national best-selling guided imagery recording "Journey into Deep Relaxation." Blumenfeld's specialty is stress management. She has also been instrumental in the development of "Avenues to Wellness," a community-wide wellness program.

Soccer Meeting

The Willits Youth Soccer League board meeting is set for Tuesday, April 22 at 6 pm at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street. Anyone interested in helping with the upcoming season is encouraged to attend. Info: 707-354-1029.

Enchilada Dinner To Go

This Saturday, April 25 dinner benefits the end-of-year field trip for the 8th Grade Class at Baechtel Grove Middle School. You can buy tickets at the school, at House Doctor Paints, at The Flower Lady, or call 459-2901. Pick-up is between 5 and 7 pm at the Willits Community Center. Bring your ticket, drive up, and get your dinner. Six chicken enchiladas, rice, beans and cookies for \$25. Plus 10 percent off one purchase at The Flower Lady and 10 percent off one purchase at House Doctor Paints.

School Bond Public Meeting

The Willits Unified School District board of trustees has set a public meeting on Wednesday, April 23 on the issue of how the district should raise funds needed to completely pay off a bond balloon payment due July 2014. At the school board meeting last week, trustees said they wanted to hear from constituents before deciding which way to go: try to get a \$500,000 loan from the Mendocino Office of Education or issue between \$593,407 and \$1,325,000 in additional bonds. 5 pm at the media center at Willits High School. See article on front page for more information.

Get in the WW calendar!

Willits Weekly wants to list your event or special meeting for free in our Calendar! Email details (date, time, location, contact info, cost if any) to willitsweekly@gmail.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.

Ongoing Events

- Willits Farmers Market:** Winter market at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Winter produce, hot house tomatoes, local meats, dinner, crafts, live music (Falco this week) and more.
- "By Hook or By Crook":** Sewing, Knitting & Crochet Circle at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street. 3 to 5:30 pm, Room 10, during the Winter Farmers Market, through April. Sponsored by the Little Lake Grange Women's Association. Info: 459-6362.
- "Contemporary Mendocino":** April show at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Contemporary Mendocino" features the latest art works from You'Yez aka James Hagan and his wife, Sonoko. The show runs through April 27. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1726.
- 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. Arcade-style games, multi-player, with both casual and cartoony fighting games. Everyone gets a chance at the controller. Moderated by assistant manager Steve Thornton. "GamerMaster Steve." \$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, Monday nights 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. Info: 459-9526.
- 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.
- Shanachie Pub:** Open Mic every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm. 50 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 Farmers Market:** Back to outside market, downtown Laytonville. Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, jewelry, aprons, children's clothing, knife sharpening and more.

GET YOUR EVENT INCLUDED IN OUR CALENDAR!
Email us at willitsweekly@gmail.com

Classifieds & More



Nancy Ellis-Bell
Columnist

COLUMN | Trending

Somebody said get a life ... so they did

Such is the tagline for the still-popular film, "Thelma and Louise," released in 1991 and still widely available on a number of movie venues. In fact, over the past week or more that movie has been playing on such a continuing basis on cable movie channels and TVGN that I had to ask myself why. Running a close second during this same time period has been "Dead Poets Society," which debuted in 1989. Its tagline is "Carpe Diem."

Why, nearly 25 years after these films' initial releases, are they suddenly such hot tickets? What kind of trend or collective consciousness is focusing our attention on the two women friends whose attempt to get a life and seize the day ends up with their driving over the edge of what appears to be the Grand Canyon, while the actions of an idealistic, unorthodox private school instructor contribute to the death of one of his students and to his own professional demise? I have an idea.

Americans seem to be caught in a literal "mudslide" of high expectations, with lowered opportunities to achieve those expectations. When I saw those tragic images of the mudslide catastrophe in Washington state, I saw both horrific reality and a larger metaphor from which there appears to be little chance for escape.

People in our country, indeed many in our own town, too easily fall prey to a mindset of inertia and capitulation to forces seemingly beyond our control. Caltrans was and still is for some a kind of monster bent upon affecting an environmental mudslide upon our community. For Thelma and Louise, the monster was male chauvinism, which denied them equality at the hands of some rather extreme cultural male stereotypes, the only exception being Harvey Keitel's portrayal of a sympathetic detective. For Robin Williams' passionately idealistic teacher, the monster was a provincial educational model which ultimately contributed to the loss of both a physical life and a professional one.

What these three characters have and still have in common is the belief that life cannot, will not, be sacrificed to any kind of status quo or commercial monolith.

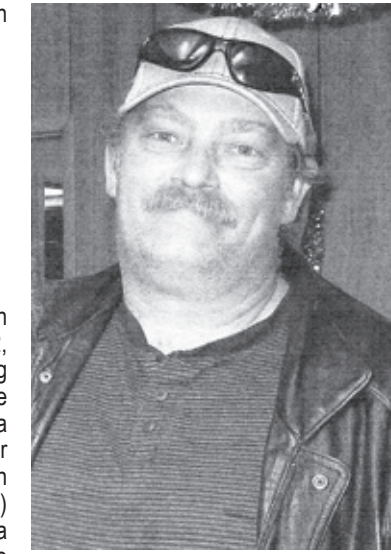
In contrast, the current market for medications treating depression is at an all-time high, higher in fact than in any other country in the world. Right next to the demand for those medications is an increasing demand for drugs of escape and enhancement, to the point of pandemic addiction. Carpe diem has become carpe the daze, and getting a life is all too often about just getting by inside the life one already has.

Maybe that is why these two movies are currently so popular. Here in Willits, the driving forces behind those movies seem to have taken root, and, as featured in a recent edition of this newspaper, one of the lead stories was about new businesses starting up in our own community.

Another long-established business, Al's Redwood Room, is about to transform their bar area into a more comfortable and aesthetic environment where town residents (and tourists) looking for an appealing bar/restaurant destination will have another place to gather. More determination, more growth.

I would like to think that media programmers were operating out of some enlightenment when they decided to saturate our viewing screens with these two movies in recent days. Regardless, and anyone's age aside, it's time to jump into that '66 Thunderbird and head for the open road of opportunity. Just make sure to avoid those steep canyons.

Nancy Ellis-Bell is a former professor and current literary agent/author who has lived in Willits for the past 20 years. Aside from her passion for the sharing of ideas, she is also addicted to parrots, tea and a garden that just won't stop growing. Ellis-Bell can be contacted at 459-4152 or nellis@mon.org.



OBITUARY | Robert 'Robby' Joseph Southwick

Robert 'Robby' Joseph Southwick

Robert "Robby" Joseph Southwick, born April 11, 1972, passed away early Monday morning March 31, at his home in Willits. He is survived by his loving wife, Lenita Foley Southwick; his grandmother who raised him from infancy, Jean Breeden; his father, Rolin (Teremie) Southwick; and his daughter Sierra Southwick, all of Willits. He is also survived by two brothers, Tim Southwick of Willits and Keven Southwick of Santa Rosa. He also leaves two step-sons, Michael and Brantley Lopez of Nevada, step-daughter Marta Lopez of Manchester, step-daughter and son-in-law Ed and Erika Endres of New York and their son Miles Andres. Many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as brother-in-law and sister-in-law Wes and Shari Graham, and the entire Foley family also survive.

Robby had numerous loving friends and co-workers. Robby proudly worked at the Willits Mendo Mill as delivery driver and yard man. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Graveside services will be held at the Willits Cemetery on Highway 20 at 2 pm on April 12, 2014. All who wish to attend are welcome.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

Shining their Showing Skills

Equine clinic planned to help prepare riders for upcoming Willits Frontier Days events

Not everyone has the advantage of consistently working with an instructor to help hone their riding skills and prepare them for horsey events, so Willits Frontier Days has decided to help this year by hosting an equine clinic.



Above: Danielle Barry rode Romeo at the 2013 WFD horse show. Photo by Maureen Moore

The clinic will be held on May 17 at the Rodeo Grounds and will offer groups of riders an affordable, one-day bombardment of info from several industry professionals to help prepare them for this summer's events.

Many instructors are planning to attend, including Elaine Mancini, Marta Bartow, Maryanne Underhill, Sheri Cronin, Terri Silva and Nicol Persico Kunka. Even more names are being added to the schedule as the event gets closer.

Students should expect to learn a wide variety of topics during the event: proper riding techniques including hand, foot, head and leg placement, understanding leads, bending and flexion, how to fit saddles and bridles, vaulting techniques, trailering safety, appropriate tack and attire, shoeing and veterinary information, and much more.

Stations with each instructor will be set up, allowing small groups to "round robin" around the grounds to each station over the course of the day. Small groups will allow each student to have dedicated focus and assistance at each location.

In order to help keep the groups small, the clinic will be limited to 40 entrants. Applications are available now at ER Energy in Willits. There is a \$20 entry fee, which includes the day's activities, which start at 8 am, an event T-shirt and lunch.

- Maureen Moore

Algebra, Geometry
College Preparatory Mathematics, Individual Instruction. Mac Smith 459-MATH

Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, April 24, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that 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 macamerj@yahoo.com.

Consignments Wanted
Quality home furnishing consignments wanted at Gavel Down Sales, located at 1611 South Main Street. Contact Kapila at 707-459-1300

For Sale
33 used wood windows and screens, \$1,200 or best offer. 707-684-9233.

Help Wanted
Funeral Director's Assistant: On call, predominantly nights & weekends. Must have valid CDL and pass a drug test. Retired persons encouraged. Contact James at Anker-Lucier Mortuary. 707-459-5515

HOME DELIVERY!
Willits Weekly is now offering Home Delivery! If you live in Willits, Brooktrails or Little Lake Valley, you're inside our home delivery area. Home delivery subscriptions are \$30/ six months and \$50/year. (Mail subscriptions sent by first-class mail are still \$40/ six months and \$75/year.) Your Willits Weekly will be delivered (in a plastic bag) to your home or driveway in the wee hours of Friday morning. To place an order, or for more information, call 459-2633.

New Patients Welcome
Phillip J. D'Angelo, DDS
Cosmetic/Family Dentistry
707-459-4664

Pinball Machines
Pinball Machines Bought and Sold. 459-6372.

Rummage Sale
Every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm at 1st Baptist Church, 145 Wood Street. Rain or shine. We accept rummage donations, and have an ever-changing selection of goods!

Services Offered
House/pet sitter, dog walker, English & Spanish tutor. Excellent references. Call J. at 707-354-4417.

Start your Spring Cleaning now!
Classified ads in Willits Weekly are a cheap and effective way to sell your extra items! Clean out the garage and get money for the things you no longer use! Classifieds are just \$10 for two weeks for 30 words. Includes a free header of your choice! Call now! 459-2633.

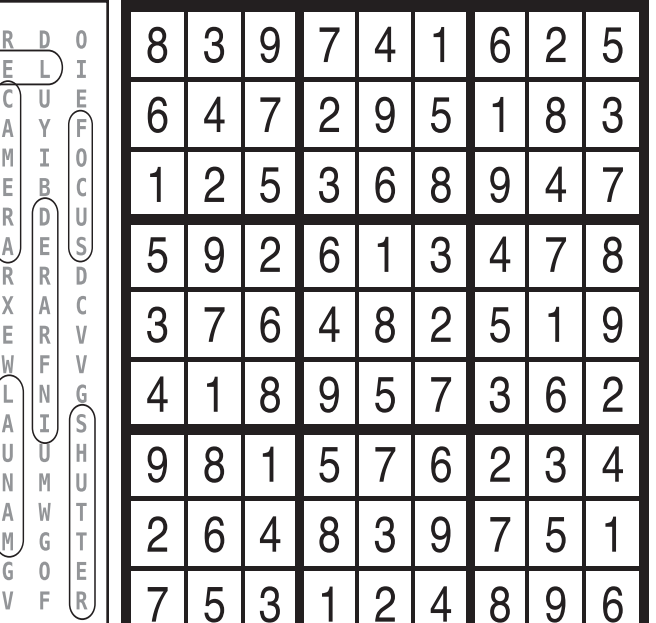
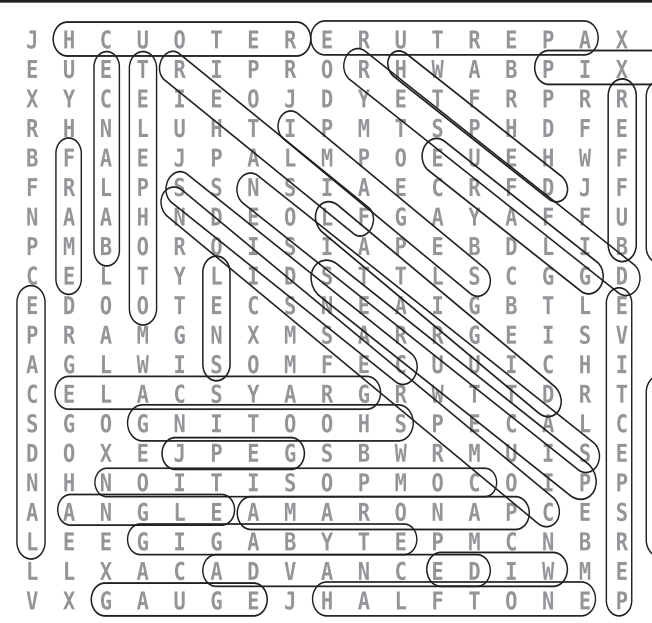
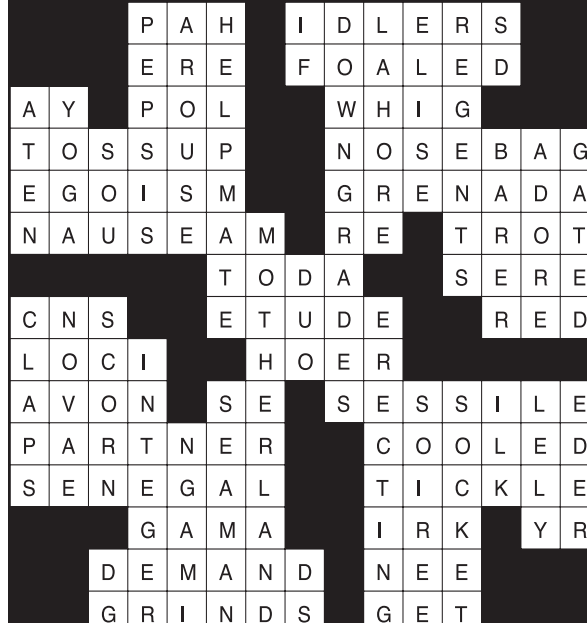
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Left: Willits artist Ann Maglente's watercolor illustration for "Composting Abbie: A Whale of a Story," the new book by Willits author Jed Diamond, shows the giant blue whale that washed ashore south of Fort Bragg in the fall of 2009.

Below: Maglente's illustration of Martin Mileck of Cold Creek Compost, who took on the challenge of composting the whale.



'A Whale of a Story'

Willits readers - children and adults - are invited to celebrate the publication of a new local book, "Composting Abbie: A Whale of a Story," at a free party at the County Museum in Willits on Friday, April 25 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Willits writer Jed Diamond wrote the story; Willits artist Ann Maglente illustrated the book with watercolor paintings; and Mendocino composer Martin Mileck ... well, more about his role below:

"This is the true story of a whale, a tragic accident, and a man who had a brilliant idea that turned a tragedy into an opportunity to grow food and flowers for children," the text on the back page of the book begins. "The story was first reported on October 19, 2009, when a massive blue whale washed ashore just south of Fort Bragg, not far from the world-famous Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. The 72-foot blue whale was struck and killed by a marine research vessel about seven miles off the coast of Fort Bragg earlier in the day...."

"One of the local residents called Martin Mileck, the owner of Cold Creek Compost, to see if he could help. No one had ever tried to compost a whale, but Martin thought he could do it. 'I know I can compost this whale instead of sending her to a dump site,' Martin decided. 'We'll give the whale compost to schools and community gardens to grow food and flowers for people. For us there's no such thing as waste. Everything can, and should be, recycled.'"

"Composting Abbie" is a story and a book for children of all ages, in celebration of Earth Day - April 22 - and everyday sustainability.

Families are especially invited to the April 25 book-signing and event; the book is officially designated for children age 9 and up, but "it's a great read-aloud book," Maglente said, "and is very enjoyable for adults, too."

Sheila Semens, executive director of the Noyo Center in Fort Bragg, will be coming to Willits from the coast for the event, to present a talk and slide show about her first-hand experience with the whale, Maglente told Willits Weekly. Semens was part of the process of carrying 70 tons of whale up a 40-foot cliff and burying the bones in the forest to be cleaned. She is now in charge of reconstructing the skeleton which will be on display at the new Noyo Science Center being built in Fort Bragg. Also, Maglente said, Antonia Partridge will speak about using the whale compost in her work with students at the Brookside Garden project at Brookside Elementary school. "We will also have lots of pictures on display about the whale and the process of composting it," Maglente said, including photos of some of the gardens where the whale compost was used.

Refreshments and wine from the Frey Winery will be served. Museum admission and refreshments are free at the event. Books will be available for purchase, too.

The program starts at 5 pm with a chance to see the displays, sip some wine, and talk informally with Diamond, Maglente, and Mileck. Talks start at 5:45 pm, and the book signing starts at 6:30 pm.

Call the Mendocino County Museum, located at 400 East Commercial Street, for more info: 459-2736.

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The Hot Seat winner will choose an egg from the Easter basket and have a chance to win \$300 in Cash!
Random Hourly Hot Seat Drawings
100 Kawi Place in Willits
459-7330



Right: Gardeners using compost in a beautiful garden.

Below right: The cover of the new book, available for sale on Amazon.com, or at the Mendocino County Museum.

Composting Abbie: A Whale of a Story
by Jed Diamond
Illustrated by Ann Meyer Maglente

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Left: Haley Schuck-Verdot and her horse pose in the Willits valley

Photo by Maureen Moore

... and so it begins

Haley Schuck-Verdot – first 2014 WFD Sweetheart contestant announced

Even though it feels like the Fourth of July is still months away, May is just around the corner, and that marks the official green-light go-ahead for the 2014 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart contest. May 1st is the date contestants can get out on the streets and start selling those all-important tickets.

This year, Haley Schuck-Verdot is the first to announce her plans to run for the title, and she's excited to get going on May 1.

Haley, an 18-year-old senior at Willits High School, has lived in Willits since she was 2 years old and has been riding horses since she could remember. Running for Sweetheart has been something she always has wanted to do, she said: a rite of passage she's looking forward to being a part of.

"I've always wanted to be a Sweetheart," explained Haley. "I have watched the others doing it while I was growing up, and I would love to be a part of that Willits history, too!"

Currently, Haley is riding with the Willits High School Rodeo team, enjoying running barrels in "big" arenas and breakaway roping off her 7-year-old Palomino mare.

"She's so tall and big that we really like to have the room to run and move when we do barrels," she laughed.

Last year, Haley also spent time at Camp Wente where she assisted with the Boy Scouts' horse camp program.

She lived at the camp during the event and helped with many aspects, including teaching horsemanship classes, the basics of bridling, saddling, grooming, types of breeds, colors, feeding and much more. She helped guide overnight trail rides and enjoyed sharing her knowledge of horses with the students.

Continuing the sharing theme, Haley said she'll be excited to keep instructing and informing folks about horses and the Willits Frontier Days event as a whole, if she is able to win the title of Sweetheart this year. She'd be happy to represent Willits at all the area rodeos and events throughout the year.

Haley is also assisting with the Willits Frontier Days Equine Clinic, to be held May 17, as part of her senior project for Willits High School. Haley helped to get the instructors signed up and helped in the overall planning of the event.

Anyone interested in contacting Haley for Frontier Days tickets must wait to buy them until after the May 1 start date and contact her via phone or text at 485-4043 or email her at haleyschuck@willitsunified.com. She also plans to be at many of the local events leading up to the Fourth of July celebrations including nearby rodeos, the Willits Horsemen events, Hometown Celebration and more.

— Maureen Moore

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The rest of Clash | From Page 1

is getting more and more stressed and discouraged."

Trustee Alex Bowlds said he was reluctant to approve any new administrative positions until a new contract had been reached with the district's two main bargaining units, those of certificated employees (teachers) and classified employees (non-teaching line staff.)

Trustee Christopher Neary added he expected an agreement would be reached soon.

Over the past decade, labor agreements have routinely taken a year or more to iron out. In spite of this, Neary said, "I don't see any reason why we shouldn't have an agreement with both unions by June 1."

Board Chairwoman Sappina Rodriguez said she was reluctant to approve hiring a new director of curriculum until she had a better picture of how that piece would fit into the overall budget.

Neary moved to approve the job description, and to direct Johnson to advertise it, but not to hire anyone to fill the position. That motion was approved, 3-1, with Bowlds voting no.

The board also approved a new job description for the position of director of maintenance, facilities and transportation (DMFT).

Johnson is seeking to replace Sandy Eddie, who is retiring at the end of May, and who stepped in as director of maintenance when the departments of transportation and maintenance were combined during the darkest of budgetary days.

Johnson also asked trustees to create a new position of lead staff person for transportation, who would basically run the Transportation Department with oversight from the new DMFT.

The board approved the position of DMFT by a 4-0 vote. It directed Johnson to seek applicants for the new position and to conduct initial interviews, although it reserved to itself the right to hire for the position. The board also directed discussion on the lead staff person for transportation be tabled.

The board approved two other new positions sought by Johnson, those of director of special education and accounting technician II.

Trustee Laurie Harris was absent from the meeting.

The rest of WHS | From Page 1

and administration, they determined the school had not done enough to implement its plan, and threatened to pull Willits High's accreditation.

Instead, according to Johnson, the WASC reps proposed to offer the school a one-year grace period, during which the school must rewrite the 2011 plan and outline a method to implement its newly articulated goals.

Willits High School Principal Jeff Ritchey provided Willits Weekly with a copy of the white paper. Six of the 45 goals, chosen randomly, are listed below:

1. Understand career technical education standards. Define skill-based standards.
2. Study of guided instruction and collaboration instructional strategies.
3. Implementation of standards-based data-driven local assessments in all non-core classes.
4. Expanded implementation of innovated grading system for pilot program in all grade 9 through 10 classes.
5. Analysis of A-G course enrollment and WHS students who met or nearly met A-G completion.
6. Evaluation of College Going Initiative programs at Willits High School.

"Very few goals [in the 2011 plan] were met," Johnson said "I think, for whatever reason, we created an environment where we thought, as long as we can get through today, we're OK.

"And it isn't as if the students are suffering," she noted. "In fact, our students are doing very well, and the test scores show that. It's just, we just don't have a blueprint or a road map that talks about where we are going to be as a school in the next three to five years. We don't have a vision of where we are going."

Johnson has directed a concentrated effort be made over the next year to draft a new plan. She said she wants a plan that has three to five goals, not 45.

"It will take a focused effort on the part of the site administrators, the faculty, and the parents in the community," Johnson said, "but we will get it done. Failure is not an option."

Johnson added the offer of a one-year grace period is not set in stone. She noted the offer was merely a proposal made by the two WASC representatives, and had not yet been endorsed by the organization's administration. Johnson added she felt certain the offer would be endorsed by WASC.

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percent to 15 percent.

However, according to HNSA Communications Director Kristina Grogan, AODP staff had received new information that caused them to withdraw the item from the board agenda. Grogan said the AODP item will be reconsidered in December.

The board also declined to increase planned increases for two items provided by the Division of Animal Care and Control. Charges for cat carriers were to be increased from zero to \$5, and charges for kennels (large cages for dogs or for a number of dogs) were to be increased considerably. However the board discovered there was already a charge for cat carriers, and considered that charge to be adequate. Supervisors asked staff to reconsider its proposed charge for dog kennels.

One charge did go down. The county's Department of Emergency Medical Services had been tacking on a \$4.75 charge each time a patient was admitted to a hospital emergency room. That charge was eliminated. County staff reported "that cost is covered in the EMS receiving hospital authorization or the base hospital contract."

Tax sharing committee: county cool to Ukiah offer

Mendocino County representatives on the Joint Ad-Hoc Tax-Sharing Committee, supervisors Dan Hamburg and John McCowen, did not officially reject the provisions of a March 11 offer by representatives from the City of Ukiah, but they came close to it.

"I don't think this is a good enough scenario so that I could go to the board of supervisors and say, 'You ought to vote for this,'" said Hamburg. "I look at these numbers and they aren't very exciting."

Mike A'Dair
 Reporter
 mike@willitsweekly.com

When asked by Ukiah City Councilman Phil Baldwin if the county was, in fact, rejecting the Ukiah proposal, McCowen replied: "We're not rejecting it. But I think it's fair to say we aren't exactly embracing it."

The March 11 proposal from the city is not easy to describe. First of all, the money on the table is not the whole pool of tax revenues between the City of Ukiah and the Ukiah Valley Area Plan (UVAP) area. In fact it's only 1 percent of those revenues: the so-called Bradley-Burns 1 percent revenues, the 1 percent of sales tax revenues state law allows local jurisdictions to spend as they see fit.

The UVAP area is the unincorporated county land surrounding Ukiah. It includes residential, commercial, industrialized and agricultural lands running nearby from Hopland to Calpella.

The March 11 proposal stipulated that what is to be shared is the difference between the actual Bradley-Burns tax revenues in any given year, and hypothetical revenues calculated using a 2 percent Consumer Price Index expansion factor, based on what those revenues were in 2007-08. For the purposes of intelligibility, let's call this CPI-factored revenue the indexed revenue, because it is calculated using a 2 percent Consumer Price Index factor.

That's a very important number in the City of Ukiah's offer. It indicates what the tax revenues for both the city and the county would have been, had no tax-sharing agreement been reached.

Under the city's offer, what is to be shared is the difference in tax revenues arising from the enlightened planning between the two entities going forward, and a reasonable assumption of what would have gone to both entities had they not decided to work together.

Under the city's offer, that difference is to be split 70/30, with Ukiah receiving 70 percent and 30 percent going to the county.

At a March 25 meeting, Ukiah staff presented the county side with a chart showing how their offer would play out over the next eight years. The chart included some questionable assumptions, including a 4 percent growth rate from 2013 to 2019 and a 3 percent growth rate from 2020 to 2023. Those assumptions and the 70-30 split recommended by the city yielded results that were not encouraging to Hamburg and McCowen.

For example, in 2014-15, the city is projected to receive

The rest of Water | From Page 1

Construction and water outfits contracted for working on the project include Bud Garman Construction Services, Groundwater Pump and Well, Mendocino Construction Services, Fisch Brothers' well drilling, and consulting firm Water Works Engineers.

Mayor Holly Madrigal and Councilman Bruce Burton were scheduled to be out-of-town for a mediation session dealing with the sewer lawsuit between Brooktrails and Willits this week.

That leaves Vice Mayor Ron Orenstein, Councilman Larry Stranske and Councilwoman Madge Strong to be present for a hearing on the grant application and to vote on a resolution supporting it.

Eight-month 2014 water timeline

August 14: Council members call

The rest of Bond | From Page 1

allowed to loan money to districts, and had done so in the past. She added that, to her knowledge, no other Mendocino County school district has yet applied for a loan for the coming fiscal year. Todd said MCOE would charge the district interest at the rate of 0.58 percent. On a \$500,000 loan, the interest would be \$2,900.

Todd added she would inquire whether MCOE would be willing to make the money available to Willits Unified, should the district seek a loan, at an April 14 board of education meeting.

Trustees also discussed the three bond options. Under Option 1, the school district would issue a new bond only to pay off the \$500,000 owing on the 2010 Bond Anticipation Note. This assumes the East Commercial Street property sells for the \$290,000 asking price, and that money from that sale is used to help pay off the BAN.

Option 1 would increase school-related taxes on district property owners by \$21.25 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for three years. Currently, property owners are paying an estimated \$32.29 per \$100,000. If the board issues another bond under the Option 1 scenario, taxpayers would see that rate rise to \$53.54 per \$100,000 for three years. After the third year, property taxes would revert to \$38.22, the rate they would be paying in 2017 even if the board does nothing.

Interest for Option 1 is 2.20 percent. Total Option 1 cost is \$593,407. That would include \$55,000 to issue the bond, a \$10,000 underwriter's fee, and a \$10,000 bond insurance premium.

Option 2 would issue a bond for

for voluntary water conservation. A Phase I water emergency is declared.

November 18: A Phase II water emergency is declared by council members.

December 30: City engineers begin to draw up plans for an emergency water supply system.

January 7: County supervisors declare a local emergency due to dry conditions.

January 8: A Phase V water emergency is declared by the city council meaning 150 gallons per day for homes and 35 percent cuts for businesses.

January 8: Council members vote to enact a local emergency for Willits.

January 28: California Department of Public Health names Willits as one of 17 communities with a vulnerable water supply.

\$1,180,000. This would raise \$500,000 to pay off the Bond Anticipation Note and would also include the same \$75,000 in fees, costs and premiums as would Option 1. It also would raise an additional \$636,898 for the district, which could be used to upgrade and restore district facilities.

Option 2 would raise district residents' property taxes by \$26.97 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for a total of five years. In the sixth year, 2019, taxes would be \$59.94 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, whereas taxes are estimated to be \$59.07 per \$100,000 should the board do nothing.

Option 3 would raise \$1,325,000. It would include the same costs for fees, premiums and costs for issuance as the other two options, and would raise the same principal of \$500,000 to pay off the Bond Anticipation Note. However, it would raise an additional \$788,121 for the district, to be used on facilities.

The financial spread sheet provided by Greg Isom, a district financial advisor, was somewhat confusing. Whereas estimated future costs to taxpayers for options 1 and 2 were calculated assuming a conservative 2 percent growth rate in property values, for Option 3 Isom assumed a growth rate of 3 percent. According to his projections, should the district choose Option 3 there would be almost no difference between the tax burden relative to it and that associated with Option 2. What the tax burden would be under an assumed growth rate of 2 percent is unknown.

When asked in a separate conversation how the district could

the city would not pay the county anything.

For 2017-18, the city would have a projected revenue of \$5,129,794. Its indexed revenue would be \$5,057,260. Therefore, its real revenue would be \$72,534 more than its standard revenue.

For the same fiscal year, the UVAP area would have real revenue of \$2,169,852 and an indexed revenue of \$2,248,102. Therefore, the UVAP area would have taken in \$116,545 less in reality than it should have done under the indexed calculation. The UVAP area's shortfall of \$116,545 is deleted from the balance books. The city's surplus of \$72,534 is divided between the city and the county on a 70/30 split. So the city keeps \$50,774 and writes the county a check for \$21,760.

The chart provided by city staff indicates the UVAP area consistently takes in less in reality than the indexed calculation says it should have. The shortfalls decline from \$218,718 in 2014-15 to \$14,647 in 2021-22. It is only in fiscal 2022-23 that UVAP areas are projected to make more in reality than the indexed calculation states it should have.

At the same time, the City of Ukiah will consistently bring in more in reality than the indexed calculation. Therefore, the size of the checks the city would write to the county increases each year, from \$21,760 in 2017-18, to \$122,921 in 2022-23.

During discussions on the chart, county executive office staff person David Grim questioned the assumptions of a 4 percent and 3 percent growth rate from 2013 to 2023.

"This constant line is more in line with what we might see in property tax," Grim said.

"If these numbers are overly optimistic, then the date at which revenues from this agreement would flow toward the county would be pushed out even further."

As the meeting drew to a close, members from the county side questioned some of the key assumptions of the Ukiah proposal. Hamburg asked why Ukiah wanted a base year of 2007-2008. He also asked why Ukiah wanted a 70-30 split.

"I have done a lot of research on tax-sharing agreements in California," Baldwin replied, "and do you know what I have found? In the very few agreements that have been reached, there's not another city in California that has gone beyond a 90-10 split. Not one. Not one. To my mind, this is a tremendously generous and novel agreement."

The county team called for an April 22 meeting and requested another raft of tables, incorporating different assumptions, but could not agree on what assumptions they wanted. They left it to the staff of the two entities to decide what new assumptions the committee would consider.

February 10: CDPH awards Willits \$250,000 for its emergency water supply project.

February 18: City manager and mayor travel to Sacramento and speak about drought to members of the state Assembly.

March 12: Phase V water rationing is rolled back to Phase IV, allowing more water for homes and businesses.

March 26: City Hall rewrites its water emergency plan and shortens it to three emergency stages. It allows City Hall to install water flow restrictors on high-users.

March 26: Council members vote to enact a Stage II water emergency that limits residential water users to 160 gallons a day and asks businesses to use no more than 80 percent of their normal consumption.

unilaterally raise the tax burden on area residents, Johnson replied voters had given the district that right when they approved Measure B in 2010. That measure gave the district the right to issue \$43 million in bonds for facility improvements. To date the district has issued \$18 million in bonds.

However, voter authorization is only part of the story: School districts can only issue bonds according to their "bonding capacity," an amount based on total assessed real estate property values within the district.

In November 2012, bond expert Lori Raineri described the \$43 million in bond sales authorized by Measure B as "far exceeding" the Willits school district's actual bonding capacity. Raineri was hired by the Mendocino County Office of Education to do an analysis of the district's bond plan, which she called "flawed."

Also in question is the district's "taxing capacity," or the statutory upper limit any district can tax individual properties. During her November 2012 report to the school board, Raineri said the Willits school district was "very close" to that statutory limit. She estimated, at that time, the district could only issue between \$1.425 million and \$1.65 million in additional bonds.

Trustees said they wanted to hear from constituents before deciding which way to go. A public meeting on the issue is set April 23 at 5 pm in the media center at Willits High School.

Additional reporting on this story was done by Jennifer Poole

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Willits Weekly's Athletes of the Week

Willits Weekly is proud to showcase some of Willits High School's Amazing Athletes. Athletes are nominated by their coaches and with the help of coach and project facilitator, Dave Smith. Willits Weekly plans to highlight two athletes each week, one young man and one young woman, and share their achievements with the community.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Softball | Shyanne DeMarco, 16, Junior

Breakfast of Champions: Cinnamon raisin bagel with cream cheese

Shyanne hit a 2-run homer in Friday's game vs Fort Bragg and was 1 for 2 with a double vs. Cloverdale. She was solid in the field, recording numerous outs at first and gloving up fly balls in left in both games.

Next Home Games | 4/18 & 4/25



Swimming | Cole Jessup, 17, Senior

Breakfast of Champions: Breakfast burrito with ham, scrambled egg and cheese

Cole had two wins and one third in three races at the swim meet last week against Fort Bragg and Casa Grande. He won the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 1:24, was a member of the winning 200 Freestyle. His third-place finish came in the 200 IM.

Next Home Meets | 4/10 & 4/22

Congratulations Column



Home Run Hitter Shyanne DeMarco

Congratulations to my warrior princess, #4, Shyanne DeMarco, who scored her first home run hit at Willits High School's Lady Wolverine softball game on April 4 against the Lady Timberwolves. We're all so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad.

Newbies Sophia & Isabella



Congratulations to Ashley Jewell and Aaron Wear of Willits on the birth of their twin daughters, Sophia and Isabella Wear, born February 7, 2014. Sophia, weighing 5 pounds, 11.5 ounces, and 18.5 inches long, was born at 4:13 pm. Isabella, weighing 5 pounds, 7 ounces, and 18 inches long, was born at 4:14 pm.

The new babies are also welcomed by big sisters Caterina and Calleigh Wear and many uncles and aunts. Grandparents are Clint and Kim Jewell of Willits, Chris and Carol Wear of Seattle, and Glenath Wear of Willits.

Furry Friends

Hoping for a Home

Meet Otis, the very friendly and loving Lilac Point Siamese! He is about 10 months old, and a very sweet young guy. Otis is very affectionate and just loves to sit on your lap and be petted. Currently he is living in our cat colony room at the shelter, and so we think he'd make a great family pet as well. We would love for you to come down to the Ukiah Animal Shelter during shelter hours, and hang out with Otis or any of our other wonderful other cats, to see if we have a cat that you'd like to take home with you! Otis is already neutered, so he can go home with you the same day you adopt him.

We also have many dogs available for adoption, awaiting their forever homes as well. All of our animals will be spayed or neutered, given age-appropriate vaccinations, and micro-chipped before going to their new homes. In addition, cats are tested for FELV/FIV and dogs are tested for heartworm.

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 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. The shelter has a new website: www.mendoshelterpets.com; to view our adoptable cats, please visit www.adoptapet.com/shelter71965-cats. For more info, contact Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us, or come in during shelter hours.

Pretty Otis



Photo by Katherine Houghtby