

# Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Thursday, May 7, 2015



## Supes set up forestry herbicide working group

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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A motion to update the county's Community Wildfire Protection Plan and create a working group to assess how best to deal with problems associated with Mendocino Redwood Company's hack-and-squirt practices was approved Tuesday by the board of supervisors.

Mendocino Redwood Company owns 227,000 acres of timberland in Mendocino County, cutting, processing and selling redwood trees and other softwood trees, such as Douglas fir. As the redwoods and firs are removed, the landscape is taken over by fast-growing tan oaks, which

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

## City audit:

Pretty good, but room for improvement

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
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A report from a public accounting firm on the city's financial statements offers insight into the City of Willits' bookkeeping.

San Rafael public accounting firm R.J. Ricciardi produces an annual review of the city's papers; the firm's latest report audited the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

The firm finds the city's business to be "in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

In Ricciardi's report, formally received and filed at the April 22 city council meeting, is a list of

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

## March building permit fees soar

March was a good month for city revenue from building permits: Projects in Willits generated \$7,728 from fees last month, compared to \$963 in March 2014.

The city's building permit revenue tally for the fiscal year stands at \$348,022 on 96 permits, up from \$74,597 from 104 permits issued through March last fiscal year, the city's most recent Building Inspection Activity Report stated.

Permits issued by the city for March included some noteworthy jobs like the cleanup of the Kwik Stop, John's Place and former Imagination Station buildings, new homes in the

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



The 2015 Willits Weekly crew.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Willits Weekly is proud to be celebrating our

# Two-Year Anniversary

## Supes to Caltrans:

Leave blackberries alone!

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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A resolution asking Caltrans to abandon its plans to use herbicides to remove 67 acres of Himalayan blackberries on the mitigation lands associated with the Willits bypass project was approved unanimously Tuesday by the board of supervisors.

The resolution, written by Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, was amended and rewritten by Supervisor John McCowen.

The resolution notes that "the Himalayan blackberry has become naturalized in the local environment and provides significant benefits

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

## Two arrested after deputies find burglary tools in stolen truck

Two Willits residents were arrested last Friday after sheriff's deputies determined they were driving a stolen vehicle and found burglary tools in the pickup truck.

Patrolling deputies pulled over the Ford pickup in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive at 2 am after noticing the tan truck had no registration tag on its license plate and had pulled into a driveway suddenly without signaling, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Deputies found 18-year-old Christopher France behind the wheel and 23-year-old Amanda Jewell in the passenger's seat. France did not have a valid driver's license in his possession, and a check revealed his license had

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

## Supes endorse regional statement on pot legalization

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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The ad hoc committee on the potential economic impacts of the legalization of marijuana reported out during the morning session of Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting. Committee members John McCowen and Tom Woodhouse said that they would be keeping the committee active for the rest of the year, but declined to issue any statement on what legalization would mean for the local economy.

Instead, McCowen and Woodhouse said they

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



Above, from left: county reporter Mike A'Dair; editor and co-founder Jennifer Poole; Roxie; designer and co-founder Maureen Moore; advertising representative Rachel Belvin; Trigger; and city reporter Zack Cinek.

Photos by Ree Slocum



It's been two years now! Willits Weekly's first edition was published on May 2, 2013. We've been through two Willits Frontier Days celebrations, two graduation weeks, two busy Christmas seasons ... and two years of Willits bypass construction. Willits Weekly has become a part of the life of our small town.

The newspaper's dedicated crew is still getting pats on the back and words of encouragement from local residents. "I love your paper!" people



say. "It's so colorful; it's so community-oriented; the photos are so beautiful; and the news stories don't take sides."

Our original crew – editor Jennifer Poole and designer Maureen Moore, county reporter Mike A'Dair and city reporter Zack Cinek – are still meeting deadlines every week, with help from

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



## North end of bypass project a hive of activity

The north end of the Willits bypass project is bustling with heavy equipment, as a steady stream of dump trucks arrive and leave, moving fill dirt excavated from an old sawmill property some two miles north of Willits.

Work takes place 10 hours a day: that's 850 round trips moving about 10,000 cubic yards daily, according to California Department of Transportation spokesman Phil Frisbie.

New falsework can be seen along the viaduct crossing Haehl Creek between East Valley and East Commercial streets, where a falsework collapse in January injured workers. Frisbie said contractors expect to begin pouring concrete on that span Thursday.

Another locus of activity is the railroad crossing, where passersby are likely to spot an array of piles sticking out of the ground.

"There has been pile driving going on for two to three weeks at the railroad overcrossing," Frisbie said. Pile driving operations will move to the northern interchange when the

railroad crossing is finished.

There was some additional excitement on April 23 when workers at an archeological dig unearthed a tooth near the northern interchange.

The tooth was taken to the anthropology department at Chico State University where an anthropologist found the tooth came from an animal, not a human, a report from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office stated.

Construction activity near the southern interchange, just south of Willits, is not as busy right now, but work is expected to ramp up sometime in June.

Caltrans' most recent progress report on the project stated construction work on the bypass is about 67 percent complete.

Dump trucks started moving dirt from the old sawmill property at the end of April.

"We are still as much as two full seasons behind because of past protest actions and various lawsuits," Frisbie said.

Looking toward completion of the project, Caltrans has an agreement with the City of Willits to hand over a portion of Main Street – north of Highway 20 to the northern city limit – when the bypass is completed.

Caltrans will improve the streets before transferring them to the city, installing sidewalks and curbs usable by people with physical disabilities, the agreement states.

The old Highway 101 south of the Highway 20 intersection in Willits will then be called "Highway 20," Caltrans documents state.

Because of delays, Frisbie said work could start on relinquishment improvements as soon as next summer, before traffic is diverted. The work would be done at night.

Caltrans and the city signed the relinquishment agreement in 2012.

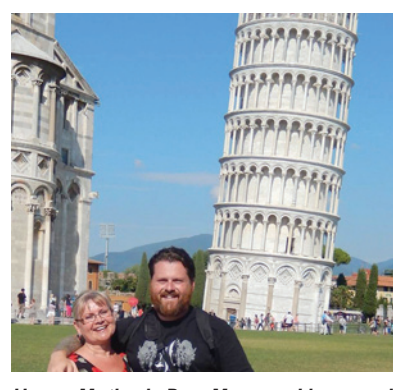


One of the trucks moving fill dirt Tuesday.





Happy Mother's Day



Happy Mother's Day, Momma, I love you!



Best sister, best mom



Mom, words can not express how amazing you are. Life wouldn't be the same without you. We love you so much!! Love Taylor, Jordan and Liam



We love u mom



From one cheesehead to another, Happy Mother's Day Marmie!! I love you! <3



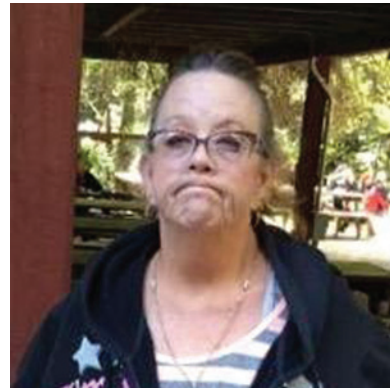
Happy Mother's Day we love you!!!!



Happy Mother's Day Beautiful! We love you!



There are two things we should give our children: one is roots and the other is wings. Happy Mother's Day!



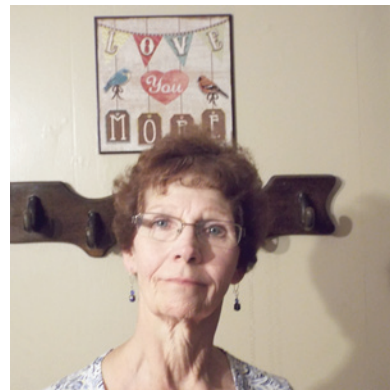
Happy Mother's Day to the best mother ever! Love, your kids



Best grandma ever



Rachel & Bobbi, Disney World 2015. Happy Mother's Day, Mom!



Happy Mother's Day



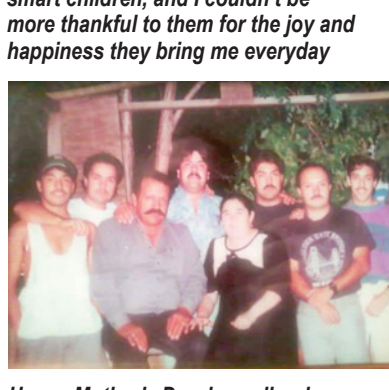
God has blessed me with three beautiful smart children, and I couldn't be more thankful to them for the joy and happiness they bring me everyday



Thank you for all you do for all of us. Love you Mom - Christina, Tracey, BJ, Tim, & Rocky



Courtney Figg-Hoblyn and her son Champ



Happy Mother's Day, love all ur boys



Melodee Scofield, Katie Scofield, Micki Badger, and Cheryl Prescott



Brittany Powers, Shellie Revling and Branden Powers



Sarah Schuman with daughter Jasmine Schuman. I love you Mommy - let's go KOA for Mother's Day!



Happy Mother's Day to my Best Friend! I love you! I am so lucky to have you. I just hope I can be half the Mother you have been. Thank you for everything you do



Don't let the sweater fool you, there's a superhero mom cape hiding underneath - love, River and Izzy

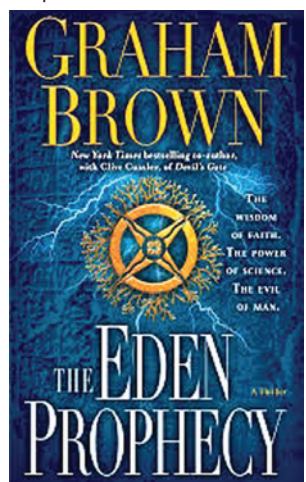
COLUMN | Resendez Reads!



Thrillers go viral!

Fran Resendez  
Columnist

This last month I read two books from the international thriller genre that involved the use of biological weapons. They were both entertaining stories with exotic settings, secret agent protagonists and plenty of suspense.

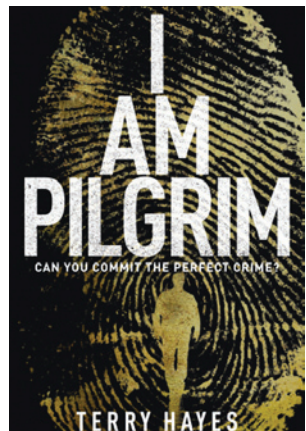


The first title is "The Eden Prophecy" by Graham Brown (2012), an American author who has co-authored with Clive Cussler. This was the third book in a series, but I had no trouble picking up the backstory, and I will go back and read the first two books.

The main character is an ex-CIA agent named Hawker who works with a woman operative to investigate a case involving a U.S. ambassador who's been exposed to an unknown virus. There are rogue geneticists, a woman from Hawker's past, a child with a rare disease, and a tie in to the biblical Garden of Eden, where a tree with the biological key to extended human life once grew.

The pace was fast and the storytelling streamlined, but the plot was grounded in interesting science and archeological detail. This would be the perfect airport book and, as a mass market, will fit nicely in your beach bag.

The second title is "I Am Pilgrim" by Terry Hayes (2014), a British-born author with a



Read the rest of Thrillers | Over on Page 9



WHS swimmers, from left: Iahloni Clingman, Olivia Cooper, Caitlyn Forrester, Kacey Tyler, Delayna Corts, Izzy Hageman, Destiny Webb-Gamez, Chenel Alexander and Damon Niesen.

Swimming Success!

WHS swim team attends championships

On Saturday, May 2, the Willits High School swim team attended the Coastal Mountain Conference Swim Championships in St. Helena and placed fourth overall.

Other teams who competed included those from Technology High School, St. Helena High School, St. Vincent High School, Calistoga High School, Fort Bragg High School, and Clearlake/Kelseyville High School.

A few Willits swimmers had an especially notable event, including: sophomore Caitlyn Forrester, who had fast times and placed high in her races; sophomore diver Chenel Alexander, who placed first in diving - her first year competing!; senior Izabel Hageman, who placed sixth in her 50 freestyle event, despite battling a knee

injury; and senior Damon Niesen, who also did "extremely well in his events," explained coach Mattie Pinon. Niesen and Hageman also participated in their senior walk during the event.

"The team did great, and we had a lot of fun," said coach Mattie Pinon. "I can't wait for next year!"

Results for the Willits team are as follows: Women's 50 Yard Freestyle, preliminaries: fourth place, Caitlyn Forrester; seventh place, Izabel Hageman; 10th place, Iahloni Clingman; 18th place, Naomi Ramirez

Women's 50 Yard Freestyle, finals: fifth place, Caitlyn Forrester; seventh place, Izabel Hageman; 10th place, Iahloni Clingman

Women's 100 Yard Freestyle, preliminaries: fifth place, Caitlyn Forrester; 15th place, Kacey Tyler; 18th place, Destiny Gamez-Webb; 20th place, Naomi Ramirez

Women's 100 Yard Freestyle, finals: fifth place, Caitlyn Forrester

Women's 200 Yard Freestyle, preliminaries: seventh place, Delayna Corts; 11th place, Kacey Tyler

Women's 200 Yard Freestyle, finals: eighth

Read the rest of Swim | Over on Page 9



Izzy Hageman and Damon Niesen on their senior walk.

Photos by Mattie Pinon

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Amazing Athletes

of Willits High School



Softball | Haley Frahm, 15, Freshman

Position: Every position except pitcher

Breakfast of Champions: Potatoes, eggs, bacon, toast

Love for the Sport: "Playing softball makes you have teamwork, and helps you bond with others and have good sportsmanship."

This week my nominee for "Amazing Athletes" is Haley Frahm. Haley is a freshman and our go-to girl. She can pretty much play wherever we put her and be successful. This last few weeks, she has played second, catcher, center field, and third. I look forward to seeing her progression over the next few years, as she develops into the amazing player she is going to be.

- Coach Rick Hendrix



Softball | Helen Gonzalez, 17, Junior

Position: Left field

Breakfast of Champions: Eggs and pancakes and fruit

Love for the Sport: "It's fun, and I like the bonding of our teammates and the intensity."

My second nominee for "Amazing Athletes" is Helen Gonzalez. Helen is a junior and came to us this year with no experience.

She has made huge progress this year, starting from having very little skill, to making two outs and hitting two playable balls this last game.

She is definitely our most improved player this year.

- Coach Rick Hendrix

Fred the Action Dog

Fred is our resident hound dog. He is a neutered male about 2 years old and weighs 54 pounds. He is loving, intelligent and confident. Fred was made for a life of action and will need lots of exercise. Running around, stretching his legs and using his nose are his favorite pastimes, so having a backyard for him to explore is a must. Fred likes some dogs and would do fine in a home with a friendly doggie. This goofy boy will have you falling in love with his silly ways; just look at that face!

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



m.pho.tog.ra.phress

[fuh-tog-ruh-friss]

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

Facebook 707-972-7047 maureengetsmail@gmail.com

FOR MOM

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10



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Advertisement for Willits Harrah Center Mother's Day Breakfast. Sunday May 10, 2015 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Menu: Mimosas (Orange Juice & Champagne), Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage or Ham, Eggs, any style, Orange Juice, Coffee, Tea. \$7.00 Adults • \$5.00 Children \$6.00 Members. 1501 BAECHTEL ROAD • WILLITS • 459-6826

Advertisement for Les Schwab. Now there's a gift I would really love! Happy Mother's Day to all the gear-shiftn' and grease-lovin' moms out there this Sunday! Tires LES SCHWAB of Willits 1565 S. Main Street 707-459-5938









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