

Getting ready for Frontier Days

To the Editor:

As July approaches, Willits Frontier Days is looking forward to another great year of events. This year, a few changes are planned to reserve resources and help ensure a safe and fun Fourth for all.

With the drought sure to still be a large concern for the Willits area come this summer, Willits Frontier Days, with the agreement of Little Lake Fire Department Fire Chief Carl Magann, has decided that we will forgo holding the annual water fight this year. We sadly came to this decision after much deliberation, but felt that it was more important to reserve what precious water we have, not only in case of a fire or emergency, but also to tide the community through until rains can replenish the reservoirs next winter.

WFD extends a huge welcome to the would-be-visiting fire departments and hopes that they still will come and enjoy a seat at the rodeo or our Main Street parade and that they will already be getting prepared for next year's sure-to-be-epic battle.

A few rules will also be more heavily enforced at the two street dances this year, hoping to ensure the safety and legality constraints associated with the events. No backpacks or large bags will be permitted at the dances, and a strict policy of "21 or older" will be enforced for those wanting to enter the dance and beer booth area inside the marked tennis court fence. We want to stress that the dances will continue to be family-friendly, though, and a special "family" area will be set up outside the tennis court, where a soda booth and hot dog stand will be available for our younger crowd to enjoy.

We hope the community understands these necessary changes and will come out and support all of our fun and exciting planned events for the 2014 season. We look forward to seeing you all soon and hope to have a great Fourth of July celebration.

Marcy Barry,
Willits Frontier Days president

Vote Holly

To the Editor:

Let's vote for Holly Madrigal on June 3. Why? We have a chance to support our youth in this election. At 36, Holly is open to new ideas.

She's an experienced problem-solver and has a positive, working relationship with all of the existing Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. One of them is Dan Gjerde, a young, smart supervisor representing the 4th District of Mendocino County. In other words, if Holly is elected our next 3rd District supervisor, there is a real chance of getting positive things done in our county because of a built-in majority vote on policy issues. She will bring the board together.

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

Besides being open and creative, Holly is hard-working, responsive, and a long-time supporter of small businesses in this county. Don't miss this opportunity to change "the good-ole-boys" culture in our county. Vote Holly on June 3.

April Tweddell, Willits

Holly walks the talk

To the Editor:

As a Willits Council member and as mayor of Willits, Holly Madrigal has worked hard to promote the well-being of the town and its citizens.

Holly demonstrated her commitment to community during the construction of the Frank Grasse Dog Park. She supported the project from its beginning, seeing it as a benefit not only to all the dog owners in Willits, but also as an attraction to travelers and visitors to the area. She promoted the project to the city, and the council provided the space next to the Willits Skate Park. And when construction of the dog park began, Holly volunteered on several occasions, working all day with the other volunteers to make the Willits Dog Park a reality.

She walked the talk, and that is what can be expected of her when she's elected to represent the 3rd District as county supervisor. She'll make an excellent supervisor. We urge all voters to support Holly Madrigal.

Sally and Louis Rohlicek, Willits

Yes on Measure K

To the Editor:

When I was a child, they closed the sawmills and every able-bodied man turned out to fight the fire boiling up from Irmulco towards what is now Brooktrails. From a distance, we children watched the fire crown and run faster than you could drive a car through the woods.

We now have a great fire department in Brooktrails, but it cannot survive on bake sales and spaghetti feeds. When the flames are running through the trees, you don't have time to pass a fire tax, equip the crew and train them. That time is now.

The Brooktrails Fire Department has "borrowed" from the general fund until it is depleted. Basic gear is shot, and the 51-year-old water tender has retired. Even a tiny hole in a fire suit could cost a volunteer his life. If Measure K fails, it will not be business as usual. Without equipment and trained staff, insurance rates will rise dramatically and critical response time will lengthen.

Even more importantly, almost 90 percent of service calls to the fire department are for medical aid!! It is often overlooked that the fire department is our emergency medical service. Who needs it? Anybody in a car wreck, suffering a heart attack, snakebite, or childhood accident needs it. This is your medical service that is at risk, in addition to your firefighting service.

Measure K faces two other obstacles besides the usual resistance to such proposals. The Willits Unified School Board is considering issuing a bond that would raise your

property tax for years to make their own debt payments. They have the option of borrowing funds at 0.5 percent interest and repaying that at no charge to the taxpayers. Let's apply some positive local activism to encourage them, to do so. If the school board is aware that their actions would kill Measure K, they just might find a better way.

The other barrier is the unpopular state fire tax, that they call a fee. That is nothing more than a grab for our dollars for the state general fund. It is illegal. Citizens and fire departments throughout California have filed suit to repeal it. I hope all Mendocino County fire departments and the supervisors join that suit.

But Measure K is a local tax for local use. The state can't touch it. Any Brooktrails resident can vote for it. Property owners will pay only \$34 annually, and all will benefit.

I lived in the Brooktrails urban forest for 18 years. In the summer you can hear the leaves crackle as they dry. Search your hearts. Is a fire department with emergency medical service worth \$34?

Hal Wagenet, Willits

Thank You

To the Editor:

The Brooktrails Firefighters Association held its 34th annual Spaghetti Feed fundraiser on Saturday, April 12. The event was well-attended, and we appreciate the community's support. We would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their contributions to this event. SERVPRO of Mendocino County, the Brooktrails Property Owners Women's Club, Flowers by Annette, the Brooktrails Golf Course and the Lions Club of Willits. Most of all we would like to thank the community for their support and contributions to our mission.

Jon Noyer, Robert Nowlin, Robert McKenzie; event coordinators

Measure K is OK!

To the Editor:

If you live in Brooktrails, whether you are a homeowner or you rent, then Brooktrails is your home. To maintain our homes we must prepare ourselves to protect Brooktrails, and ourselves, from the all-too-real fear of fire.

We are very fortunate to have a team of volunteer firefighters that do their very best to do this; unfortunately that team is hampered by lack of equipment. They are lacking safe turn-outs (the clothing they are required to wear when fighting fires) and up-to-date breathing apparatus. I have seen their badly worn and unwearable equipment, and you wouldn't want to be wearing it when you are in the middle of a fire.

The Brooktrails Fire Department is also without a much-needed water tender, which is necessary when fires are not close to a fire hydrant, which is two-thirds of Brooktrails homes. Our area is also overdue for a visit from ISO (Insurance Service Office). If we do not have the proper equipment to protect our homes, and adjacent lands, then our insurance ratings could suffer.

Read the rest of **Letters** | *Over on Page 6*

Many of us living in Brooktrails also rely heavily on the medical aid provided by our firefighters. They are our first responders, and their speedy response to our 911 calls can mean the difference between life and death. I can personally attest to this, where, in one instance, when all ambulances were involved in other medical situations, they picked up my terminally ill husband and transported him to the hospital in the fire department's pickup truck. Believe me, when time is of the essence, you don't want to hear that they don't have the equipment to help you!

The district has "loaned" money to the department to help keep it running in the past, but is not able to keep doing this. At this rate, if Measure K does not pass, not only will we not be able to get the much-needed equipment to improve our situation, but funds may not be available to maintain what we have now. To protect our families and our homes we really need to vote "Yes on Measure K." Thank you.

Gloria Fisher, Brooktrails

Two big stink bombs about to blow in our community

To the Editor:

Remember the movie "Network," by the brilliant screenwriter, Paddy Chayefsky? In that film, a fictional TV news reporter, Howard Beale, famously said on the air, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!" He told his viewers to open their windows and scream that ultimatum. Mr. Beale was angry about the state of things in our world, and it was literally driving him crazy. In the movie, Mr. Beale hit the nerve of the public, and he articulated what we were, and still are, feeling about corporations and government.

Well, it's time to scream in our little community, in my opinion. Two issues are robbing local taxpayers of millions of dollars, and when you divide that by the number of taxpayers in the Willits community, that's a heck of a lot of money per taxpayer. In fact, it's not even sustainable for the average person to pay.

Issue number one, the Willits sewer plant. At the time I'm writing this letter, the two governments that represent the majority of the Willits community, the City of Willits and the Brooktrails Township Community Services District, have been engaged in an argument about how our poop is disposed of. It's been going on for a long time now, fattening attorneys' pocketbooks and allowing board members to behave like naughty children who can't sit down at a table together and work things out like responsible adults.

The negotiations have been going on "in closed session," behind closed doors, between the two boards and their attorneys, so I don't know a heck of a lot about the details, and neither do you, I imagine. What I do know is that thousands of my, and your, taxpayers' dollars are being virtually flushed down the toilet with attorneys' fees and gigantic sewer cost overruns.

Perhaps someone(s) made mistakes or poor decisions along the way. Get over it. Get rid of the bad decision-makers. Fix it. Kick the attorneys out of the room, and FIX IT! If you don't, I'll be tempted to send

Easter Ham Options

Recipe | Easter Ham from Cynthia Smith

Super Simple Orange Glazed Ham

1 fully cooked ham (6 to 8 pounds)
1 tablespoon ground mustard
1 teaspoon ground allspice
3/4 cup orange marmalade

Score the ham. Combine mustard and allspice. Rub over ham. Place on a rack in a shallow baking pan. Bake, uncovered, at 325 degrees for 2 to 2 1/2 hours or until meat thermometer reads 140 degrees. Spread top of ham with marmalade during last hour of baking. Baste occasionally.



Recipe | Easter Ham from Rowayne Schrage

Schrage's Annual Easter Ham

1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon ground mustard
1 teaspoon grated orange peel
2 tablespoons orange marmalade
1 3-pound cooked boneless ham
3 thinly sliced oranges
Whole cloves

Preheat oven to 350. Mix brown sugar, mustard, orange peel and marmalade. Place ham in large foil-lined roasting pan. Place orange slices on ham. Push whole cloves into orange slices and ham. Bake for one hour, brushing with sugar mixture during the last 30 minutes. Let stand 15 minutes before slicing.

Easter Fun!

COLUMN | SpecialIZING in Creativity

By Nicole Basler, Columnist



Easter Crafting | Mod Podge string eggs

What you will need:

Mod Podge
Small latex balloons
12 inches of string, yarn, or bakers twine for each balloon
Foam brush
Candy to put in the balloon (optional)

Blow up balloons to about 6 inches in diameter. Then dip first balloon in the Mod Podge and, using the length of string, wrap in different directions all over the balloon, trying to keep even coverage with the string over all parts of the balloon. You

can tie off the string at the top as an anchor.

At some point it may look like a mess, but don't worry, it will look fine later!

When the balloon is fully covered with string, take a brush and smooth more Mod Podge all over the top of the string, soaking it well. Cover the rest of the balloons, and allow to dry. After 24 hours of drying, you can pop the balloons inside. Remove the flakes of Mod Podge left between the strings and remove the deflated bits of balloon through the holes left in the now-rigid string "cage." If you make enough, you can string them together to make a garland.

Very Veggie Tray | A carrot shape gives the standard veggie tray a festive flair

What you will need:

Carrots
Broccoli
A platter or tray

Step 1: Wash and the tops off your broccoli and arrange at the top of your platter. Step 2: Wash and peel carrots, then slice thin in a diagonal direction. Step 3: Arrange under the broccoli as you please to look like a carrot. Enjoy as an Easter appetizer, or anytime!

Photos by Nicole Basler

Jelly Bean Garden | Planting jelly beans that 'magically' grow into lollypops

What you will need:

Bucket or container
Dirt/soil
Jelly beans in different colors
Lollypops in colors that match the beans

You can do this outside if you have grass, or easily inside, too, just using a bucket or pail as I did. Fill with soil and "plant" the jelly beans in the dirt with your child the night before Easter. Once they fall asleep, replace the beans with the color-matching suckers, and when the kids wake up they will be ecstatic to see the Easter Bunny helped the jelly beans grow!



10:30am - 4pm
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SATURDAY APRIL 26TH 2014

Speaker Schedule
Noon - 12:45pm
Water Wise: Precision Agriculture in a Drought or Learn To Raise Dances - Joana Berg & Sarah Schuette
Dirtly Business Soil Consulting & Analysis
1:00pm - 1:45pm
Biology & Benefits of Mycorrhizae
Matt Lindeman, Scotlan Organics
2:00pm - 2:45pm
The Significance of Regionally Adapted Seed
Ellen Brand, Sustainable Seed Company - Covelo, CA
3:00pm - 3:45pm
Open Discussion MENDOCINO: Local Sovereignty & the Need for Community Interdependence
Facilitated by Justin CarWay, The Regenerative Design Center

Local Garden Supply
Cold Creek Nurseries
NPK
Cutting Edge Solutions
URANT CULTURE H2O
Smart Pot
THE PLANT DEPOT

Local Garden Supply
Cold Creek Nurseries
NPK
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URANT CULTURE H2O
Smart Pot
THE PLANT DEPOT

New customer service supervisor at Willits Post Office

Photo by Julia Gromek



Meet the new Delivery and Customer Service Supervisor at the Willits Post Office, Christine Nixon. She is the long-awaited replacement for Melody Moffitt-Wilson, who left Willits Post Office about a year ago to become the Postmaster in Laytonville. At that time Christine, who had been with the Willits Post Office for 14 years as a clerk, stepped in as the acting supervisor and officially applied for the position. Many months later, she was happy to hear that she beat out the other candidates and got the job. In her words: "We have a great group of people here, and I am excited to continue working with them."

All questions and comments about Willits Post Office delivery and customer service should be directed to Christine at 459-5255.

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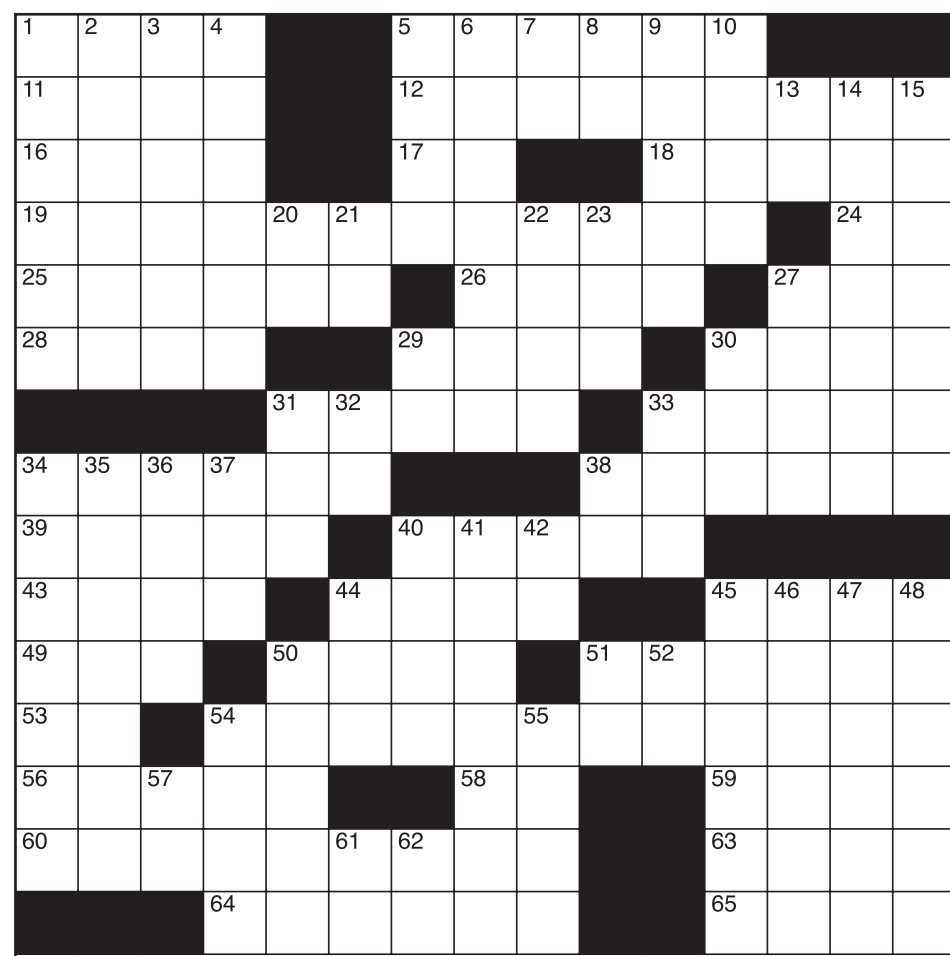
Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

CRAFTY WORD SEARCH

B I D T N I A P L E D O M N E R T G R W M
 A C R Y L I C M P L E H T E L B Y N G D P Y A
 G S S P H N D P B T M U G L M E N G R A C C E
 N D E Y C A P R H B A E L H I O M N G N T I K S A M P
 I E L L O P C I S C E R R S T A M P D E N E S P M
 S O C L L L D S H E S G N A Y A T W T D Q S M
 O U N A I W Q M L A N O I S N E M I D A T
 B P E G U C I E C L K A D F T A P E T
 M A T E U G Q I N I Q S I A C O P L E U Y G M S
 E G S V E E T T Y S I A C O P L E U Y G M S
 G E V I S E H D A C O V O L F W P W S
 O D C R A I O N S B I C N F V T O O Q A F
 K F K B F W N E R Y C R T P S S O U I K
 L G E B I F T E N I Q O B Y A N D N K V
 A E P I L Q T B L A L C M A P Y E R Y U
 H K Q O L S U S B A B P R O M F E N U A C
 C P S I O E N G N I T L I U Q A U V U C
 T S K P L S R M H Y S I O U L G B A L W E
 V N R A Y G U T S M U D G E B I B T G W

Crossword Puzzle



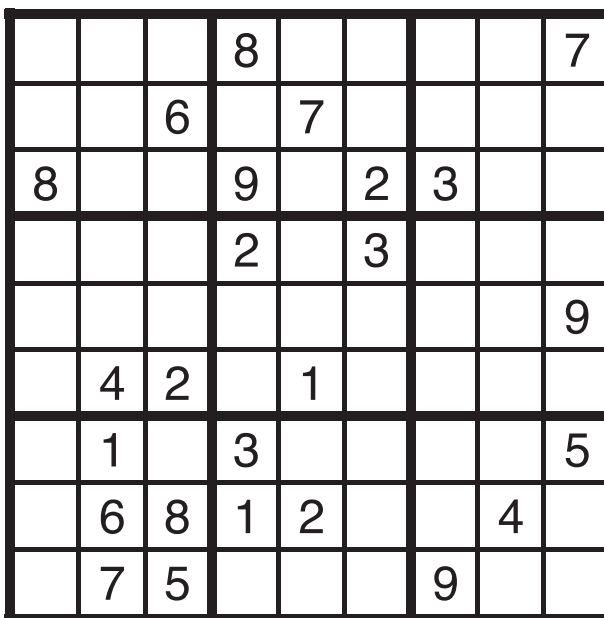
CLUES ACROSS

1. A braid
5. Print errors
11. Any of 3 avatars of Vishnu
12. Odor masking toiletry
16. Abba ____, Israeli politician
17. An enlisted person
18. Any speed competitor
19. Manitoba hockey team
24. The Bay state
25. Trees with conelike catkins
26. Central area of a church
27. 2 year old sheep
28. Interpret written words
29. Greek goddess of youth
30. Bullfighting maneuver
31. Shapes
33. Decreased
34. Fly
38. Unbelief
39. Traditional Hindu rhythms
40. Yemen capital
43. Prayer leader in a mosque
44. A sheep up to the age of one year
45. Soldier in an airborne unit
49. What a cow chews
50. K particle
51. 50 cent pieces
53. Trauma center
54. 2011 Stanley Cup winners
56. Inner tract of a grass spikelet
58. The Show-Me State
59. Self-immolation by fire ritual
60. Offshoot interests
63. Amounts of time
64. Salty
65. Guinea currency 1971-85
22. Licks
23. Adam's wife
27. Counterbalance
29. Brokeback star's initials
30. Golf score
31. Manuscripts (abbr.)
32. Old English
33. Pod legume
34. Upper arm muscle
35. Japanese warrior
36. Oh, God!
37. A Scottish cap
38. Expresses surprise
40. Carbon particles
41. 4th cognomen
42. "Joy Luck Club" actress Irene
44. Holds
45. Favorable factors
46. Bird enclosure
47. Act of pay for usage
48. St. Francis of __
50. Aussie bear
51. Day-O singer's initials
52. One of the six noble gases
54. Apiary inhabitants
55. Proboscis
57. "Titanic" star's initials
61. Lincoln's state
62. Atomic #28

CLUES DOWN

1. Existing before a war
2. Open to change
3. Gunsmoke actress Blake
4. Converted into leather
5. Boundary
6. Predominated
7. Royal Observatory
8. Promotion
9. Rich multilayered cake
10. River between Iran and Armenia
13. Carrier's invention
14. Banes
15. Catastrophe
20. Atomic #77
21. A note appended to a letter

Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

How To Sudoku:

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

Senior Center Dance to Benefit Relay for Life 'It's a Family Affair'

The Willits Harrah Senior Center and BodyWorks Gym are partnering to "pull out all the stops" for a Relay for Life dance next weekend to benefit the American Cancer Society.

"I am a cancer survivor," said Priscilla Tarver of the Senior Center, who's helping to organize the dance, "and I know that healing needs a huge positive boost ... in the form of fun. This is a chance to have a lot of fun with your whole family and for a great cause."

The Saturday, April 26 dance, 7 to 10 pm, will feature DJ Mike Tobin, who'll be playing "toe tapping, hip swinging, get out of your chair and dance music ... and some slower, wrap your arms around me music, too."

Tobin says his musical menu that night will appeal to little kids, and to grandparents, too. "I'll play some Sinatra, some Dean Martin, some Righteous Brothers, and some Pitbull & Keisha [current hit song 'Timber']"

"Mike is already a great attraction in himself," Tarver says, "as the kids know him as a martial arts instructor" through the Sheriff's Activities League program.

Tobin, also a cancer survivor, has been a big contributor to Willits Relay for Life, which will have its third annual Relay this summer, July 26 and 27 at the Rec Grove. Tobin's wife, Kathy, is chair of the Willits event. "Last year we had two teams from BodyWorks Gym," Tobin said, "and they collected over \$9,000 of the \$50,000 total raised."

"Willits Senior Center is thinking about having dances for all ages on a semi-regular basis," Tarver said. "People like to dance, and there is nowhere to go. So let's start here! The first of more fun to come."

In addition to great music, the event will feature fun food: hot dogs, root beer floats, and adult drinks, too. Tickets are \$10, an \$5 for kids. Senior Center is located at 1501 Baechtel Road; call 459-6826 for more info.

- Jennifer Poole



Above: Mike Tobin and wife, Kathy pose at the DJ booth at last Fall's Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration.



Below: Crowds gathered at last year's Relay for Life 24-hour relay event. The first lap was completed by cancer survivors, many of which can be seen here holding the banner.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Can you color in the chicken, bunny, flowers and eggs? Leave your finished drawing as a gift for the Easter Bunny!

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Above from left: Patrons talk with Brooktrails firefighters and check out one of the Brooktrails fire engines set up outside the Brooktrails Community Center.

Diners were already filling seats quickly as the dinner started at 5 pm.

Fire Department Supporters Sherri Queen and Leslie Quinn sit at the table offering T-shirts, coffee cups and baseball hats to support the department.



At left: Brooktrails firefighters who helped serve at the spaghetti dinner: Chief Daryl Schoepner with Ashes the K-9 Arson Dog, Battalion Chief Robert Nowlin, FF John Turner, Engineer Steven Carter, Captain Robert McKenzie, FF Martin Duran, FF Tommy Butler, FF Eli Owen, FF Kevin Koehler, Deputy Chief Jon Noyer, FF Russell Mairand, FF Niko Steffen. In front: FF Tiffany Jaskolka, Engineer David Edgar and FF Albert Hinkle.

Below left: Firefighters Eli Owen, Martin Duran and Niko Steffen serve Chuck Davison and other hungry diners at the start of the meal.

See more photos online: <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/bfdinner2014>

Great food, big turnout and Ashes the arson dog

Jennifer Poole
 Editor & Reporter
 jennifer@willitsweekly.com



It was a Spaghetti FEAST!

Brooktrails residents and other friends turned out in force last weekend to support the Brooktrails Fire Department's 34th annual spaghetti feed fundraiser.

The tally at the end of the night was 310 tickets sold, with 310 happy eaters, plus hungry volunteers, devouring delicious fireman-made spaghetti - with vegetarian, meat or meat and mushroom sauce - along with salad and garlic bread. A couple of trips were made to town for extra noodles and other supplies, Deputy Chief Jon Noyer said, after it became apparent how big the turnout would be, and there was a line out the door much of the evening.

Diners also enjoyed beer and wine sold by the Willits Lions Club, and cupcakes and other desserts, as they sat at long tables, chatting with their neighbors. Discussion about the need to pass Measure K to buy new equipment for the Brooktrails Fire Department was overheard throughout the evening.

Fire Chief Daryl Schoepner and his arson dog, K-9 Ashes, gave a couple of demonstrations of her prowess at sniffing out minute traces of gasoline and other chemical accelerants, with Schoepner telling lots of stories and Ashes, when finished with her work (or is it a game?), giving lots of love to her audience.

Ashes is an English chocolate lab: she was born at KOA Campground in Willits, the day of

the massive lightning strikes in 2008 that became the Lightning Complex fire.

As Schoepner tells it, although he wasn't sure he wanted to have another arson dog, after losing his first dog, Eddie, to cancer, it seems fate was determined to bring them together.

Ashes can detect one drop of gas in 20,000 gallons of water, and can alert to traces of 22 different types of accelerants. At Saturday's demonstration, Ashes chose among cans of debris, piles of clothing, boxes with holes cut from the top, and scrapes of ashes on boards, each of which had the tiniest amount of accelerant added. She never faltered: sitting immediately when she detected the trace.

Ashes was trained at a three-month academy near Austin, Texas, when she was 1 year old. To become a court-certified accelerant detection dog, the canine trainees - and their human partners - must pass 100 percent of their tests. A 99 percent success rate doesn't fly when it's a question of evidence that's admissible in court,



Above left: Fire Chief Daryl Schoepner and K-9 Ashes.

Photo by Maureen Moore

Above right: Ashes awaits her treat after sitting to "alert" that this box had the accelerant.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

Schoepner said. Less than 100 dogs in the United States are so certified. The Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association helped pay for Ashes' training, so she is a "shared resource" throughout Mendocino County.

Arson dogs are never sent to the fire scene until the fire is out, and are used to find "evidence" that has investigative value," Schoepner says, not just for information in general. Ashes has several arson prosecutions under her vest.

But after the day's work, Ashes goes home with Chief Schoepner, "the vest comes off," he said, "and she can do what she wants to do." Ashes is friendly with other dogs, as well as humans, and enjoys hanging out at the Willits Dog Park.

To keep up with K-9 Ashes, check out her Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/ashes9.

Easter is Sunday!

Tires LES SCHWAB
 of Willits
 1565 S. Main Street 707-459-5938



my old seventh-grade math teacher, Miss Tribue, into the room and slap you with a ruler, and Miss Tribue doesn't spare the hide. You will bleed if she gets her ruler on you. Believe me, she'll help you find a solution, and quick. Act like responsible adults. Stop wasting our money and leave your egos at the door. We can't afford your egos, or your attorneys.

Next is a time bomb that's about to blow up in our collective faces, if you pay property taxes, and everyone does in one way or another, even renters, because your rent will go up to cover the cost: the Willits Unified School District bond repayment. If you hate paying big, fat tax bills as much as I do, I expect to see you at the Willits High School media center on April 23 at 5 pm. That's when we, the stupid public, are allowed to comment on how a \$5 million balloon payment should be paid back by this July, by local taxpayers, and on how we're gonna handle the \$43,000,000 school bond known as Measure B, 2010?

That bond was sold to taxpayers by a snake oil salesman hired by the district with the promise that "the way the bonds were structured" would "not put the district or taxpayers at risk." Well, guess what, you're at risk, especially if you are on a low fixed income or have a low-paying job. Why? Because you and I have to pay that money back, and the snake oil salesman made a big, fat profit on selling those bond commitments to you, and tricked you into voting for it, skirting our California property tax Proposition 13 protections. Bonds can only be tacked onto your tax bill if you vote for them.

Bonds are not like mortgage payments with one loan and one interest rate. They can be packages of different loans with different payback plans and different rates and due dates. They are complicated, and they can be time bombs for taxpayers – and they make a lot of money for the companies that put them together and sell them to the public. Their benefits and disadvantages have to be considered carefully, and the public has a right to know what the details are – in plain language – before we vote.

The young people of our community are one of our greatest assets and responsibilities. Great schools are their right and our responsibility. We have to figure out how to pay for their education without bankrupting taxpayers. Please don't look to the U.S. Congress for guidance as to how to be responsible with our money, because they make the snake oil salesman look like a saint.

No one is taking responsibility for signing the \$5,000,000 school bond balloon payment payback agreement. Who reviewed and advised that we commit to that contract? "You are now fired and looking for a new job. And if any potential employer has any common sense, you won't find a job."

As a taxpayer, my property tax school bond payment increased four-fold last year, tacked onto my property tax bill, and the bond bill is still not paid! I'm as mad as Howard Beale!

Mendocino County and the City of Willits have an enormous financial debt in the way of retirement benefits to public employees. I've been told that it's approaching 75 percent of the county's income to service those retirement benefits. If that's true, that's not sustainable. Many cities and counties are facing that same crisis. Some are going bankrupt. How do taxpayers pay that burden, and pay back bond debt that is tacked onto our regular tax bill?

Fair is fair, but how do we pay for policing services, infrastructure, government employees' salaries, schools and every other thing that we are taxed to pay for with the 25 percent or 30 percent that's left? If you have the answer to that, you're a heck of a lot smarter than I am. We better all get involved and find the solution to this difficult dilemma.

You can, literally, no longer afford to sit in your easy chair and ignore how your tax dollars are spent. VOTE! Get involved. Speak up. Pay attention. Attend council meetings. VOTE! If you don't, you may be living on dog food, and not the good kind. You are not powerless. NEVER buy into that fiction.

Bill Barksdale, Willits

Tips from a preschool teacher

To the Editor:

In today's world, we hear a lot of stories about middle school, high school and even college students who are being bullied because they seem different than the other students around them. Unfortunately if we are hearing about it on the news, it has escalated into a traumatic consequence for someone's child. We wonder how this can happen in our world today. Who's to blame: our schools, the parents, or is it the media? But instead of playing the blame game, I suggest that we begin to have real conversations about how to prevent bullying in the first place. A lot of prevention can begin when our children are in preschool and elementary school.

For young children, bullying others can consist of intentional physical, verbal or emotionally aggressive behaviors towards others. It is normal for children to hit, kick, pinch, bite, and push others once in a while, especially younger children who are learning how to express their needs and wants. In these cases it is best for parents, caregivers, and teachers to model appropriate behaviors and give children words to express themselves.

A great way to combat these bad behaviors is to use language that suggests better options: "Use your nice (soft/gentle) hands, nice fingers." Then model what that looks like, touching an arm gently for instance. Most altercations between young children are over toys. For young children sharing is very hard, and it is a skill that develops over time. Instead teach your children to ask for a turn when the other child is done playing with it. "Laura, can I play with the dinosaur when you are done?" Then help find something else for them to do or play with while they wait.

If they are taught to expect other children to hand over the toy they want to play with immediately, it will usually cause tempers to rise, and then children act out aggressively to get the toy they want. Set clear boundaries and consequences. They need you to teach them choices: good and bad, right and wrong.

Children are sponges and watch and listen to everything going on around them. It is so important to model good and polite conversations around them. They don't fully understand what different words mean, but if they hear words like "I hate you" or "I hate that," they will say that to others. Verbal and emotional bullying can be even more damaging than physical bullying. I have overheard children say things like "I don't like Laura" or "Laura is stupid" and witnessed young children trying to exclude others from their play. Please teach your children that words can hurt and how to include everyone. This will have lasting effects on how they will treat others in the future.

One last major bullying prevention tool is you. Your children need you! They love you and your attention! Yet sometimes children learn to act out simply to get your attention. Negative attention-getting behaviors can and will carry over to school, sports, and even church or community groups they participate in. Play with them, talk with them, read a book with them, cuddle and watch a movie with them. If you build a strong open relationship with them early in their lives, they will trust you enough to tell you if they are being bullied or if they have witnessed bullying later in their lives.

One last thought, give your children opportunities to have active play: also known as rough and tumble play. It is a great way to burn energy and keeps them busy. When children stay busy, they are less interested in being aggressive to others and making bad choices. You are your child's first teacher and friend, and you can make a huge difference and prevent bullying in a child's life!

Want to learn more? Check out the following websites www.stopbullying.gov and www.stopbullying.gov

Dawn McClelland, Willits

Dawn McClelland has an Associate of Science degree in Child Development and Family Relations from Mendocino College, and is currently a junior at Sonoma State University, majoring in Early Childhood Studies. She is a preschool teacher of 3-year-old children at Imagination Station Preschool in Willits.

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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 the church of your choice for any questions or details. Maundy Thursday is April 17 this year, 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.

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). Resurrection Sunday Service, Sunday, April 20, 11 am, "The Power to Change Your Life," followed by an Easter egg hunt for attending families.

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) "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) Holy Week and Easter services as follows: Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6 pm, Holy Communion, commemoration of the Last Supper. Good Friday, April 18, noon to 1 pm, Holy Communion, prayers and readings, and from 1-3 pm, the church is open for private prayer and meditation. Holy Saturday, April 19, 10 am, Simple Prayers, and Easter Vigil, 6 to 7 pm: Lighting of new fire, readings, and songs, first celebration of Easter, Holy Communion. Easter Sunday, April 20, 10 am, regular Sunday Service and Easter Celebration, followed by Easter Feast and egg hunt All are welcome to all services and events!

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 Roe 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).

OBITUARY

Jack Vernon Morris

Jack Vernon Morris, 76, of Willits died April 3, 2014 at San Juan Mercy medical hospital in Carmichael, California.

Morris was born March 12, 1938 in Gravette, Arkansas. He was a young child when his parents came to California. He grew up in Ukiah and later resided in Willits, where he raised his family. Morris served his country in the U.S. Navy for four years on the U.S.S. Roanoke. He spoke proudly and fondly of those years. Morris was a logging and lumber truck driver, a millwright, an excellent mechanic and welder, and he also owned a car sales business in Willits for many years. Many remember him for his great big smile and upbeat attitude.

He is survived by four children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He has two surviving sisters; Elva Dumas of Citrus Heights and Bonnie Benback of Redwood Valley. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 11 am at the Willits Recreation Grove with full military honors. Eversole Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

DEATH NOTICE | Peggy Ann Ordway

Peggy Ann Ordway of Willits passed away on April 9, 2014 at the age of 67. No services will be held. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



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My Golden State

Blosser students performed play about California

Mrs. Haschak's fourth-grade class at Blosser Lane Elementary School got a lengthy round of applause last week, after performing the original play their teacher wrote for them, "California, My Golden State." The kids have been rehearsing the play since after the February break, and got so good, Mrs. Haschak joked, she half-expected them to go off to Broadway.

The Blosser Lane multipurpose room was standing room only, as 200 parents, siblings, teachers and friends enjoyed the show. The funny, fast-moving play is full of California history, as well as dancing, singing, jokes and word play, and a little Spanish, reflecting California's roots.

In addition to the recurring chorus of "California, my golden state," the children on stage sang a ditty listing various attributes of California before each segment, like: "We got quails, we got poppies, we got valleys, we got redwoods, we got oak trees, we got art-ti-chokes" or "We got missions, we got grizzlies, we got islands, we got eagles, we got tourists, we got 'Eureka! I have found it!'"

It was the Gold Rush that "put California on the map," the young actor leading the Gold Rush segment said. Did you know that, thanks to the Gold Rush of 1849, California's population rose from 15,000 to well over 300,000 inhabitants in just four years? Also, did you know the original copper rivets on Levi jeans were designed "to hold the pockets together no matter how many gold nuggets were crammed into them?"

Other bits of songs performed included "Do You Know the Way to San Jose" (Silicon Valley segment), "Dixie the Land of Cotton" (segment about how California used to grow quite a lot of cotton), "Surfing USA," "There's Gold in Them Them Thar Hills," and "Hooray for Hollywood!" The Hollywood segment used a "break the fourth wall" theatrical technique: the girl saying the line about Hollywood icons Bette Davis and Marilyn Monroe, stopped and called out to her teacher (watching with a clipboard): "Do I have to say that line? Isn't this just a little dated! Who are these people! Let me do it my way: 'Hollywood! Bright lights, city sights, Beverly Hills, the Walk of Fame, Demi Lovato, Nick Jonas! Hooray for Hollywood!'"

One joke was in the earthquake segment ("California has a lot of faults"): "Even Mrs. Haschak has an interesting story about her San Francisco earthquake experience." "You mean the one in 1906?? Dang she doesn't look that old!!!" Mrs. Haschak called back, "Hey, not the 1906 earthquake, the one in 1989!!! Now get back to your show."

Some more serious historical tidbits the show explored included the Treaty of Guadalupe, which ended the Mexican-American War and made California part of the United States; the General Sherman tree in Sequoia National

Park, the largest tree in the world, and "neophytes," what Spanish missionaries called those Native Americans newly converted to the Catholic faith.

"I think we're all convinced, wouldn't you say, that we're all pretty lucky to live in California, our golden state?" one of the actors said, as the play was wrapping up.

Blosser Lane Principal Tawny Fernandez enjoyed watching the play, too. "In times when we are surrounded with magnificent ideas of how to implement Common Core state standards into our sites and classrooms," Fernandez writes, "it is so inspirational when we see teachers, such as Mrs. Haschak, take the proverbial Common Core ball and run with it!! Her innovative play not only is exciting and interesting to watch, but it is evident that the students are having a wonderful time as well. Students having fun and being participants in their own learning ... it doesn't get any better than this!!"

Mrs. Haschak is considering offering the performance again to the general public. Willits Weekly will publicize any future opportunities to enjoy this great show.

— Jennifer Poole

At top: Some of the fourth-grade actors on stage in "California, My Golden State."

Below: Destiny holds a bouquet she got from an admiring fan after the show was over.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



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Mon-Thurs: 5:30 & 7:45pm

CAPT. AMERICA: Winter Soldier

(PG 13) 2hr 16mins

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Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:15pm.

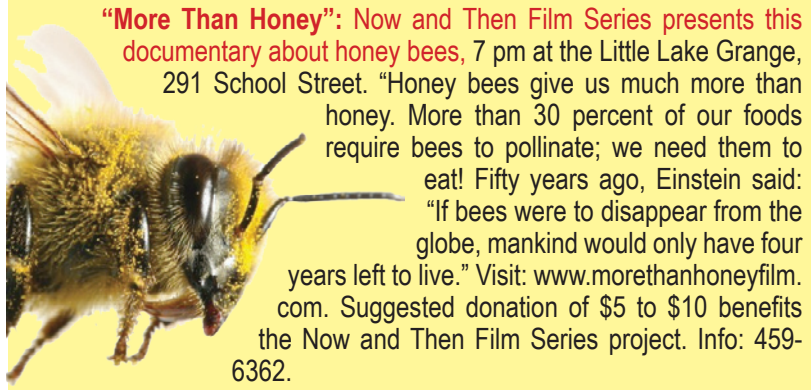
What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits



Thursday, April 17

Benefit Bake Sale & Raffle: Today and Friday, April 18, from 11 am to 3 pm, at George's Geodes & Gems and Mariposa Market. To benefit the Glass family: Courtney Glass is currently at UCSF hospital with a threat of preterm labor at 26 weeks, due to a high-risk medical condition. All proceeds will go toward the family's personal expenses: traveling, food, parking, and living. Baked goods welcome; any help would be greatly appreciated. Info: www.facebook.com/events/787624057915880/



"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! 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.

Benefit Bake Sale & Raffle: See Thursday, April 17 listing for details.

"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 through 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.



Shanachie Pub 14th Anniversary Party: with Schindig and Knocks & Jollies. 8 pm. \$5. Schindig features talented local musicians Forrest Glycer, Malakai Schindig, Josh Swearingin, Michael Cantwell, and Joe Swearingin. Knocks and Jollies features local musicians Joe and Josh Swearingin, and Mark Hetherington. Enjoy food on the patio from Adam's Restaurant (extra charge). 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, April 19

Second Annual 30th Anniversary Sale and Vendor Day at Sparetime Supply: Great deals and discounts on everything you need to get your garden ready for summer, from 9 am to 3 pm. Plus vendors, from 9 am to 3 pm, giving demonstrations and showing new products. Raffles, giveaways, and more. 208 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 459-6791

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.willitscommunitytheatre.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 Kathryn Livingston." Info/directions: visit www.ridgewoodtrail.org or call Erin Livingston at 707-391-3873 or Aimee Swearingin at 707-354-0714.

"Literary Industries: Chasing A Vanishing West": Historical book reception at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 Commercial Street, from 5 to 7 pm. Features a talk / slide show (starts at 5:30 pm) by local editor Kim Bancroft on her new, abridged edition of the autobiography by her great-great-grandfather, historian H.H. Bancroft. Free, with California food and wines. Vicki Patterson, expert on the native peoples of Mendocino County, will also speak. Info: 459-2736 or www.MendocinoMuseum.org. See article on page 15 for more details.

"RE-GENESIS! A Poetic Heresy of Mythic Proportions." A show written and performed by spoken word artist Felicity Artemis, to benefit the Little Lake Grange. Rhythm and rhyme, radical truth-telling politics and audience participation. 7:30 pm at the Grange, 291 School Street. Carlin Diamond: "A performance that will tickle your imagination, intellect and spirit and stimulate your political thinking for a long time." Sponsored by the Grange and the Cultivating Wellness Studio. Tickets are \$10 to \$15 sliding fee donation. Doors locked at 8 pm; no late admission once the performance begins. Info: Michelle Cummins

at 972-1601.

"The Dining Room": Willits Community Theatre, see Friday, April 18 for details.

Shanachie Pub: The T Sisters. 9 pm. \$5 to \$10, sliding scale cover. A genuine sister singing group based out of Oakland. "The group's subtle throwback aesthetic calls to mind classic trios past, from the Andrews Sisters and 1960s girl-groups to the sirens from the film 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?' Anchored by influences spanning folk, country, gospel, klezmer and early-90s R&B, Rachel (vox, guitar banjo), Chloe (vox, percussion) and Erika Tietjen (vox, guitar) each bring a unique vocal and lyrical style to a sound that is at once modern and timeless." 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Funkacillin: Benefit party for local radio station, KYBU Round Valley Radio. Starts at noon with food, brews and funky music other bands TBA; Funkacillin plays at 9 pm. Contact Jhon at jhon_gruey@yahoo.com for directions.

Pre-Easter Hip Hop Party: at the Brooktrails Lodge, 9 pm. \$5 at the door. Featuring local Mendocino DJ Reverend Wave, San Francisco DJ Pleasure Maker, and Ukiah's Finest. Other performances by Boss Mode, Medicated, Highway Ace, J Easy and Johnny Solo, plus special guest Tom Hutch PME. 21 & over. Info: 459-1596.

Tuesday, April 22

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" and "RIO 2." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Willits Youth Soccer: board meeting 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.

Wednesday, April 23

School Bond Public Meeting: The Willits Unified School District board of trustees holds a public meeting on the issue of how the district should raise the rest of the funds needed to completely pay off a \$4.9 million bond balloon payment due July 2014. Options: 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.

Thursday, April 24

Warren Galletti Meet and Greet: Candidate for Mendocino County superintendent of schools, Warren Galletti, will be at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street, from 5:30 to 7 pm, to meet and greet Willits voters. Galletti, former principal of Point Arena High School, is currently working as director of student services at the Ukiah Unified School District's district office.



Museum calls for 'Makers'



Above: Painter Cynda Valle paints on site during last year's Mini Maker Faire.

Below: artists Betany Coffland and Aaron Larget-Caplan who will perform at WCT.

The Mendocino County Museum is currently seeking local makers, creators, inventors, artists, and Do-It-Yourselfers to participate in the 2nd Annual Mendocino County Mini Maker Faire on Saturday, May 24, 10 am to 5 pm. With booths, workshops, demonstrations and performances, the Mendocino County Mini Maker Faire features innovation and experimentation across the spectrum of science, technology, manufacturing, engineering, art, performance and craft in our county. Whether you work for a local manufacturing company or business that makes things, or on your own have installed a solar panel, crafted a quilt, created cheese from goat to label, used a 3D printer, engineered a mountain bike, decorated an art car or more, we want you to share what you have learned with our community!

We would like to invite all of our local makers to attend and showcase their inventions or offer a workshop or demonstration. To sign up, makers can visit www.MendocinoMakerFaire.com, and click on the "Makers Apply Here" button. There is no charge for booths that exhibit or demonstrate; we're excited and grateful to showcase people's talents and inventions. Applications are due no later than May 9. For more info: call the Mendocino County Museum at 707 459-2736 or visit www.MendocinoMakerFaire.com.

— Submitted by Mendocino County Museum

Soroptimists Theater Night: at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, to see A.R. Gurney's "The Dining Room." 6:30 pm, with tapas, wine and dessert. Tickets \$15; available through Marilyn Harden at 459-5649.

Friday, April 25

Sober Grad Take Home Tri-Tip Dinner: the biggest fundraiser for the annual Sober Grad graduation night party. Dinner for 4, featuring a full tri-tip, 4 baked potatoes with sour cream and butter, salad for 4 and dressing from Trillium Delights, 4 rolls from Schat's Bakery, 4 cookies and a rose from Flowers by Annette. Pick up dinner at the Rodeo Grounds on Commercial Street. Tickets \$50 (pre-sale only) available at Cat's Meow/Trillium (or call Linda Matz at 459-6201) or at (or call Julie Orr, WHS, 459-7700). Info: Linda at 459-6201 or WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.

Enchilada Dinner To Go: to benefit 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 Friday 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.

"The Dining Room": Willits Community Theatre, see Friday, April 18 for details.

Shanachie Pub: The Dirt Floor Band. 9 pm. "Original barefoot-punk-grass." 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, April 26

"The Dining Room": Willits Community Theatre, see Friday, April 18 for details.



Cupcake Wars: a fundraiser for the Willits High School Boosters Club and the WHS Cooking Club. 3 to 5 pm at the Willits Community Center. There's still time to get signed up for a table and try for one of the prizes, including "Best Tasting," "Best Looking," "People's Choice" and "Best Table Decorations." Tables are \$20 each. To come taste and judge, \$1 door fee plus \$2 per cupcake, \$10 for 6 cupcakes and \$20 for 12 cupcakes. To sign up or for more info: call Jennifer Barrett at 540-4208.

Willits On Stage 2 — the 2nd annual community variety show presented by Willits Community Services, as a benefit for WCS and Food Bank.

7 pm at the Willits High School Auditorium. "A marvelous variety show, featuring friends, neighbors and special guests." Tickets \$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. Sponsors include: Adam's Restaurant, Emandal-A Farm On a River, Garman Construction Services, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Scott's Tanks, Sparetime Supply, Tedd Dawson, M.D., Kustoms by Spence, Mariposa Market, Norris Creations, North Valley Bank, Ponderosa & Sun Realty, and Willits Redwood Company. Supporters include: Ace Copy & Shipping, Earl Myers, O.D., and House Doctor Paint Store. For more info or to volunteer: 456-9429.

Senior Center Dance to Benefit Relay for Life: the Willits Harrah Senior Center and BodyWorks Gym present "A Family Affair," a dance to benefit Relay for Life, with all proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. The dance, 7 to 10 pm, features DJ Mike Tobin, who'll be playing "toe tapping, hip swinging, get out of your chair and dance music... and some slower, wrap your arms around me music, too": to appeal to everybody from little kids to grandparents. In addition to great music, the event will feature fun food: hot dogs, root beer floats, and beer and wine, too. Tickets are \$10, and \$5 for kids. Senior Center is located at 1501 Baechtel Road; call 459-6826 for more info. This summer's Relay for Life event is set for July 26 and 27 at the Rec Grove. See article on page 4 for details.

Shanachie Pub: House of Love with DJ Podge. 9 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, April 27

Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. \$7, \$6 seniors, \$4 kids under 10. Choose Sourdough Multigrain or Hank's Famous Butterilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, Organic Local Farm Fresh Eggs made to order, Real Butter, Juice, Organic Coffee or Tea. Baked goods sold by the Grange Youth.

"The Dining Room": 2 pm matinee. Willits Community Theatre, see Friday, April 18 for details.

WCT Visiting Artists Concert: acclaimed mezzo-soprano Betany Coffland and classical guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan perform together at the Willits Community Theater, 7 pm. "In this rare combination of operatic voice and virtuoso guitar, the Coffland and Larget-Caplan recital will explore French, Spanish, English and Chinese culture through a program of lute songs, cantatas, Spanish dances, love tunes and contemporary sounds." Tickets are \$15. Available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, Willits; online at brownpapertickets.com/event/538019, or phone the WCT office at 459-0895 for credit card orders. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.

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Come Dance for a Good Cause

A "FUNdraiser" for the Mendo Human Race, Tuesday, April 29, at Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane.

Latin and international music Zumba dance party. Come to dance or people watch.

6 to 7:30 pm. \$10 (proceeds to benefit Willits Daily Bread and Nuestra Alianza).

Info: 707-841-7499 and www.facebook.com/StudioJoyWillits.

Save the Date

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

Chamber of Commerce Forum on thriving after the bypass, May 6, Willits City Hall

Forum for 3rd District Supervisor candidates, May 7, Little Lake Grange

Willits Frontier Days Equine Educational Clinic, May 17

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

16th Willits Walk for Health & Wellness, May 24, starts at J.D. Redhouse

St. Francis Church Benefit Concert

St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church in Willits is holding a concert to benefit Willits Community Services, Our Daily Bread, Willits Kids Club and Ecology Action, on Sunday afternoon, May 4, from 4 to 6 pm, at the unique straw bale church at 1 North Main Street. Performers include "Train Singer" Greg Schindig, Malakai Schindig, and Doug Adamz, musician and storyteller. Tickets \$10 at the door, and refreshments will be available.

Visiting Artists at WCT

Acclaimed mezzo-soprano Betany Coffland and classical guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan will perform together at the Willits Community Theater on Sunday, April 27 at 7 pm. In this rare combination of operatic voice and virtuoso guitar, the Coffland and Larget-Caplan recital will explore French, Spanish, English and Chinese culture through a program of lute songs, cantatas, Spanish dances, love tunes and contemporary sounds. Their sampling of music from over three centuries and four countries is considered quite rare outside of the conservatory and connoisseur circles.

Coffland is a graduate of The Juilliard School and New England Conservatory of Music and has been a Resident Artist with Opera San Jose while performing widely aboard with an emphasis on the Italianate roles.

Larget-Caplan has also performed abroad, in Russia and Sicily, premiered more than 50 of his own new compositions and released two solo albums, "New Lullaby" and "Tracing A Wheel on Water." This unique duo is not to be missed. Tickets are \$15. Available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, Willits; online at brownpapertickets.com/event/538019, or phone the WCT office at 459-0895 for credit card orders.



April 25: Sober Grad Tri Tip Dinner

The delicious Sober Grad Tri Tip Drive-Through Dinner is the biggest fundraiser for the annual Sober Grad party for high school graduates in Willits. It's coming up soon, on Friday, April 25. Sober Grad is a non-profit organization that works each year from



Top: The Sober Grad BBQ crew — Art Cooley, Doug Goss and Dan Pinon — taking a well-deserved rest at last year's dinner.

Above: Roses donated by Flowers by Annette.

September through April to raise funds which are used to put on a safe, sober party for graduating seniors of the Willits community, including Willits Charter School, Willits High School, San Hedrin High School, La Vida Charter School, and New Horizons School. Since its inception in 1987, no high school senior has died on graduation night in Willits. Here's a description from Sober Grad event chair Joyce Waters: "It's a Drive-Through Take Home Dinner for 4! It includes a full tri-tip marinated overnight in Cathy Goss' secret marinade, grilled to perfection by Dan Pinon, Doug Goss, Art Cooley and crew, 4 baked potatoes with sour cream and butter, salad for 4 and dressing from Trillium Delights, 4 yummy rolls made by Schat's Bakery, 4 cookies and a rose from Flowers by Annette. This is all bagged up and delivered to ticket holders at the Rodeo Grounds, as they drive through. They don't even have to get out of their cars! We pre-sell 200 tickets at \$50 each, which means we're cooking for 800!" Tickets are available at Cat's Meow/Trillium (or call Linda Matz at 459-6201) or at WHS office (or call Julie Orr, WHS, 459-7700). For more info: contact Linda at 459-6201 or WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com

Willits Weekly's Athletes of the Week

Photos by Maureen Moore

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 highlights two athletes each week, one young man and one young woman, and share their achievements with the community.



Softball | Kaylee Seaton, 16, Junior

Breakfast of Champions: Brown Cow yogurt with granola

Kaylee, a junior shortstop, has shown consistent positive leadership on and off the field. Her solid play in the field leads to numerous outs and even a few double plays.

Next Home Game: Friday, 4/18 vs. Middletown at 4 pm

Baseball | Dimitri Betts, 16, Junior

Breakfast of Champions: Oatmeal with walnuts, brown sugar and spoonful of peanut butter

Dimitri helped the varsity boys baseball team extend their winning streak to four games. For the week he went 6-8 with 2 RBIs, 5 runs, 3 stolen bases, and a triple. On the mound he threw 3 innings giving up 2 hits, no runs, 1 base on balls, while striking out 3.

Next Home Game: Friday, 4/18 vs. Middletown at 4 pm

Congratulations Column

Newlyweds Roland & Jayma

Surrounded by their loved ones, good friends and biggest supporters, Miss Jayma Lois Shields and Mr. Roland Lee Spence were united in marriage on Saturday, March 29, 2014, at Holly's Ocean Bluff in Fort Bragg. Friend Alison Pernel officiated, and readings were given by the bride's father James Shields and poet Dan Roberts. Lisa Davis of Scoops catered, and decorations were provided by Wes Lind, Dennis Lind, Cindy Bodensteiner and many greatly appreciated others.



The bride is the daughter of James Shields of Laytonville and the late Susan Shields, and the granddaughter of Lois Shields. The groom is the son of Ronny Spence of Laytonville, Sandy Moffitt of Fredericksburg, Texas, and grandson to Doctor Mickie Ryan of Kenedy Texas.

Completing the bridal party were Man of Honor Wes Lind, Matron of Honor Lindsay Whitcomb, Flower Girl Egypt Spence, Ring bearer Chris Whitcomb, Best Man Austin Spence, and Groomsman Travis Moretto.

The bride is a graduate of Laytonville High School, and graduated with honors from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a bachelor's degree in sociology, and is now the coordinator of Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center and "executive gopher" at The Mendocino County Observer. The groom is also a graduate of Laytonville High School and graduated with an associate's degree in liberal arts from Santa Barbara City College. He is currently employed at Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center and is chief graphic artist of his own design business, Gross Graphics.

Following a honeymoon in Maui towards the end of this month, the newlyweds will pick up where they left off in the remodeling of their newly purchased home in Laytonville, and are looking forward to growing old together.

Furry Friends

Hoping for a Home

Meet the very beautiful Hanna! She is an absolute sweetheart and just a great dog all around. We believe she's a mix of Cattle Dog and Bull Terrier, she's around 3 years old, and weighs 50 pounds. Hanna is not only house-trained, but very smart, attentive, affectionate and really wants to be part of your life. We believe that Hanna would make a great family pet, especially for an active family with kids who would make sure she got lots of exercise and playtime! She previously lived with children and she absolutely loves people. She walks well on a leash and loves sniffing around, almost as much as she likes cuddling on the couch and getting affection. Are you the lucky person or family who will get to bring her home? She is a favorite with our volunteer dog walkers, and we lovingly call her "Hanna Banana"! And though we will miss her when she gets adopted - we really want her to go to a loving and forever home. We hope you will come meet the super-sweet Hanna!

Hannah Banana



Photo by Rod Coats

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.mendosherpets.com, to view our adoptable cats, please visit www.adoptapet.com/shelter/1965-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.

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Above: Emily Leishman poses with her gelding Remington in a field of buttercups in the Willits valley.

Photo by Maureen Moore

Second Sweetheart

Emily Leishman, second to run for Willits Frontier Days contest

A 16-year-old sophomore at Willits High School, Emily Leishman is excited to throw her hat in the ring for the 2014 title of Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart.

Along for the ride is her 11-year-old Palomino gelding Remington, who Emily currently enjoys running barrels with at many local junior rodeos and western events.

Emily started riding at the age of 8, when she "jumped on a little bay horse down the road from my house" and fell in love. She had her own horse, Abby, at the age of 11 and enjoyed taking lessons with Willits' Marta Bartow at the Little Lake Ranch. She also started riding Mickey, a seasoned gymkhana horse, and had fun taking him to events before finally pairing up with Remington in 2011.

Emily also held the position of vice president for three years with the Willits Junior Horsemen, when she was a member of the club in her younger years.

Now, her sights are set on the silver spurs and tiara of the Willits Frontier Days title and being able to represent Willits and the Fourth of July festivities for the coming year.

"I was born and raised here in Willits, and I have always believed that I wanted to run for my town," said Emily. "Other girls run for other rodeos, but I feel in my heart that I want to represent Willits and be a role model for all the young and upcoming riders!"

All the contestants will be able to start selling tickets for the 2014 events after the May 1 start date. Ticket sales, poise and personality, horsemanship and general equestrian knowledge all factor into which girl takes the title.

Contact Emily by calling or texting to 354-0260.

- Maureen Moore

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Classifieds & More

The rest of Measure K | From Page 1

The rest of Director | From Page 1

come from the city's general fund, 20 percent from Traffic Safety and Gas Tax, 20 percent from the sewer department and 20 percent from the water department.

City documents detailing the health benefits of the hiring agreement state the "employee contributes \$30 monthly towards annual premium, employer pays remaining premium. Contribution subject to change based upon annual negotiations of benefits packages."

A draft of the public works director's contract states council members "shall deal directly with city departmental administration solely through the city manager, and neither the council nor its members shall give orders to employee or any subordinate thereof, either publicly or privately."

Council members also unanimously approved a tentative contract for a city finance director, pending the conclusion of candidate's background review, Moore reported.

The new finance director's contract is expected to be formally ratified in open session at the April 23 council meeting.

The rest of Supes | From Page 1

Campaigns are required to file 460 forms if they have spent, or will spend, more than \$1,000 on their campaigns in a calendar year.

All of the following reports were filed by the March 24 deadline. A second wave of 460 reports will be filed on or before May 22. The public can see the campaign finance documents by using the search form at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acrc/cgi-bin/statements.pl.

Holly Madrigal

Holly Madrigal's 460 form shows a total of \$8,294 in donations through March 24. Contributors include Jane Camp (\$300), Peter Koch (\$1,000), April Tweedell (\$2,202), Michael and Lisa Hyndman (\$100), Jane Fitcher (\$150), Peter Norton (\$100), Richard Cooper (\$200), Mike Griggs, Sr. (\$500), Jim Mastin (\$150), Marcia Ehrlich (\$100), Shelley Field (\$200), Bonnie Madrigal (\$200), Rudy Madrigal (\$200), Erin Brunner (\$100), Joe and Sandy Madrigal (\$100), Susan and John Bradley (\$100), Carol Orton (\$100), and Gabriel Madrigal (\$2,000). Madrigal has also received \$433 in un-itemized donations that were each below \$100.

Clay Romero

Clay Romero did not file a 460 report.

Hal Wagenet

Hal Wagenet's 460 report shows \$2,099 in contributions through March 17. Contributors include two companies and one person, Phil Dow, who gave Wagenet \$99. He received a \$1,000 donation from Mendocino Construction Services of Willits and a \$1,000 contribution from Performance Coatings of Ukiah.

Tom Woodhouse

Tom Woodhouse's 460 form shows \$10,792 in contributions through March 17. Contributors include Richard Willoughby (\$500), Pete Swanton (\$200), Roy Krausen (\$200), Robert Borba (\$100), Victor Hansen (\$250), Charlie Clark (\$100), James Schulz (\$100), Kathleen Goss (\$100), Doug Manning (\$100), George Vadelniks (\$100), Paul Krause (\$300), Robert Fry (\$500), Tom Peters (\$100), Martin Arkelian (\$100), Alan Grossman (\$200), Keith Shuster (\$500), Wayne Bashore (\$100), Patrick Charlson (\$200), Tony Sorace (\$250), Edwin Scott (\$100), Tony Madrigal (\$100), Rich Padula (\$975), Harry Brown (\$100), Randy MacDonald (\$1,000), Edward Woodhouse (\$500), Mills Matheson (\$200), and Roseanne Blanchfield (\$100). The Woodhouse campaign also received a \$2,500 loan from Richard Willoughby.

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concerning Measure K.

Several members of the public asked if there were any connection between Measure K and the State of California fire "fee" rural property owners have recently received in the mail. The cost of that "fee" ranges between \$115 to \$150.

Chief Schoepner explained there is no connection between the state fire fee and Measure K. "That money goes to CalFire," Schoepner said. "Some funds can go to the state government to balance budgets and so forth. No money goes to local governments or to local fire departments."

When asked if the state fee would provide any benefit to Brooktrails, Schoepner replied the money would be of no direct benefit to the Brooktrails Fire Department. He added he is in the process of trying to get CalFire, which will benefit from the state fee, to provide additional assistance with Brooktrails' long-standing efforts to make portions of the greenbelt less susceptible to wildfires.

Other audience members asked if failure to pass Measure K would impact Brooktrails' Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating. Schoepner replied he couldn't say it would, but noted a higher rating would have a huge impact.

The ISO rating, he explained, is based on a number of factors: terrain, characteristics of surrounding land, access to water, and the condition of the local fire department. The homeowners' insurance premiums Brooktrails residents pay are directly related to the district's ISO rating. A rating of 1, he noted, indicates a community is almost perfectly fire-safe; a rating of 10 means a community is in dire straits and liable to be devastated by a fire. Brooktrails has an ISO rating of 5.

According to Schoepner, Brooktrails is supposed to be evaluated for a new ISO rating every 10 years. It has been 12 years since the last evaluation.

Schoepner said if Measure K fails, it would affect his department's ability to adequately clothe his volunteers. He pointed out that one pair of protective gear, including pants and jacket, costs \$17,000 to \$18,000.

"We have 18 volunteers," he said. "If this fails, it's gonna go to 15. It's gonna go to 10. I can't send them out in Levis and a flannel shirt to fight fires. It doesn't work that way."

Schoepner added the failure of Measure K would mean his department would have no apparent means to buy a water tender, a truck fitted with a 2,000 gallon tank, which can be used to extend the range of the department's firefighting capability and also speed up the firefighting process. The district has not had a water tender for the past seven years. The truck costs \$310,000.

Although Schoepner did not specifically say the continued lack of a water tender and a decline in the number of volunteers would impact Brooktrails' ISO rating, Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose was emphatic on the point: "It will impact our ISO rating."

Schoepner added a failure to pass Measure K might take the ball out of the hands of the ISO and put it in the hands of individual insurance companies. "Can I guarantee your ISO rating will go up if this doesn't pass? No," he said. "But your insurance company may make that choice for you."

When asked what the effect would be if the district's ISO rating went from its current 5 to a 7 or 8, Schoepner replied it "would have a huge impact. It would be difficult to get insurance at all."

The two main components of Measure K affect single-family home property owners and landowners with vacant land. Under Measure K, the rate single-family homeowners pay would increase from \$65 to \$99. Property owners with unimproved land would see rates increase from \$40 to \$99.

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Burn, baby burn!

Practical live-fire training event held for new volunteer firefighters

Top: The group who attended Saturday's training posed for a quick photo up before starting the second half of the training.

Left: Flames rage up from the "couch" at the control of the operator at the rear of the trailer.

Below: Little Lake Fire Department Proctor Adam Seminoff supervises a new firefighter who works with a chainsaw on the plywood at the top of the trailer, simulating a vertical ventilation operation.

Learning in the classroom is always different than a hands-on experience, and fighting fire is no exception. Luckily, some 20 new firefighters who just finished their classes at the Mendocino County Volunteer Fire Academy were able to put their newly learned skills to the test in a live-fire, controlled training experience last weekend with a "fire trailer" generously shared by the Kelseyville Fire Protection District. The training allowed the firefighters to practice their skills in real time before their first official call. For several of the attendees, this was their first experience with any kind of live-fire training.

The Kelseyville fire department received the almost \$500,000 Fireblast Advanced Fire Training Simulator from a Fire Act grant and has been working with other counties to help complete trainings of new graduates. When booked, the trailer is hauled to a location with two accompanying operators, who can run several simulations based on the needs and requests of the departments. At Saturday's training, live-fire behavior, initial fire attack and vertical ventilation simulations were all used.

Along with the graduates, the training also gave Little Lake Fire Department Training Chief Chris

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

Maureen Moore
Designer & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Photos by Maureen Moore



The rest of **Training** | From Page 12

Wilkes, Little Lake Fire Chief Carl Magann and Little Lake Fire Department Deputy Chief John Thomen the chance to evaluate potential new company officers and proctors, and assess their ability to lead crews and make decisions with their teams in a live environment.

The walls on the trailer's interior can be configured in many ways. Saturday, a living room/kitchen/attic arrangement was used, allowing the firefighters to saw apart "roofing" and break into a sheet-rocked "ceiling," as well as to maneuver around a flaming "couch" and "kitchen stove" obstacles.

Because of the propane-generated flames, Wilkes noted that very little water was needed to extinguish flames as the operators and the trailer's sensors can shut off the flames as soon as the firefighters complete the correct steps.

"We are so thankful to the Kelseyville fire department for working with



us on this training," said Wilkes. "This isn't a money-maker for them in any way, and they certainly don't have to do this. We really also appreciate the two operators, Brian Bartko and Jim Dowdy, who gave up their weekend to operate the trailer. Their Battalion Chief Joe Huggins even came over just to watch and see how things were going. It was a great experience for everyone."

Wilkes also expressed appreciation to Sparetime Supply, which donated staff and equipment to haul the trailer to the Willits Substation, as well as to Pro-Flame, which donated the propane used for the training.



Above left: Jake Jones, new firefighter for the Ukiah Fire Department, excitedly waits for his next turn through the trailer.

Above right: A firefighter carefully checks the temperature of the door before entering with the hose.

At left: Little Lake Fire Department Proctor Mike Jones critiques a run through the trailer, with Laytonville Firefighter Scott Davies and Little Lake Firefighters Tylor Yaden and Colter King.

Photos by Maureen Moore

See more photos online:
<http://photographress.zenfolio.com/burntrailer>

The rest of **Cupcakes** | From Page 12

there is a \$1 charge at the door. Then, you can pre-pay \$2 per cupcake, \$10 for 6 cupcakes, or \$20 for 12 cupcakes in exchange for the equivalent of tasting tickets accepted at tables inside.

The Cooking Club started as a way to help connect the local school farms with the school's cafeterias. In years past, produce has been available, but kitchen staff did not have the time available to prep and handle the fresh produce.

Willits High School Food Service Director Christy Wisdom, also a co-advisor to the Cooking Club, paired up with Barrett and formed the club, allowing students to not only gain great culinary skills, but to help provide the student-power to wash, chop, bag and prepare the incoming fresh ingredients.

Unfortunately, in the club's infancy, the farms ended up stalling on production and the club shifted its focus to helping provide baked goods to local groups, including the WHS Booster Club and other fundraising efforts, including the upcoming Cupcake Wars event.

This coming season, however, the farms are getting back on their feet, and Wisdom and Barrett hope to get back to the "roots" of why the club was initially formed and to be able to facilitate the use of the produce expected to actually be available this year. Wisdom noted WHS plans



to purchase 15 percent of its food from Brookside Farm this coming year.


The club consists of both boys and girls, totaling around 15 members. The club is open to all grade levels and ages at WHS: any students who are interested in learning more about cooking are welcome to join.

- Maureen Moore

Above: Students from the Cooking Club hold on to a bowl of supplies they will use for their own entries for the Cupcake Wars event scheduled for April 26, from 3 to 5 pm.

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WHS Boosters & Cooking Clubs to hold Cupcake Wars!

Above: Willits High School Cooking Club members, advisors and future members are all excited for the upcoming fundraiser. From left, top: Christy Deric and Sam; front: Julia, Jill, Drake, Joe, Kara and Jennifer; kneeling: Lily and Daisy.

Bakers are encouraged to "bring it!" for the sake of the Willits High School Cooking Club and Boosters Club fundraiser planned for April 26 from 3 to 5 pm at the Willits Community Center. The fundraiser will take the shape of a cupcake bake-off with awards offered for several categories, including "Best Tasting," "Best Looking," "People's Choice" and "Best Table Decorations."

Bakers are to provide at least 24 cupcakes to be sampled by the public and a group of official judges with discerning palates, including Mayor Holly Madrigal and James Wells.

There's still time to sign up to have a table, noted Willits High School health teacher and cooking club co-advisor Jennifer Barrett. "We have a goal of 30 entrants, and monies earned from the \$20 table fee and the cupcake sales will go help support the Boosters and the Cooking Club."

To enter and vote for People's Choice, Read the rest of **Cupcakes** | Over on Page 13

New pastor at Agape Church

Willits welcomes a new family: Dr. Paul Henebury, his wife, Gina, and their four children now call Willits their home. Dr. Henebury is the new pastor at Agape Bible Church at 290 South Lenore Street. He is from England where he felt God's call to go into ministry and attended seminary "because I felt I needed to interact with smart people who could challenge my thinking and straighten me out here and there." Henebury came to the United States in 1996, when he was notified he had just been voted on as assistant pastor for a church in California. "I didn't know I was up for the job!" he said.

Henebury met his future wife, Gina, in 1997 when he was teaching Sunday school in the Napa church that had contacted him. She was in his class. They will celebrate their 17th anniversary this September.

When asked what he considered the most important point he wants to get across to people, he answered: "That Christianity is true! That it makes sense of the Big Questions: Why am I here? What is the point of my life? Why is there a disconnect between the world as it is and the world as it should be? Biblical Christianity gives us the grounds for hope. It tells us we are not cosmic accidents, we are creatures of God.

Henebury will be delivering his first Easter sermon at Agape Bible Church this Sunday, April 20 at 11 am. "Come and listen to some good news!" he invites.

- Dawn Jacobs, for the Agape Church



Dr. Paul Henebury and his wife, Gina.



Intimacy, Part II

In my column last month, I wrote that there cannot be intimacy without vulnerability. Today I want to add that without trust there is no vulnerability or intimacy. Trust is the foundation for both.

When we do not trust our partners, intimacy has no chance to deepen.

The process of trust breaking down between partners often begins when we discover they have lied to us or have not kept their promises or agreements. Because partners play such a significant part in our lives, we are far more impacted by their actions than by the actions of others. Being lied to, having to deal with broken promises and agreements, can quickly feel like betrayal. When we cannot address and resolve these issues with one another, we emotionally distance ourselves from our partners in order to avoid being hurt again.

Being shamed, criticized, ridiculed or experiencing any other form of judgment can also affect trust negatively. If we are consistently put down or feel rejected by our partners, and they do not change their behavior, it can destroy our trust to the degree where separation might become inevitable. Feeling physically threatened and unsafe can result in separation as well. Broken trust can be restored, while trust completely destroyed sometimes cannot be repaired. In any case, it will take much effort, time, courage and willingness on both sides to make it happen.

If we want to create a healthy and thriving partnership, it is crucial that we build trust with each other.

What helps us to do that? Like many other things in life, it starts with small steps. I remember when I met my husband for the first time and we decided to expand our conversation into a hike and dinner. He was a single dad, and he told me that he had to call his daughter to let her know. I was impressed. Every time he could not keep a date with me or was running late, I also appreciated that he would let me know. Small things like that made him trustworthy to me. I believe that we all have specific needs that have to be met by others in order to be able to trust. Those needs can vary and are personal to each of us.

Trust between partners is something that is earned and continuously built upon. We cannot expect blind trust from each other. We have to be transparent in our actions and sensitive to our partner's needs. Keeping trust demands continuous respect and should never be abused or manipulated for personal gain.

Being honest is another wonderful trust builder. It is better to acknowledge our shortcomings and mistakes than to try and cover them up. The truth will out, and most of the time our partners will learn about our deception anyway. It makes no sense to put our relationship in jeopardy for the relief of a momentary avoidance, so why not be honest from the beginning? The higher the level of trust in our partnership, the more comfortable we are with showing our vulnerability which, in turn, will naturally deepen our connection and intimacy.

In summary, feeling physically and emotionally safe with our partners is built on establishing trust.

That is what allows us to be close and at our most vulnerable, which results in deepened intimacy and sexuality.

Doris Wier is a certified relationship and life coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples, and teachers. In addition she offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution and deepening your intimacy and connection in your partnership. For more information on the process, call 456-9246 or check entraceconflicts.com and facebook.com/doriswier

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Below: Graduates, group one: Sonia Scicchetti and Maylee, Denise Mattos and Olive, Elaine Figg-Hoblyn and Luke, Marta Bartow and Honey, Jonah Myers and Trooper, Steven Myers and Gracie, Sallie Palmer and Roxie, Wayne Barbee and Winston, and Henrietta Simonson and Rosie.



Congrats to the Grads

There are now a whole new batch of "Well Mannered Mutts" who, along with their owners, graduated from Sallie Palmer's Level 1 dog training class, held over the last six weeks here in Willits. Sallie runs Well Mannered Mutts dog training based in Ukiah, but frequently holds Willits classes, too. If you are interested in starting training with your dog, contact her at 463-DOGS or www.WellManneredMutts.com. Sallie also helps guide a free on-leash socialization dog walk at the Lake Mendocino Dam on Wednesday evenings at 5:45 pm.



Congratulations Column



Happy Birthday Danya!
 Happy Birthday to the best farm animal cookie feeder, cheek-scratcher, shenanigan co-conspirator, Lulu-bringer, late-night bitchfest-er and odd-flavored jelly bean eater a girl, a doggie friend, two goats and a horse could ask for! Hope you have an amazing day! Love, a chick, her dog, and the gang.



Happy Birthday Elaine!
 A big Happy Birthday goes out to horse trainer and equestrian extraordinaire, Elaine Mancini. Thank you for sharing your knowledge with all of us fortunate enough to be able to call ourselves your students! You are a wonderful friend, amazing mentor and beautiful soul. Happy Birthday!

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Below left: Graduates, group three: Roxie, Sallie Palmer and Trooper, Beverly Borgna and Smokie, Monique Spivey and Violet, and Barbara Mercer and Phaedra.

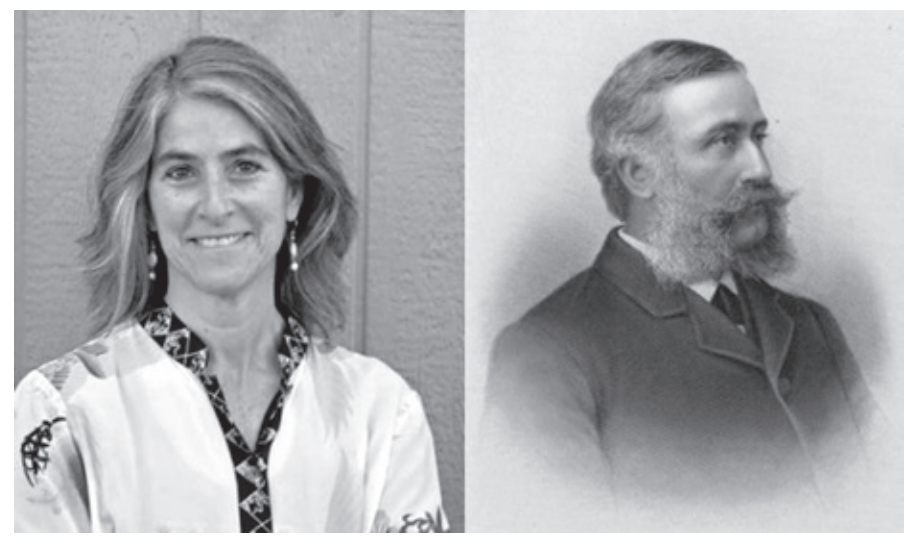
Below: Graduates, group two: Heidi Anton and Mistic, Trooper, Sallie Palmer and Roxie, Rachel Kanonchoff and Adi, Joan Daniels and Alfie, Sarah Hayes and Zoey, and Sonia Scicchetti and Maylee.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Soroptimist International Willits

makes donation to Food Bank
 Jan Lambert of Soroptimist International Willits, left, holds the "big check" representing a \$250 donation to the women's service group made recently to Willits Community Services and Food Bank, with a smiling Jim Marill, executive director of WCS.



'Literary Industries: Chasing A Vanishing West'

The rest of Rationing | From Page 1

those thinking about picking up a hose or opening a faucet. Some Stage 1 recommendations include: Irrigate between the hours of 8 pm and 7 am; even-numbered addresses should water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; odd-numbered addresses should water Wednesday, Friday and Sunday; and no watering on Monday during a Stage 1 water emergency. These would be requirements, during a Stage 2 emergency.

The city's policy recommends irrigation systems be inspected and repaired. Washing non-commercial vehicles should be done with a bucket and a shut-off nozzle, Stage 1 recommendations state.

Grant submitted

City council members last week put their stamp of approval on a grant application that could help to pay for this year's emergency water project.

City Hall needed to submit the application to the state by Friday if it wanted to have a shot at up to \$1.5 million from the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Some funding has already been awarded. The California Department of Public Health awarded Willits \$250,000 in February for the project.

There has been some talk at city council meetings that state public health department may double the money it gave the city: from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Planning for the Willits water emergency project began in December. The project's objective was to connect two city-owned wells to a new water treatment plant to be built near the city sewer plant.

The rest of Spawning | From Page 1

Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Biologist Scott Harris said. "We saw a good number of Coho and steelhead."

In 2012, a concrete box culvert was taken out where a county road crosses Ryan Creek. The site is just west of Highway 101 at the north slope of Oil Well Hill.

Five Counties, a stream restoration organization headquartered in Weaverville, helped manage the enterprise and oversee monitoring Ryan Creek for fish.

At the site of the culvert, some 600 Coho salmon and steelhead trout were relocated from a pool at the culvert's mouth, a Five Counties write-up stated.

Bud Garman Construction Services Inc. performed dirt-moving work and installed a fish-friendly pipe last summer on a private road. Garman replaced a five-foot culvert with a 14-foot by 12-foot metal arch. Five Counties says the project opened access to about 1.34 miles of creek.

Covelo-based Wylatti Resource Management Inc., reworked the other road crossing and installed a larger arch structure in its place.

The California Department of Transportation has a future project in the works where Highway 101 crosses Ryan Creek, Five Counties reports.

A consultant working on the project counted 35 redds in Ryan Creek. Harris said he believes many to be Coho.

In the streambed, spawning takes place now, and the eggs will remain in the gravel for about another month or so.

"The juveniles stay in Ryan Creek for a year and the following spring they take off," Harris said.

He added he also found Coho and steelhead in Willits and Mill creeks.

Other area creeks where Harris said he would expect to find fish – like Haehl Creek, Baechtel Creek and Broadus Creek – had fish, too.

The rest of Fire-wise | From Page 1

Residents in the mountain subdivision southeast of Willits continue to make plans to make the community safer for people during a fire.

"We have a couple projects going on the mountain, like an evacuation route and a safety zone," said George Britton, president of the Pine Mountain fire-safety group.

The Pine Mountain Fire Wise Fire Safe Council received its national certification credentials last November from the National Fire Protection Association.

One of the projects the group is working on is a place where residents can gather in the event a large fire.

"The big thing right now is safety zones," said Tom Herman. Herman sits on the Little Lake Fire Department board of directors and is a member of the fire council.

Another plan in the works is an eastward escape route to Tomki Road. "Pine Mountain is really one way in, one way out," Britton said.

Holtkamp adds that more people have banded together in the county following 2008's infamous lightning fires, thinking: "Whoa – we could wind up crispy critters if we are not careful here."

To be certified fire-wise, Pine Mountain first had to take a few additional steps, such as developing a report to assess fire hazards on the mountain, appoint a board of directors, and hold an event, which they did at the Little Lake Fire Department training center.

Britton said the Pine Mountain fire council formed in 2004. One of their projects has been a brush-chipping program funded through the Fire Safe Council of California.

Although not funded this year, the program has helped a bit in past years. "The fuel load up there – it grows back pretty fast," said Britton.

In June, fire council members plan to raise funds of their own by raffling off two cords of oak firewood.

"I hope that raffle money helps replace money that we no longer get from the Fire Safe Council, and we can continue chipping and signage programs," Herman said.

Fire defense practices

30 feet. Clear all flammable vegetation other than trees, ornamental shrubs, and green grass or ground cover out to 30 feet from your home, or to your property line, whichever is closer.

30 to 100 feet. Reduce the amount of native vegetation in the 30 to 100 foot zone.

Remove all dead branches from trees next to, or hanging over, any building.

10 feet. Remove all tree branches within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe.

Keep all leaves, needles, and other dead vegetation off the roof and out of gutters.

Local editor publishes new edition of H.H. Bancroft's autobiography

On Saturday, April 19, from 5 to 7 pm, the Mendocino County Museum in Willits will host a special literary and historical book reception featuring Kim Bancroft, Willits resident and editor of "Literary Industries: Chasing A Vanishing West," just published by Heyday Books. The reception is free, and California food and wines will be served.

The new version of "Literary Industries" is abridged from the 850-page autobiography written by Kim's great-great-grandfather Hubert Howe Bancroft, historian and founder of the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. H.H. Bancroft amassed an enormous collection of documents on Western history and ecology that formed the basis for the renowned Bancroft Library. Kim Bancroft will present a slide show on H.H. Bancroft's life, his historical work, and his legacy beginning at 5:30 pm.

In honor of Earth Day, she'll focus on Bancroft's attitude toward nature, both for the life of the mind and in relation to California's resources and developments in the 19th century. Vicki Patterson, expert in the history of native peoples of Mendocino County, will join Kim Bancroft to speak about Native Americans and their environment when California Library at the University of California, Berkeley. H.H. Bancroft amassed an enormous collection of documents on Western history and ecology that formed the basis for the renowned Bancroft Library. Kim Bancroft will present a slide show on H.H. Bancroft's life, his historical work, and his legacy beginning at 5:30 pm.

The present-day Bancroft humorously remarks that her life story runs in an opposite course from that of her ancestor, who rose from an impoverished rural background to become one of the prime literary and intellectual forces in the West. Kim Bancroft was a "full-time, overtime teacher" in the Bay Area for many years before she left urban life for an off-grid, rural homestead outside of Willits.

She now pursues the life of an editor and writer, sometimes working by the light of an oil lamp, just as H.H. and his wife, Matilda did. Her great-great-grandfather's influence is evident when she reflects on "the importance of being visionary about the future. What are we doing and creating now, and what will that mean in 50 or 100 years? We are dealing with drought, and with precious resources being strained to the limit. I see that as invitation to think historically."

The Mendocino County Museum is located at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4:30 pm. For more information, call the museum at 459-2736 or visit www.MendocinoMuseum.org.

—Roberta Werdinger, for the Mendocino County Museum

The rest of Pot Farm | From Page 1

and were growing 99 marijuana plants on each parcel as part of a collective licensed to Payan under Mendocino County's 9.31 collective medical marijuana grow program, according to inspectors.

Representatives of the Mendocino County Environmental Crimes Task Force, including CalFire, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, plus county code enforcers, 11 people in all, inspected the parcels on July 8, 2011, under an inspection warrant written and issued by CalFire.

Their report documents measurements and observations gathered at the two sites.

The largest of the sites was about 1.8 acres and located about 1,300 feet west of Highway 101. An estimated 15,000 cubic feet of fill was believed to have not been compacted.

The second location, about 800 feet west of Highway 101, was a pad measuring just under 1 acre that contained an estimated 2,500 cubic yards of fill, according to the report.

A 42-inch culvert beneath Highway 101 was discovered to be about half full of sediment from the site, inspectors found.

The report states when the inspection team arrived to survey the scene, workers were busy placing soil amendments into holes excavated at the first site.

On the perimeter of the second site, inspectors found some 100 marijuana plants; water tanks were visible above the site.

The rest of Trial | From Page 1

"We believed this was a case of premeditation and deliberation, so we wanted a plea to first-degree murder," Assistant District Attorney Paul Sequeira said. "We were prepared to present the evidence to a jury and let a jury decide absent a first-degree murder guilty plea."

Wilkinson's admission of guilt came as a surprise to the DA's Office. It followed unfavorable pre-trial rulings for the defense last week.

Judge Behnke had denied a defense motion to move the prosecution of the case out-of-county due to pre-trial publicity, and granted the prosecution's request that jurors be driven along the six-mile route which the victim was dragged, leaving a trail of blood and body parts ultimately discovered by sheriff's investigators.

Public Defender Linda Thompson had resisted a first-degree murder plea, contending Wilkinson was impaired by drugs and suffered mental issues at the time of the killing.

Sequeira dropped the special circumstance of torture charged in the case. Had the special circumstance been found true by a jury, along with a guilty verdict for murder in the first degree, Wilkinson would have received a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Thompson argued Wilkinson believed his grandfather was already dead when he tied him to the back of the truck, so the torture allegation could not be proven.

Sequeira said he had no doubt a jury would have returned a first-degree murder conviction, but added he was less certain about the torture allegation. "That may have been difficult for a jury because of the intent and wording special to that enhancement," he said.

As it is, Sequeira said prosecutors succeeded in getting the first-degree murder conviction they had always sought and had discussed with the victim's family.

This report based on a press release from the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office.

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noun: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

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 FREE: Intro to Lost Wax Casting: Tuesday, 4/22, 5:30-7:30PM
 FREE: Intro to Solar Power: Tuesday, 4/22, 5:30-8:30PM

Basic Electricity: 4/24 & 4/28 5:30-8:30PM \$25.00
 Basic Solar Power Systems: 4/22 and 4/29 5:30-8:30PM \$25.00
 Lost Wax Casting: (5 sess.) 4/22-5/13 5:30-8:30PM \$50.00
 Basic Plasma Cutting 4/25 or 4/28 5:30-8:30PM \$25.00
 Basic Welding: April 19 12 to 4PM \$25.00
 Basic Welding: April 26 12 to 4PM \$25.00
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