

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013



Online & Print  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 211 Thursday, June 22, 2017

## Trustees endorse new vision for Sanhedrin High School

Joanne Moore  
Reporter  
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Calling it "perhaps the most important item on tonight's agenda," Willits school board President Christopher Neary on June 14 asked district trustees to consider designating Sanhedrin High School as an alternative high school.

Willits Unified School District Superintendent Mark Westerburg explained how the school redesignation would work, and how it would serve the needs of students not currently being served by the district's high schools.

Those students, Westerburg said, "are passing ag class, welding

Read the rest of **Sanhedrin** | Over on Page 15

## Supes OK pay hikes for SEIU workers, some lawmen

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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New labor contracts with county Service Employees International Union workers and the Mendocino County Law Enforcement Management Association were approved by supervisors Tuesday.

The two-year contracts give both bargaining groups a 3 percent raise in each of the two years, plus a cash payment of \$2,000 for each of the two years.

SEIU is by far the largest labor union for county government employees. The union represents 758 county employees or 68.4 percent of the county's labor force of 1,107 employees.

MCLEMA is the county's

Read the rest of **SEIU** | Over on Page 15

## UC shelter study: Fewer animals are better

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

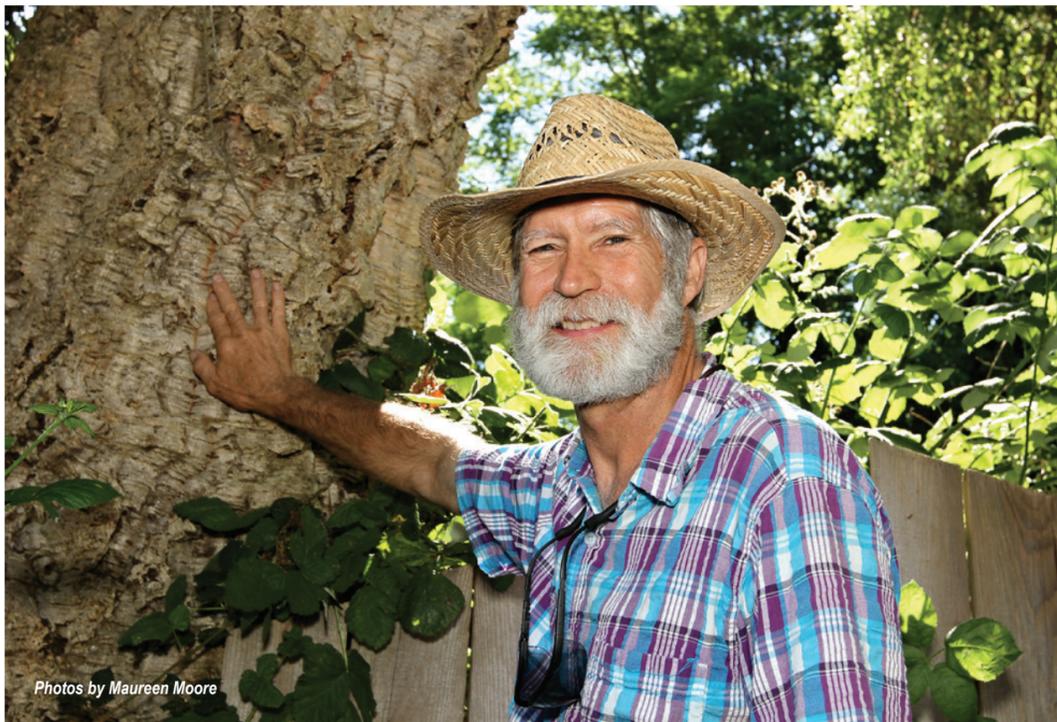
A UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program study has concluded the Mendocino County Animal Shelter would better serve stray and surrendered animals by reducing the number of animals passing through the shelter. The shelter also should reduce animal length-of-stay, and find ways to make animals feel comfortable and reduce their stress.

UC Davis analysts recommended the shelter

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



Above: Before and after photos show the now-removed cork oak trees near the Sherwood Road intersection. Below: Dave Watts with one of the remaining cork oaks, located on the west side of town.



Photos by Maureen Moore



At top: A small descendant, or "corkette" of "Corky" the oak, which once stood nearby.

Above, left: Watts places an orange tape border and cone near two remaining "corkettes" by the Sherwood Road intersection.

Above, right: The tombstone created by Watts showing the location of where "Corky" once stood. It reads: "Corky Suber November 1930 to June 2017. Thank you for all you gave us. We miss you! But WHY were you taken from us?" As of Monday morning, the tombstone had disappeared.

At right: Watts adds a new vase of flowers, including clippings of cork oak from a live tree, where one of the oaks once stood.

Photos by Maureen Moore

## Caltrans fells 'Corky' and friends

Caltrans' cutting down of four cork oak trees on North Main Street last week "blindsided" the city, the Willits City Council and the community, Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore said Tuesday afternoon.

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
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Although there'd been discussions about the need to potentially take out Main Street trees due to the sidewalk replacement project Caltrans is doing as part of the relinquishment process, the news that the cork trees were already down came as a surprise.

Nurseryman Dave Watts of Sanhedrin Nursery was also surprised – and saddened – when he learned the trees were gone. "I thought we were still in negotiations regarding the trees," he said. "Those four cork oak trees were the most high-value trees on Main Street; for them to come down first, it's a real tragedy."

Watts thought the cork trees in front of the Veterans Memorial Hall and the Willits High School bus barn had been listed in the City of Willits' Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan for protection because he remembered how much public input had been given in

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



Photo by Dave Watts



## City Council budget: Tough choices

Forrest Glycer  
Reporter  
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The Willits City Council continued discussion at their meeting last week regarding the budget for fiscal year 2017/18 and the tough choices they're having to make in the face of a looming deficit.

All expressed concern at what Mayor Gerry Gonzalez called a "budgetary crisis" for the city, caused largely by decreases in sales tax revenue believed to be due to the new bypass.

The council made no major changes to the budget as presented which, if adopted, will have a projected general fund deficit of \$398,748

Read the rest of **Choices** | Over on Page 15

## Convicted arsonist headed back to prison

A 26-year-old former volunteer firefighter, convicted of a string of arson fires, is headed back to state prison after admitting he stole money and lottery "scratchers" from his workplace.

Brice Lee McKinnon was sentenced to 80 months in state prison in November 2013, after being convicted of starting at least five wildland fires in the Willits area during July and August of that year.

It marked the third time McKinnon had been before the court about setting fires, according to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office.

McKinnon was paroled

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

## It's Willits Frontier Days – officially

Forrest Glycer  
Reporter  
forrest@willitsweekly.com

The city council presented a proclamation to the Willits Frontier Days Association on Wednesday, officially designating June 23 to July 4 as "Western Wear Days" in Willits.

The proclamation was presented to longtime Frontier Days volunteer Jeff Cook. Many other WFD volunteers were in attendance, and councilmembers and other city staff wore western-style outfits to celebrate the occasion.

Read the rest of **WFD** | Over on Page 2

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Goodbye to 'Corky'

To the Editor:

A terrible tragedy has occurred by the cutting down by Caltrans of all the cork oak trees in front of Willits High School and the Veterans Memorial Hall on North Main Street last week.

A tombstone was briefly placed in memory of "Corky."

For years "Corky," *Quercus suber*, gave our community shade, beauty, a nesting place for birds, and was a unique oak tree because its relatives have given their bark for centuries as a source of cork for glass bottles. "Corky" was an irreplaceable tree and was truly a heritage tree for our community.

Who gave the order to take these trees down? As far as I can tell, our town officials and concerned citizens of our town had no prior notice that these trees were slated to be cut down. Why did Caltrans not inform anyone of their plans?

Nothing can bring back "Corky" and his family. I can only hope that this tragedy will not be repeated and that Caltrans will open up a clear line of communications with Willits' government and citizens. Sometimes trees must be removed for safety concerns or other reasons, but before that is done we need to have a discussion with all concerned people.

A memorial service for "Corky" Suber and his relatives will be held this Saturday June 24 at 10 am. The service will be held at North Main Street in front of the Willits High School where "Corky" and his relatives lived their wonderful lives. Please give any donations in "Corky's" memory to your favorite charity, just as "Corky" gave his life freely to all who crossed his path.

Dave Watts, Willits

## Ukiah comes to Willits for Relay for Life

To the Editor:

This year is an interesting one for our local Relay for Life chapters. We are combining the Ukiah and Willits chapters to create Relay for Life of Mendocino County! There will be only one Relay event in the county this year, and it'll be our biggest one ever.

Not only are we combining committee efforts, but we are combining the spirits of all those who want cancer gone from our communities.

Please join us at this 24-hour fundraising event to fight against cancer, and support your local Relay for Life teams who are raising money for cancer awareness, prevention and research. The Relay for Life of Mendocino County event is on Saturday, July 29 at 10 am. This year's theme is "Carnival of Colors." Learn about all the colors that represent different types of cancers, and how you can prevent those cancers. Stay all day and all night to enjoy carnival activities such as pie eating contests, a dunk tank, carnival games, food, prizes, a live DJ, lap contests, a photo booth, and much more! You also won't want to miss our luminaria ceremony, which will feature a slideshow to honor those who have cancer and to remember those who have passed.

If you would like to put together a team and fundraise before or during the event, go to [relay.acsevents.org](http://relay.acsevents.org) and enter "Willits" into the "Relay events near you" field to get started. It's easy! You can put together your own fundraising and activity booth on the day of the event, and help us fight all night.

To enter photos for the Luminaria slide show, email to [amandainman89@gmail.com](mailto:amandainman89@gmail.com) by July 15. July 21 is the

deadline to sign up for Business Card Sponsorships. They are \$100, and you can have your business card featured in the event program. Get the word out about your business and support cancer awareness at the same time.

Thank you so much for all your support!

Amanda Inman,  
Relay for Life of Mendocino County

## Are we ready for the 4th?

To the Editor:

Willits – are we all ready for our biggest holiday, the 4th of July?

I would like to encourage the businesses and the town's people to do whatever they can to help beautify our town. Cleaning up the weeds and planting flowers doesn't usually take long or cost much, however, collectively, this action can really enhance the overall appearance of Willits. The good news, being a small town, any small improvement is noticed and appreciated.

When visiting Willits or any small town, for that matter, notice what attracts your attention first. For most people, it is reported the overall landscaping of trees, shrubs and flowers is a lasting and positive image of the town.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge those businesses for their efforts in beautifying our small town and providing a welcoming site to locals and visitors to Willits.

Larry Desmond, Willits

The rest of  
WFD | From Page 1

The proclamation reads in part: "Whereas Willits Frontier Days is the oldest continuous rodeo in the state of California and this year marks the 91st anniversary of the Willits Frontier Days; whereas this annual community event instills great pride in all of us who can call Willits home past and present; I, Gerardo Gonzalez, mayor of the City of Willits, encourage all who enter our community to join us in the rodeo spirit by wearing western apparel."

Cook talked a bit about the history of Frontier Days, and how volunteerism in the community and charity have always been a big part of it.

"[The volunteers] do so much work, and it really takes all of us to get it going, and we're real proud of what we do," he said. "We want to see everybody smiling and having a good time!"

The rodeo grandstands, damaged by falling trees during last winter's storms, were fixed up better than ever and are ready to go, Cook noted, thanks to the work of Frontier Days and city staff.

Frontier Days is also in charge of organizing this year's Hometown Celebration, and Cook said there would be more than 40 booths and about a dozen musical acts for the event, which takes place downtown on June 30.

Both Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart candidates Keely Ahders and Hailey Riley addressed the council, introducing themselves and talking briefly about their lives and plans.

Frontier Days festivities kick off Friday with truck pulls and a street dance at the rodeo grounds, and the opening of the carnival across the street.



Willits Frontier Days volunteer Jeff Cook accepts the official "Western Wear Days" proclamation from Mayor Gerry Gonzalez.

Photo by Forrest Glycer



# Open House

Little Lake Firefighters Association hosts 91st annual fundraiser

The Little Lake Firefighters Association held their 91st annual Open House and Fundraiser on Saturday at the East Commercial Street firehouse. On display were all of their engines, support vehicles and equipment.

The firefighters enjoy meeting the public – the event is about fun and public awareness, as well as raising funds – and were willing and eager to answer questions about what they do and how they do their jobs.

"The Willits public pays for us," said Captain Robert McKenzie, president of the firefighters association. "They should come down and see what they are paying for."

The Little Lake Fire Department consists of 90 percent volunteers, who continually provide excellent and energetic response when there are emergencies in the Little Lake area. Currently, there are three paid fire staff, an office assistant and the 40 or so volunteers who make up the Little Lake Firefighters Association.

Funds raised by fire association members go "to buy equipment that the district doesn't have the budget for," Captain McKenzie said. "The fire district has set budgets, but maybe around the middle of the year, something comes up, like a needed or desired piece of equipment. We will have an association meeting and vote on the idea and possibly purchase the extra equipment."

Funds also go to provide up-to-date training and education to the Little Lake firefighters.

"We've had four fires this season," McKenzie said. "We had two yesterday and one the day

before. The one yesterday was a structure fire that got into the wildland. On Thursday, a car hit a power pole and started a wildland fire. Yesterday, we had a wildland fire north of town. We're doing drills every other Tuesday, we are doing drills and trainings all about the wildland fires.

"We are doing hose lays, shelter deployments, scratch lines [a preliminary control line hastily built with hand tools as an emergency measure to check the spread of a fire]. We're working on apparatus to prepare for our predominant threat: the wildland fires.

"We just got a new [water] tender, McKenzie continued, "and we're working on getting up to speed on that with the drivers and operators. It's used for remote areas where there's no hydrants. We also do drills with the CalFire helicopter to further help us prepare."

The fire association also "puts a certain amount of contingency money aside for whatever might come up," McKenzie said. "We also have a couple scholarships like the Jeff Smith Memorial Scholarship, named after a longtime fire chief who passed away. Additionally, we set aside funds for other emergencies and the needs for the families

Read the rest of  
Firefighters | Over on Page 11



At top, from left to right: Firefighter Job Potter with his daughter, Brooklyn. Kids get to "play firemen" in the truck. Fire engine #5450 shows off its 75-foot ladder.

Above: Little Lake Firefighters Michael Wilder, Colter King, Greg Elliot, Tim Caldwell, Michael McKinnon, Robert McKenzie and Eli Owen.

At right: Kamryn becomes a firefighter.

Below left: Advertising the Little Lake Fire Open House with a special sign.

Below right: Emilio Flores of El Mexicano serves up tacos.

At bottom: Little Lake Fire Training Chief Eric Alvarez gives rides in the antique fire truck.

Photos by Mathew Caine



## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Letters focusing on Willits and 3rd District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the 3rd District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once a month.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

## Willits Weekly

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 5, Number 211  
P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047  
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A Proclamation of the Willits City Council

## Designating Willits Western Wear Days

91st Anniversary  
June 23 through July 4, 2017

Whereas, Willits Frontier Days is the oldest continuous rodeo in the state of California and this year, "Willits Western Small Town America" 2017, marks the 91th anniversary of Willits Frontier Days, which still continues to draw people from all over to come and not only celebrate Independence Day, but to celebrate as a community; and

Whereas, each year this event is run solely by volunteers, with many hours dedicated to putting together this traditional event; and WHEREAS, this annual community event instills great pride in all of us who call Willits home, past and present.

Now, therefore, I, Gerardo Gonzalez, mayor of the City of Willits, do hereby proclaim June 23 through July 4, 2017, as "Western Wear Days" in the City of Willits and encourage all who enter our community to join us in the rodeo spirit by wearing western apparel.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Willits to be affixed this 14th day of June, 2017.

— Gerardo Gonzalez, mayor, City of Willits

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EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Redwood Meadows is an active independent senior community featuring 101 apartment homes, primarily a mix of one and two bedroom apartments which are single story 4-plex cottages-type set amongst seven acres of park like landscaping.

We are a smoke-free and pet friendly community. We boast a community center where activities are held like card games, Bingo, birthdays and socials. We also have a barbecue area for residents to get together for social functions.

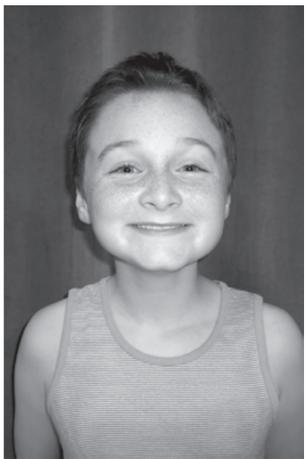
Redwood Meadows is conveniently located adjacent to the William F. Harrah Senior Center with a thrift store, cafeteria and taxi service, and Howard Memorial Hospital is just blocks away.



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MON-FRI 10:00-4:00



At right, first-place winners of Blosser Lane Elementary's Earth Day writing contest, from left: fourth-grade winner Alex Miya; fifth-grade winner Jacob Kubin; and third-grade winner Nadia Jacobs.



# Writing Contest

Blosser Lane Earth Day essay winners give planet-saving advice

Blosser Lane Elementary School held an Earth-themed writing contest. First-, second- and third-place winners were selected from each grade. The first-place winners receive the honor of having their essays published in the paper.

Nadia Jacobs of Mr. West's class won first place for third grade with her essay titled, "My Earth," which shares her thoughts on how the Earth should be treated. First-place winner out of the fourth graders is Alex Miya of Miss Mey's class, with his essay, "Earth's Daily Newspaper," which states the problems and, more importantly, proposes solutions to global warming. The first-place winner from fifth grade is Jacob Kubin of Mrs. Arkelian's class, with his short story, "Earth-Bender," a fantasy about an island "shrouded in magic, mystery and power."

The three first-place winners' essays are well-written and creative. Check them out for advice on how to improve the planet and to see where it may be headed if changes aren't made.

— Jackie Cobbs

think that Earth Day should be every day for as long as I live. Do you feel the same? Some people do, some don't. It is your opinion so say what you want, I can't judge.

Everyday someone is hurting the Earth by cutting down trees, using gas and polluting the air as well as littering. If you walk to school you are not polluting the air, but I also ride in a car so I take some blame too.

If we could be more mindful and pick up all of the trash even if it's not yours, you would be making the world a better place. How do you wish to help the world? Do you want to treat it like garbage? I know I don't, and I hope you don't either.

Also, how do you feel we are treating the Earth like? I feel like some people love the Earth and treat it like a beautiful flower. Some people treat it like garbage, think about it. Are you someone who cares, or someone who doesn't? Only you know.

Everyone should start picking up trash. We should start a program about picking up garbage because who knows how long our Earth is going to last if we don't take care of it. I hope you start thinking mindfully about treating the earth like a flower, instead of a garbage can.

old, decomposing plants and animals in the earth. These things turn into coal and oil. If we burn too much of these things we could create global warming. This also happens when cars and motorcycles use gas.

Problem 3: Population. As time has passed, the number of humans on Earth has grown to over 7 billion. This is great, but there is a dark side. Because of the new generations coming each year we must use more resources. If we use too many resources like trees, the forests will die. If we mine ore too much, we might cause people to be sick or cause giant holes and changing environments.

Problem 4: Littering. Landfill, junk and trash. Since we started to use more items like houses, clocks, and other stuff, we create more garbage, and this is bad. Here is the reason. Making the stuff pollutes the air, and poisons the water, making it hard for fish to live. Garbage goes into the ocean and fish eat it and get sick. The same thing happens with littering on land.

Now, we went through the four main problems. Luckily, we created a few solutions.

Solution 1: Recycling and compost. Most food is compostable and can be made into food for plants. This is made by decomposing stuff. Recycling is where you take old things and make them into new things. Some items like paper, cans and glass can be recycled and made into new items. The more things we reuse, the less garbage there will be.

Solution 2: Solar power. We have found out about electrons and their power. Humans can make solar panels to change the sun's rays into energy. This is a clean energy source that does not cause carbon dioxide.

Solution 3: Water and air power. Another way to get clean energy is to use water or air energy. Water energy comes from dams and the air power comes from windmills.

This power can be made into electricity.

Now some people are rich, but that is because they sell oil. They don't want to stop selling oil because they would not make lots of money. Some people don't like oil and coal because of its harmful effect on the Earth. If we don't stop using oil and coal, the Earth will get really sick. We should protect the Earth. The Earth needs you!

## Earth-Bender

By Jacob Kubin

### Prologue

On the planet Earth, in the middle of the Bering Sea, sits an island. That island is like no other, for it is shrouded in magic, mystery and power. This island is called Hisic. People born on this island have a share of the magic, but a dark force has come.

Since its coming, the number of people with magic has gone down from 100 percent of the people to 20 percent of them. Those 80 percent of the people without powers are vile, ugly and cruel, while the 20 percent are kind, beautiful and pure of heart. But don't worry, because heroes are here!

### Chapter One: The Necklace

I guess I should introduce myself. My name is Courtney Earthwave.

"Ouch!" I yelled as the Normies pushed me down the last step of the stairs that led to the school cellar, smirking. Normies are the people without powers. "That hurt," I cried.

As they pushed me into my cell, I thought, "Will I ever see daylight again?" I looked around my cell. See, I was one of what people at school call, a "first year." You get enrolled when you are 12 years old. During all the other years, you attend "normal" school. Your powers surface around 11, but that's if you have any! You look as your powers would have you looking if you are male or female. For instance, I have dark brown skin, have long, wavy brown hair, dark brown eyes with spots of green in them, and

Read the rest of Blosser | Over on Page 11



Above from left: Nikolai Ritchley gets ready for his race. Cassie Long swims down the lane during one of her races. Long and Hunter Britton await their next turn in the lanes. Below, left: Shelby Bowen leaps into the pool. Below, right: Nathan Saures dives off the block at the start of his race.



# Otters in the Pool

Father's Day swim meet in Willits highlights young swimmers

The Willits City Pool opened with a bang last weekend when the Willits Otters hosted their annual home meet at the finally ready-for-the-season pool.

Maureen Moore  
Graphics & Photographs  
maureen@willitsweekly.com

The Willits team swam against others clubs ranging from the Humboldt swim team from Fort Bragg, Lake County and Ukiah. Swimmers participated in the two-day event which included events from butterfly and freestyle, medleys and even a just-for-fun T-shirt relay.

Otters coach Lou Meier noted a few swimmers who stood out from the meet including 7-year-old Aedan Lockwood-Chenelle, who swam in the 7- and 8-year-old group.

"Aedan swam several races in 'A' times," said Meier, "As a 7-year-old swimmer in the 7- and 8-year-old divisions, he swam very well and earned several first place awards in his races."

Most swimmers qualified at "C" times, which was the level that awards were based on. Some of the faster

swimmers earned "B" times, and the fastest swimmers earned the fastest "A" times.

Lockwood-Chenelle earned "A" times, and first-place wins, in the 25 yard freestyle, 50 yard freestyle and the 25 yard backstroke. He earned "B" times, and also first-place wins in the 25 yard breast stroke and 50 yard backstroke and earned a "B" time and a second-place win in the 50 yard breaststroke.

Meier also noted 10-year-old Kaylen Thom who also reached "A" and "B" times during the meet and placed first in all but three of her 10 events. Thom earned an "A" time and first place in the 50 yard freestyle, and "B" times and first-place awards in the 50 yard breaststroke, 100 yard butterfly, 100 yard individual medley, 50 yard butterfly and 100 yard backstroke. She earned a "B" time and a second-place award in the 100 yard breaststroke event.

Teo Labus, a 13-year-old swimmer also made some notable times in the 13 to 14 boys division: Labus received

Read the rest of Otters | Over on Page 11



Above: Vada Moore listens to the officials for her start instructions.

Far left: Evi Kale during her backstroke race.

At left: Grace Orozco gets her goggles set before the race.



## My Earth

By Nadia Jacobs

To me Earth is beautiful, full of joy, love, and happiness. Friendship is important too, but we treat Earth like garbage. How do you treat garbage? You probably pick it up and throw it away. The Native Americans would have never treated our Earth like garbage.

We are very bad at putting away garbage. If you threw a plastic bag in the ocean and walk away and think it's no big deal you're just making the world an ugly place. That's because anything could eat it and die, you are harming more than that animal, you are hurting yourself.

Earth Day is important but I personally

## Earth's Daily Newspaper

By Alex Miya

This is Earth – a great place. Sadly, pollution is trying to take over. Humans have been using more resources than we should. Here are the problems.

Problem 1: Global warming, which is when too much carbon dioxide heads in to the air. It causes global warming. This causes floods, glaciers melting, and even sea levels rising.

Problem 2: Pollution. Ever since the discovery of petroleum, we have been literally fighting for it. Petroleum is really

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Doing the right thing matters.

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Read the rest of Blosser | Over on Page 11

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## JUNE 23

### 6 to 9 PM

FREE DANCE AFTER EVENT WITH JOHNNY YOUNG BAND

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A Christ centered, progressive church  
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286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 10:00 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.  
459-2855  
Facebook: www.facebook.com

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**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor: Bill Nobles  
Information: 456-9668  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

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**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
459-6390  
Stan Caylor, Pastor  
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
1st Sabbath of every month  
family potluck at the school,  
22751 Bray Road, Willits

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**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-459-3066  
Church Services/Communion  
10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
The Rev. Betsy Bruncau

If you want to be included in this column please call:  
**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com

Thursday, June 22

Willits Reads: Every Thursday Willits Library invites special guests from our community to find out what they are reading. The guest(s) will also kick off Story Hour by reading the first book. This week's guests: Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart contestants Keely Ahders sand Hailey Riley. Thursday, June 22, 10:30 to 11 am. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Kate Wolf Music Festival: The 22nd Annual Kate Wolf Music Festival at Black Oak Ranch in Laytonville starts at 12 pm on Thursday, June 22 and runs through June 25. It features 40-plus musical acts on 4 stages. There are open mics, tai chi and yoga (all levels welcome). Ticket prices start at \$80 for a one-day adult ticket on Thursday; \$120 for a one-day adult ticket on Friday-Sunday; four-day tickets, \$325. Three-day and two-day tickets and parking passes also available. Multiple day tickets include camping. For full ticket and festival info: katewolfmusicfestival.com.

Bridge Club at the Library: Join us for civilized foursomes. Thursday, June 22, 4:30 to 7:30 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Friday, June 23

Kate Wolf Music Festival: The 22nd Annual Kate Wolf Music Festival at Black Oak Ranch in Laytonville runs through Sunday, June 25. It features 40-plus musical acts on 4 stages. See Thursday, June 22 listing for more details.

Summer Reading Event: Comic Jubilee at the Library. Friday, June 23, 11 am. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Willits Frontier Days Carnival: The WFD Carnival opens on East Commercial Street next to the Rodeo Ground on Friday, June 23, 4 pm. The carnival continues through July 4. Johnston Amusements Carnival offers rides like the Gravitron and the Zipper, also, food and carnival games. "... fun for kids and adults." Pre-sale wristbands, \$20, available through June 22, at J.D. Redhouse. WFD info: www.willitsfrontierdays.com.

WFD Truck Pulls: Willits Frontier Days' annual Truck and Tractor Pulls presented by MLM Motorsports. "Come and watch the local boys try their hand at The Terminator".... watch the big boys try for the coveted Full Pull." Friday, June 23, 4 pm. Tickets: adults \$13, children \$5. Jack Sharp Arena on East Commercial Street. Tickets available at the gate or from the Sweetheart contestants.

Drive Thru Dinner For Two: The Senior Center presents: BBQ chicken dinner, done by the Willits Lions Club, Calico beans, cole slaw, garlic bread, cookies. Buy pre-sale tickets, dinner for two, \$25 at Harrah Senior Center. Friday, June 23. Pick up meals 5 to 6:30 pm - there will be some extra meals for those without pre-sale tickets. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Youth Poetry Night: "Behind the Mic" open mic poetry reading hosted by Tristen Cockrall. Friday, June 23, 7 to 10 pm. No Charge. Brickhouse Coffee, corner of Main Street and Commercial Street.

Shanachie Pub: Compost Mountain Boys bring traditional bluegrass. Friday, June 23, 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Willits Frontier Days Street Dance: The Johnny Young Band kicks off Willits Frontier Days with a street dance. They're northern California musicians "with country roots and a rockin' soul guaranteed to set any dance floor ablaze." Friday, June 23, 9 pm to 12 am. This is a free event. Rodeo Grounds, East Commercial Street.

Saturday, June 24

Sweetheart Poise & Personality Judging: Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart judging for Sweetheart candidates Keely Ahders and Hailey Riley. Saturday, June 24, 12 to 3 pm. Free event. Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.

Kate Wolf Music Festival: The 22nd Annual Kate Wolf Music Festival at Black Oak Ranch in Laytonville runs through Sunday, June 25. It features 40-plus musical acts on 4 stages. See Thursday, June 22 listing for more details.

Shanachie Pub: Major Powers & The Lo-Fi Symphony is an "Adventure Rock power trio from Oakland. Saturday, June 24, 9 pm. \$5 Cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Major Powers & The Lo-Fi Symphony

GIANTS VS MARLINS
July 9, 2017
AT & T Park
Tickets on Sale Now
Club seat \$160.00- (20) tickets available (Section 231)
Third base line \$130.00—(35) tickets available (Section 135)
Ticket prices : Includes Ticket and Bus Fare
Charter bus leaves at 8:00 a.m. and return home after the game in the p.m.
First come first serve on Ticket Sale
Bus will leave from Harrah Senior Center
1501 Baechtel Rd
Adult Bus Only
For any information about the Giants Vs Marlins
Contact Lucy Stanley
Events Coordinator 707-459-6826

Cannabis Country Fair
Black Oak Ranch July 21, 22, 23
On the third weekend of July, the Cannabis Country Fair will take at the Black Oak Ranch in Laytonville. Activities include the music of Thievery Corporation, Portugal, The Man, Beats Antique, Allen Stone, White Denim, Jamestown Revival, Anders Osborne, Katcfahire, and Lyrics Born; also, light deprivation & concentrate competition; and, leading speakers from the Cannabis Community; plus Ganja Yoga.
FEATURING
THIEVERY CORPORATION
PORTUGAL, THE MAN
BEATS ANTIQUE, ALLEN STONE, WHITE DENIM, JAMESTOWN REVIVAL, ANDERS OSBORNE, KATCFAHIRE AND LYRICS BORN
LIGHT DEPRIVATION & CONCENTRATE COMPETITION
LEADING SPEAKERS FROM THE CANNABIS COMMUNITY
GANJA YOGA
GET YOUR TICKETS AT CANNABISCOUNTRYFAIR.COM

Senior Center Lunch

Week of June 26 through June 30

Monday: Spaghetti/Meatballs

Tuesday: Chicken Street Tacos

Wednesday: Pork Chops

Thursday: Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits w/Sausage Gravy

Friday: Turkey, Sweet Potatoes, Birthday Lunch

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entree, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

City Pool now open for full schedule

After mechanical difficulties prevented the Willits City Pool from opening as originally scheduled, the pool, 299 North Main Street, opened Monday, June 19 for its regular schedule. Swim lessons are a twice a day, 10 am-12 noon and 4-6 pm Mondays through Thursdays. Lap swims at 6 am every day except Sunday. Open swim 1-4 pm every day except Sunday. Water Aerobics 12-1 pm every day except Sunday. Pool usage is \$5 per person. Water aerobics is \$7 per person. 20 use passes are available for \$80. Information: 459-5778, reservations and schedules, please see: www.facebook.com/willitscitypool.

Tracing Your Past at the Willits Library

The Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, offers classes for genealogy beginners, using ancestry.com. Librarian and genealogist Benjamin MacBean will assist interested parties with their family tree and how to find birth, death, marriage, census records and much more. Classes are on Wednesdays, from 9 to 10 am (except the first Wednesday of the month) and are limited to five people per session. Participants must sign up at the Public Service Desk, and have basic computer skills. Instructor MacBean has been an amateur genealogist for 15 years, following in his grandfather's footsteps, tracing his own genealogy back to seventeenth century Scotland and Ireland. Info: 459-5908.



Benjamin MacBean

Sunday, June 25

Hospice Benefit Golf Tournament: Willits Rotary is sponsoring the 19th Annual Phoenix Hospice Golf Tournament to benefit hospice. Cost \$55 for Brooktrails Club members, \$75 for non-members. Sunday, June 25. Check-in 8 am. Shotgun start at 9 am. "Come play and see if you can win one of the many prizes being offered at the event." Brooktrails Golf Course, 24860 Birch Street. Info: Tammy Long at 480-993-5755, or 456-3244.

Willits Frontier Days Horse Show: This event showcases the equestrian skills of accomplished riders in both English and Western disciplines. High-point and reserve high-point winners are selected from each group and are awarded prizes for their efforts. The WFD Sweethearts will also be showing off their equestrian skills for the Horsemanship portion of their competition to help determine who will be crowned the 2017 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart. Sunday, June 25, 8 am. Free. Jack Sharp Arena, East Commercial Street.

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, Sunday, June 25. "Join your friends at the Grange breakfast! \$8 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods..." Choose sourdough wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-Free, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic eggs, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. Live Music! \$8; \$7 seniors, \$5 children under 10. Extra: sides of organic fruit and Amish organic maple syrup. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street.



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: "Wonder Woman" and "Cars 3." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. \$7 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Thursday, June 29

Willits Reads: Every Thursday Willits Library invites special guests from our community to find out what they are reading. The guest(s) will also kick off Story Hour by reading the first book. This week's guest: Brian Bowles from the 4H Poultry Group. Thursday, June 29, 10:30 to 11 am. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Shanachie Pub: Off the Grid is a musical ensemble that spans 5 generations - "musical positivity held high and shining." Thursday, June 29, 7 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Guitar Music from Six Continents

Friday, June 30

A rare concert of guitar music from six continents by renowned acoustic guitar virtuosos Aaron Larget-Caplan and Peter Janson on Friday, June 30 at 8 pm. From ancient ballads to contemporary masterworks, their playing crosses genres from Americana to classical, flamenco to world-jazz-fusion.

Larget-Caplan and Janson both perform solos, and also guitar duets. Their work reveals a devotion to the heart, soul and inspiration that comes from evoking such a rich variety of human cultures.

Tickets are \$15, available at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets may also be available at the door if not sold out. The Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

- Steve Hellman for WCT

Summer Youth Performing Arts Camp

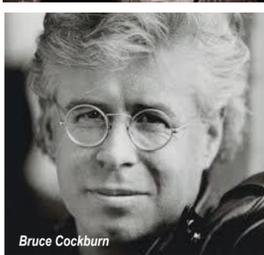
Sign up July 8 for 5-week course

The Willits Charter School will host a Summer Youth Performing Arts Camp with resident theater arts teacher Billy Hetherington. Geared toward youth ages 7 to 18 interested in what it takes to build a production from the ground up. This 5-week course will focus on the elements of preparing and presenting a performing arts piece. Writing, building, and performing will give youth an opportunity to learn new life skills and expand upon lessons learned. This summer program will be arranged into two groups ages 7-11 and 12-18. Sign-ups will be held on Saturday, July 8 from noon until 1 pm at the Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Please note that class space is limited. Information: 459-5506.

Big Chief July 4th Fundraiser

Tuesday, July 4

The Big Chief of Laytonville and Draft Punk are having a "Juvenile Diabetes Awareness" fundraiser meal on Tuesday, July 4. Tickets are \$25 for pork tacos, lamb tacos, sides and dessert. The Big Chief, 44400 Highway 101, Laytonville. Info: 984-6770.



Rising Appalachia, John Prine, Bruce Cockburn

Friday, June 30

Summer Reading Event: Lego Palooza 2 Friday, June 30, 11 am. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Deadline for Youth Soccer Camp Sign-Ups: Final day to register for Willits Youth Soccer League, Friday, June 30. Registration fees vary; the amount is dependent on the age of the child or teenager, and will cover various costs including health insurance. Info: Saprina Rodriguez 354-2539. Register online: www.willitsyouthsoccer.com.

Willits Frontier Days Hometown Celebration: Willits Frontier Days presents live music, great food, vendor booths, store specials, face painting and tons of special fun for children.... Don't miss Willits Weekly's table! Also, Shifters classic cars, Willits Wild Bug Motorcycles, a scavenger hunt, farmers market vendors, plus special photos with Maureen Moore. Friday, June 30, 5 to 9 pm. Free for everyone in downtown Willits.

Celebration at Scoops: The public is invited to Scoops' 5-Year Anniversary. Free hot dogs and ice cream, plus giveaways. Part of the Hometown Celebration. Friday, June 30, 5 to 9 pm. Scoops, 110 North Main Street.

Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrip & Friends. "This show will feature many local talented musicians coming together for a night of original, improvised, and rare moments in music." Friday, June 30, 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Guitar Music from Six Continents at WCT: Acoustic guitar virtuosos Aaron Larget-Caplan and Peter Janson perform. Friday, June 30, 8 pm. Tickets \$15. Advance tickets at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane.

Saturday, July 1

Shanachie Pub: Richie Blue, recent inductee into "The Blues Hall of Fame." His slogan: "No Bar Too Far!" Saturday, July 1, 9 pm. \$7 cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194

Sunday, July 2

Willits Frontier Days Lions Cowboy Pancake Breakfast: Hotcakes, ham and eggs plus hot coffee. Sunday, July 2, 7 to 11 am. Tickets: \$8 adult, \$5 child. Rec Grove Park, East Commercial Street. Buy your tickets from Sweetheart contestants and at the event.

Willits Frontier Days Junior Rodeo: An opportunity for young riders to hone their skills before competing in the California Cowboys Pro Rodeo Association. Events: calf and steer riding, team roping, and steer daubing. Also, barrel and pole courses and the "Mystery Scramble." The event winner receives the "All Around" title and an engraved buckle. The overall high-point winner for the day will receive the Bud Suttles Memorial Trophy. Sunday, July 2, 4 to 9 pm. Adult tickets \$5. Jack Sharp Arena, Commercial Street.

Summer Feast Dos Rios: "A magical afternoon of dance, music, drumming and poetry." Performers: Dance Brigade, La Mezcla, Nina Wise, Sarah Bush Dance Project, Ramon Ramos Alayo, Laytonville Workshop Dancers. Cuban food and drink available for purchase. Sunday, July 2, 5-7 pm. Gates open 3:30 pm. Dos Rios Retreat Center, 10501 Dos Rios Road, Dos Rios. Tickets on a sliding scale \$20-\$30, youths 12 and under \$10, "no one turned away for lack of funds." Buy tickets: brownpapertickets.com, 1-800-838-3006, or at Mazahar (38 South Main Street). Info: dancemission.com, or 983-6977 or 415-826-4441.



FREE TO ATTEND - JOIN US ON FRIDAY, JUNE 30 FROM 5 TO 9 PM IN DOWNTOWN WILLITS



Larget-Caplan and Peter Janson

Fourth of July week Willits Frontier Days Events

WFD CCPRA Rodeo

Monday, July 3

California Cowboys Pro Rodeo Association Night Rodeo takes place from 7 to 10 pm at Jack Sharp Arena on East Commercial Street. The Willits Frontier Days Rodeo has been running since 1927 - it's California's longest continuously running rodeo. Contestants who hope to win the "All-Around" title participate in eight events: bareback, saddle bronc, team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, breakaway roping, barrel racing, and bull riding. The cowgirl and cowboy with the highest cumulative scores win an engraved buckle created at Outlaw Saddlery, plus a cash prize. Rodeo stock is provided by Humboldt County's Lou Bugenig and Mike Mora of West Coast Rodeos. In addition to the eight CCPRA rodeo events, cowboys and cowgirls from Lake, Mendocino and Humboldt counties compete in local team-roping events. Trophy buckles engraved by Outlaw Saddlery are awarded to the top scoring "Header and Heeler." Tickets: \$12 adults, \$5 kids, and \$15 for a box.

This is an opportunity to meet and adopt the wonderful pets available to good homes. Complete adoption assistance will be available. Canine adoption fees: \$225 for puppies up to 6 months, \$175 for adults up to 5 years, \$50 for seniors 5+ years. Feline adoption fees: \$80. All animals are spayed or neutered. For more information on adoptions or how to help with the Humane Society's work please call 485-0123 or visit http://mendohumanesociety.com.

Western Dance Monday, July 3 The Western Dance at the Rodeo Grounds on East Commercial Street features country singer Chad Bushnell from Red Bluff. He has been playing the guitar and singing since the age of 4. He has recently finished Top 10 in the American Country Star contest in Nashville, and come out with his latest single titled "Nothin' Quite Like Summer." The Western Dance is 9 pm to midnight. It is a free event.

Western Dance Monday, July 3

Main Street Parade Tuesday, July 4 The strip of Main Street between Commercial Street and East Valley Street is decorated red, white and blue for the annual Main Street Parade every Independence Day. This year's theme is "Willits Western" and "Small Town America." Horses, dancers, floats, gunfighters, bands, flags, and tractors make their way down Main

Main Street Parade Tuesday, July 4

CCPRA Rodeo Tuesday, July 4 California Cowboys Pro Rodeo Association Day Rodeo runs from 4 to 7 pm at Jack Sharp Arena on East Commercial Street. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids, and \$15 for a box. See Monday, July 3 CCPRA listing for more details.

COLUMN | At the Movies



'The Blackcoat's Daughter'

The Story: "February" was the original title of this horror movie, but "The Blackcoat's Daughter" is a better title.... odd and cryptic, and vaguely sad. Two girls are left at Bramford boarding school at mid-winter break. One of the girls is anxious at the delayed arrival of her parents, the other, not so much. Teary-eyed, vulnerable first-year girl Kat (Kiernan Shipka) and bitchy, beautiful senior girl Rose (Lucy Boynton) do not get along. There is a third girl Joan (Emma Roberts), hollow-eyed and cold, hitching her way to Bramford. The white winter, the parental abandonment, the big empty school are elements of a dark and unpredictable design.

My Thoughts: Most times, the movie I choose to review is showing at Noyo Theatre. This week's feature was "Cars 3." Against my gut instinct, I watched it. Whew! the flick is screen pollution; I believe it contributes to global warming. For the sake of fairness, I checked a movie rating website which laid out 18 Pixar movies, best to worst. "Cars 3" came in last. Normally, I don't look to the opinions of other reviewers for validation. That said, their assessments and mine correspond (actually, I'd have put "Finding Dory" tied with "Cars 3" because both flicks left me feeling poop and irritated). I was troubled because I review for Willits Weekly, and I needed a film worth reviewing. Then my friend Bri, the famously knowledgeable counter girl at Main Street Music and Video, recommended "The Blackcoat's Daughter." I hadn't heard of it, the first movie written and directed by Oz Perkins (Tony "Psycho" Perkins' actor son). Perkins' control of mood, suspense and terror is impeccable... this flick is haunting. And freaky. I highly recommend it.

Parents: Not for children... no way... I don't care how much they may whine. Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.



Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

Save the Date: Willits Pet Adoption Day, Coldwell Banker, July 8 K-PHAT Dance, Laytonville, July 8 2nd Annual DripFest, Dripworks, July 15 Relay for Life, Rec Grove, July 29-30

Street as onlookers cheer from the sidewalks. Annual favorites include the winner and runner-up Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart contestants, the current Grand Marshal and Heritage Award winners, Roots of Motive Power antique logging equipment, Willits Horsemen's Association, Willits Police Department, Little Lake and Brooktrails Fire Departments, CalFire and CDF, as well as many other emergency personnel. As a bonus: the winner of the National Anthem contest will sing at the opening of the parade beginning at 11 am. "Arrive early to stake out a good spot!" The parade concludes at 1 pm.

Horseshoe Contest

Tuesday, July 4

In the annual WFD Horseshoe Contest, teams compete to win cash prizes under the shade of the trees at the Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street. First-place teams win \$150, second-place teams receive \$100, and third-place teams win \$50. The contest starts at 10 am and is free to attend. To enter, visit www.willitsfrontierdays.com.

WFD Beef BBQ and Country Music Rodeola

Tuesday, July 4

As the parade comes to an end, the WFD Beef BBQ and Country Music Rodeola begin at the Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street. The luncheon, put together by local individuals, service clubs and businesses, serves some 4,000 people annually. The menu is cowboy-style beans, salad, garlic-buttered French bread, corn on the cob, and Black Angus tri-tip roast. Tickets are available from the Sweetheart contestants and at the event, which starts at noon. Adult: \$15; Child/Senior: \$8.

The Country Music Rodeola, which begins at noon, is free to attend.

CCPRA Rodeo

Tuesday, July 4

California Cowboys Pro Rodeo Association Day Rodeo runs from 4 to 7 pm at Jack Sharp Arena on East Commercial Street. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids, and \$15 for a box. See Monday, July 3 CCPRA listing for more details.

# Drive-Thru Dinner

Lions Club grills up BBQ chicken for two at the Senior Center on Friday

Too hot to cook? Take a break from the kitchen Friday night, and treat yourself and a friend – or your family – to the Harrah Senior Center's Drive-Thru BBQ chicken dinner. Swing by from 5 to 6:30 pm, and pick up a ready-to-eat BBQ chicken dinner for two for \$25.

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Willits Lions Club will prepare the chicken on their specially hand-crafted grill, and the dinner comes with cole slaw, calico beans (just like Edna Heidebrink's beans over the years), garlic bread and Senior Center-baked cookies. You don't even have to get out of your car.

Pre-sale tickets are available at the Senior Center, but they're not sold out yet, so Senior Center staffers say there'll be extra dinners available at the event for those without pre-sale tickets.

The Senior Center does these fundraising dinners every year – sometimes two or three times a year – to raise money for center programs, like Outreach, Transportation and Nutrition divisions.

Not only are the Lions donating their time and their grilling expertise, the club purchased the chickens to donate to the fundraiser, too. "And this after just writing us a donation check for \$500," Senior Center director Richard Baker exclaimed. Barbara Lincoln of Lincoln Realty donated everything needed to make the cole slaw.

Baker thanked the Lions and Lincoln Realty and all the businesses who regularly support the center, and then made the point that these fundraising dinners are an opportunity for residents who support the center to help out financially while getting themselves a great meal at a great price.

"It always amazes me the response we get from the community for all our events," he said.

Baker told a story about Perla Gonzalez,



Harrah Senior Center staffers invite the community to Friday's Drive-Thru BBQ Chicken Dinner; from left: the center's new cook, Nancy Middleton, director Richard Baker, and volunteer and Meals on Wheels coordinator Deb Holcomb.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

administrator at Holy Child Residential Care Center in Willits, who, when she heard about the dinner, came and bought 10 tickets. "She contacted friends and family of residents at the care center, and she'll come pick up all of the dinners, and they'll have a little celebration there Friday night."

Senior Center board president Sue Sawyer said she was buying dinner tickets for a few friends who'd helped her recently, and "we'll celebrate, too."

Those picking up dinners are welcome to sit and eat on the shady patio at the back of the center – or how about a pre-Frontier Days picnic at the Rec Grove?

Baker also wanted to thank everybody who volunteers at the center or the Senior Center Thrift Store. "We just got the report about volunteer hours in May," he said, "and we had 1,807 volunteer hours! We could not function without the volunteers, who do a lot of behind-the-scenes jobs. It really does take the whole community."



Above, left: Member of the WHS cheer squad, from left, Mandy, Valeria, Samantha, Mychaela and Danielle, at the bake sale table at Safeway on Saturday. Above, right: WHS cheerleaders, from left, Valeria, Taylor, Zoe and McKenzie, offer baked goods in front of the Safeway entrance.



Photos by Jennifer Poole

## Willits High cheer squad set for a summer of practice

The Willits High School cheerleading squad held a dual bake sale Saturday in the Safeway plaza and in the Evergreen Shopping Center. All goodies – including "W" cookies, brownies, cupcakes and more – were available by donation.

The cheer squad – led by coach Megan Freudenberg – is raising funds for uniforms and for a new mascot costume. There are 29 girls, plus the mascot, on the squad

preparing for next year's football and basketball games. They'll be practicing two days a week throughout the summer at the WHS football field. This is a good-sized squad for WHS: "We had a lot of girls at the tryouts [at the end of May], Freudenberg said, "and we have quite a few incoming freshmen."

Freudenberg was a Willits High cheerleader herself, and also coached

cheer for the Baechtel Grove Middle School Cougars.

In addition to cheering at the games, the cheer squad is looking forward to attending some out-of-town cheer competitions and events, too. 10 years ago, Freudenberg's mom Erica Buzzard said, the squad went to the nationals.

"Megan is big on dance," Buzzard said, so the squad will be learning more dance

moves, "and bringing people in to teach tubing," too.

The new uniforms will be green, with fly-away skirts and glitter.

WHS Cheer will have a table at the June 30 Hometown Celebration downtown, and has scheduled a fundraising car wash at Les Schwab on Saturday, July 1 starting around 10 am.

– Jennifer Poole

The rest of Otters | From Page 7

a "B" time and a first-place win in the 200 yard breaststroke and also received first-place awards in the 50 yard freestyle, 100 yard freestyle, 100 yard butterfly and 100 yard breaststroke events.

"Haley King gets a big congratulations for winning her division in the grueling 200 yard butterfly," said Meier. "Our most improved swimmer is 12-year-old Jared Dunham."

Dunham swam in 10 races and earned three second-place awards including the 50 yard breaststroke – where he also eared a "B" level time – the 100 yard butterfly and 50 yard freestyle. He earned third-place awards in the 100 yard individual medley, the 50 yard freestyle, the 100 yard breaststroke and the 500 yard freestyle.

Other first-place swimmers included 10-year-old Cass Long who placed first in the 100 yard backstroke; 12-year-old Michael Kale who placed first – with a "B" time – in the 50 yard freestyle; 13-year-old Haley King who placed first in the 200 yard freestyle, and 13-year-old Nathan Sauers who placed first in the 100 yard breaststroke.

The Otter's littlest swimmer, 6-year-old Grace Orozco, swam in five events and placed first in the category in all of them, as the solo swimmer, but also gained lots of good experience in the pool. Orozco's races included the 50 yard backstroke, the 25 yard freestyle and 25 yard backstroke events.

To learn more about the Otters, contact Melissa Perez, president of the Otters board of directors, at 707-367-0401.

The Willits City Pool is now open for the public to enjoy, officially opening last Monday, June 19 for the 2017 swim season. The pool's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/willitscitypool](http://www.facebook.com/willitscitypool) was updated with the current schedule: "Lap Swim: 6 am; Swim Lessons: 10 am to 12 pm; Water Aerobics: 12 pm to 1 pm; Open Swim: 1 to 4 pm; Swim Lessons: 4 to 6 pm."

For more info about the current offerings at the Willits pool, call 459-5778.

## The rest of Firefighters | From Page 3

of firefighters. For example, if a firefighter dies and the family is short of funds, the association can help pay for funeral costs. Also, if one of our members is in need of help paying for rent or power, we can assist them. They don't need to pay it back. It's like helping out a member of our family."

The fundraising efforts at Saturday's open house included selling a taco lunch provided by El Mexicano Restaurant. There was also a "Fill the Boot" donation display, and a \$10 per ticket raffle. Little Lake Fire Association mails out raffle tickets to Willits residents each year before the open house, with a letter of invitation, but tickets are always available at the fundraiser, too.

Prizes for the raffle included with two \$500 gift certificates provided by Sparetime Supply, two oil changes from Automart, a Stihl chainsaw donated by Willits Power and Hardware, four seats to a San Francisco Giants home game provided by Mike and Carrie Griggs, two \$100 Bass Pro Shop gift cards, two \$100 Amazon gift cards, and a \$250 Giants gift card. In a separate raffle, a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun was offered as a prize.

## Water monitoring equipment recovered

A Willits water-quality monitoring site was vandalized during the night or early morning hours of June 15/16. State traffic officers recovered the missing equipment hours later from a nearby homeless camping site.

The vandalized site is one of 25 that have been continuously monitoring water quality in Little Lake Valley creeks for the past seven years "as part of the bypass mitigation," according to Lowell Cottle, a senior field scientist for Walnut Creek-based Brown and Caldwell, an environmental research and engineering firm.

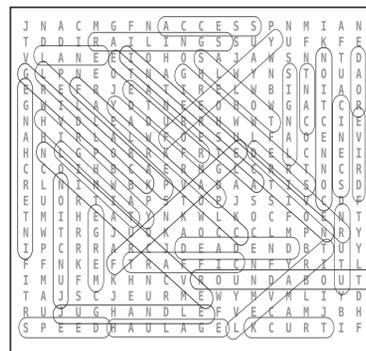
"We ... sample [creek water] for turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved solids, water/air temperatures, and electrical conductance," Cottle said. "Plus [we] grab samples to measure metals, nitrogen, oil and grease, etc. – all to monitor the health of the streams."

The work is part of stream restoration projects for salmon and steelhead habitat.

The vandals "stripped the site clean" said Cottle, a National Park Service and U.S. Air Force veteran. "But thanks to a quick response from the CHP we were able to recover all our stolen equipment."

This is not the first time the water-quality monitoring sites have been vandalized, he said. The thieves "sell whatever they can: solar panels, batteries, aluminum, etc."

This report was based on a press release from the California Highway Patrol.



## LEGAL NOTICES

WW118  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2017-F0457  
The following person or persons are doing business as: Willits Salon & Spa, 91 S. Main Street, Willits CA 95490. Willits Salon & Spa is conducted by a limited liability company: Caele Steele, LLC, 659 Cherry St. #107, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on: 6/7/2017.  
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on June 7, 2017.  
s/Macaela Steele  
Pub dates 06/22, 06/29, 07/06 and 07/13/2017

Run your legal ad with Willits Weekly!

Email willitsweekly@gmail.com or call 459-2633 for info

## The rest of Blosser | From Page 6

I am tall for my age. I am an Earth-Bender, which means I can manipulate the Earth.

As I walked into my cell, I noticed two people who seemed to be in a heated argument. "Who are those two?" I thought as I looked at the two complete opposites. I'm guessing they had powers, because of their appearance and also the fact that they were down here in a cell at all.

"Hi," I said nervously.

"Hello," the nicer-looking one said. "I'm Sunny Daydark, and this dark fellow over here is:

"The Darkstalker, ally with the dark, master of -"

"In other words, he is my twin brother," Sunny said with her electric-blue eyes twinkling. "I am a Light-Bringer."

"I, on the other hand, am a Night-Bringer; and by the way, my name is Darktruth Daydark, but you can just call me Dark," the boy said.

"My name is Courtney Earthwave," I said, "but you can just call me Ruby."

"Just to let you know, Ruby, at night there is a weird, glowing thing in that wall," she said while pointing to one of the earthen walls in her cell. "It's creepy."

A few hours later, I crept out of bed and just as they had described, there was a glowing thing in the wall! So I manipulated the Earth with a tugging feeling in my stomach. As the glowing thing slowly went out, it turns out it was an old, enchanted necklace. So I put it on and then began to see things I hadn't been able to see before I put the necklace on. One of those things was a glowing, transparent, humanoid-looking thing with pink gas around itself. It was kind of like a genie.

"What – what are you?" I asked.

"I'm a Psych," it said.

Psychs were a kind of magical royal family that had special abilities. They even made this island that I'm on right now rise up from the ocean, and they made an enchantment on the island that makes any baby born on the island magical. The Psychs are supposedly all dead. The legends say they were monsters. So I squealed in fear.

"It's okay," it said in a strangely soothing way. "We are not how everyone says we are, and I can show you why."

"O-o-okay," I stammered. "Show me." So it tapped me on my forehead and the fogs around him enveloped me, and everything went black....

To be continued ...

  
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**Hiking & Outdoor Group**  
Join our new group for people who love to hike and enjoy the outdoors. We love dogs, so there will be hikes for doggie, too. Register at [www.north-coastexplorers.org](http://www.north-coastexplorers.org).

**Cannabis Growers!!**  
Need a Water Board NOI prepared? Call Don McEdwards. 707 354-4618. The McEdwards Group, Willits.

**Kenny's Barber Shop**  
Kenny's Barber Shop will be closed from Sunday, June 25th to Wednesday, June 28th.

**RV/Trailer Space for Rent**  
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/p/>

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**Estate Sale**  
Saturday, June 24, 9 to 3, 1411 Buckhorn Road, off of Muir Mill Road and Highway 101. Follow yellow signs. Tools, antiques, garden, art, Scouts, jewelry, furniture, vinyl records.

**For Rent**  
Executive office - 2 large offices, 1 small; kitchen, bath and reception. 1,240 square feet. An additional 370 square feet could be added if needed. Call Margie, 459-6874 or Megan, 972-8776.

**Weight Watchers**  
Join us! New location: Willits Center for the Arts - 71 E. Commercial St., 5 pm every Monday. Feel better. Look better. Have fun. More information? Call 707-841-7758.

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Next Week:  
**DESPICABLE ME 3**

**TRANSFORMERS 5: THE LAST KNIGHT 2D/3D**

(PG13) 2 hrs 29 mins  
Fri-Sun:  
(2D) 1:00 & 4:15pm  
(3D) 7:45pm  
Mon-Thurs:  
(2D only) 1:00, 4:15 & 7:45pm

**CARS 3**

(G) 1 hr 49 mins  
Fri-Sun:  
12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm  
Mon-Thurs:  
1:15, 3:45 & 6:45pm

**WONDER WOMAN**

(PG13) 2 hrs 21 mins  
Fri-Thurs:  
1:30, 4:30 & 7:30pm



## Free SAL kids karate program

Thursday nights at Body Works Gym

On Saturday, June 8, 1st Degree Black Belt Shyann Barney, age 13, from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Activities League Karate Program, attended her first traditional Okinawan weapons seminar with Kyoshi Michael Tobin and featured Master Instructor, 10th Degree Black Belt Hanshi Anthony C. Marquez.

The seminar taught Bo, Jo and Tonfa techniques which enhanced our already present karate skills by extending our reach and striking areas. Your local SAL karate program is free on Thursday nights at the Willits Body Works Gym and Martial Arts Center. For more info contact Sensei Mike at 354-0565.

— Kyoshi Michael Tobin



Photo by Rod Cools

## OBITUARY

# Barbara Young

Barbara "Barbie" Gayle Young, 55 years old, passed away on June 14, 2017, after suffering a massive stroke. She was born to Charles Hall and Charlotte Davis, on December 7, 1961, in Santa Rosa, California. She was later adopted by Robert Lewis.

Barbie was a resident of Willits for her entire life and worked many different jobs, including: Howard Hospital, Willits Animal Hospital, AM&D, and Luna's Market. Working in the public gave her the opportunity to form relationships with just about every person she met; many people called her Aunt Barbie (or Aunty Candy), and almost everyone had a fun story to tell that involved "Banny G."

Not only was she popular with people, she also had a deep love for animals. She will be remembered for walking her four Rottweilers and one black Lab, teaching them to look both ways before crossing the street, and always helping any animal in need.

Barbie is survived by her husband, Paul Young. She leaves behind her daughter, Julia Young; sisters, Lori Luedemann, Ruby Ollivierre, Jennifer Hall, and Lynn Vesper; brothers, Thomas "JR" Gruzaz, Brian Hall, Chuck Hall Jr., and Bobby Lewis; as well as countless cousins, nieces and nephews.

We will all miss her smile, her laugh and her thoughtfulness. We will remember her spinach dip, cherry cheesecake, and how she would always say, "I love you more because I'm bigger!"

A potluck Celebration of Life will take place at the Ohl Redwood Grove Park in Brooktrails on Saturday, June 24, starting at 12 pm. All of Barbie's friends and family are welcome.

## Furry Friends

### Hoping for a Home

#### Mellow Tanner

Tanner is a 1-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who weighs 49 pounds. Tanner is currently in a foster home, so an appointment will need to be set up if you are considering this nice dog for adoption. His foster has passed on great information about what a mellow dog Tanner is and how well he gets along with the other dogs in the home. Tanner is a fun dog who enjoys playing with tennis balls and hanging out with people. Contact the shelter to set up that meet and greet!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful dogs and cats here, please visit online at: [www.mendocinoshelter.com](http://www.mendocinoshelter.com). More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.



#### Cat Albert

Albert was found after his owners had moved away. He was an outdoor cat and was perfectly happy to be outside. But now he needs a new home. Albert is a perfect gentleman and loves attention. He always comes down to meet new people.

For more information on Albert or other adoptable animals, call the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County at 485-0123, check [www.mendocinohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendocinohumanesociety.com), or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday.

## The rest of Corky

From Page 1

favor of protecting the downtown trees and his own comments about the cork oaks' value. But what he found in the section of the plan dealing with Main Street north of Commercial Street were general comments about "downtown character treatments such as street trees" and how the "sidewalk gap that currently exists in front of the high school" would be replaced with a "10-foot-wide sidewalk and consistent tree canopy to buffer from vehicles."

City Planner Dusty Duley, who put together the plan, is on vacation.

Phil Frisbie, chief information officer for Caltrans District 1, said the city was provided a heads up, "but it was sometime in the past when we first working on this project. We do admit, because of the change in some of the city leadership due to last year's election, we should've made sure that we reached out to make sure everybody was aware before we cut the trees, because trees are a sensitive issue in that area."

Frisbie said the reason the cork trees were cut not actually because of the sidewalk project. "Just looking at the sidewalk itself," he said, "we could have redesigned the sidewalk to avoid removing the trees." But the project to realign the entrance to Sherwood Road – due to start next year – will require Caltrans "to push the traffic signal poles over, and when we did that, the trees would have been partially blocking the traffic signal poles. It would've caused an obstruction, and my understanding was, even with trimming them, they would've continued to interfere with the visual of the traffic signal."

"So, even though we could've built the sidewalk without removing the trees, they would've still had to come out next year. So, we decided we'd pull them out now, and it made installation of the sidewalk easier."

Moore said she'd asked Caltrans – at a previously scheduled meeting Tuesday morning at Willits City Hall that included new District 1 Director Matt Brady – to provide a list of any trees the highway agency believes need to be taken out before they start the rest of the sidewalk project next summer.

"It is most likely there will be some trees that will need to be removed," Frisbie said. "We have spoken with city officials, and will work with them to approve any trees that might need to be removed for the relinquishment project."

"I understand if a tree has to come out," Watts said. "The urban landscape is the toughest place for a tree to be; there are so many conflicts. But we need to have some disclosure. If Caltrans and city staff say there's nothing we can do to save these cork oaks, OK, I don't like it, but I understand. But that was not offered at all, and we assumed at least there would be time for discussion."

Frisbie did say that – as the city had requested – Caltrans was giving the city back the main logs from the downed cork trees. "Either today [Wednesday] or tomorrow, the logs were going to be delivered to the city's corporation yard, for whatever they want to re-use them for." Based on an employee's count of the rings, Frisbie said, Caltrans estimated the cork trees were between 50 and 75 years old.

Watts said the cork trees, Quercus suber, are Mediterranean trees, native to Spain and Portugal. "Cork oaks live for over 200 years," he said. "The bark from the trees has been used for centuries to make corks for wine bottles. Fifteen years after they plant a cork oak, they do the first 'corking,' and every seven years they can go back and strip the bark and cork it." Watts said the bark makes cork oaks fire-resistant – "like our redwoods. That's why the tree has the bark, as an adaptive survival mechanism, and then man has found his own use for it."

A memorial service for the cork oaks is planned for Saturday, June 24, at 10 am on North Main Street in front of Willits High School "where 'Corky' and his relatives lived their wonderful lives," Watts said. "Please give any donations in Corky's memory to your favorite charity, just as Corky gave his life freely to all who crossed his path."

# Eel River dams relicensing process has started

It's time to relicense the two dams on the Eel River's upper mainstem, and people who want to be part of the process can comment now. That's the takeaway from a presentation by Friends of the Eel River and American Whitewater held last Saturday afternoon at the Willits Center for the Arts.

About 25 people attended the presentation, including three county supervisors. Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey was there, as was First District Supervisor Carre Brown and Second District Supervisor John McCowen. Potter Valley rancher and water politics guru Janet Pauli was also present.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is responsible for licensing energy-producing dams in the United States. On the Upper Mainstem of the Eel River, two dams are regulated by FERC: Scott Dam, which backs up water in Lake County to form Lake Pillsbury, and the Cape Horn Dam, located in Mendocino County about 10 miles south of Hearst, which holds water collected and released by Scott Dam back to form the Van Arsdale Reservoir. Stored water in the Van Arsdale Reservoir is sent into a tunnel connecting the Eel River Basin and the Russian River Basin.

On the Potter Valley side of the tunnel, the water turns turbines to generate a modest amount of electricity. The water then flows into the Russian River, where, according to Pauli, it becomes part of the water supply used for industrial, agricultural, recreational and domestic use by some 600,000 people, from Potter Valley, to Lake Mendocino, to Ukiah, Santa Rosa and Marin County.

According to American Whitewater's California Stewardship Director Theresa Simsman, the relicensing process generally takes 10 to 12 years. The current license for the Potter Valley Project expires in April 2022. FERC sent out its first scoping document on June 1, which began the relicensing process.

The first license for the Potter Valley Project was issued in 1922, for 50 years. In 1972, a new relicensing process was begun. It encountered problems in the mid-1980s, when the influence of the environmental movement were felt, and people began to demand agencies do more to protect the natural world.

In 1983, FERC made PG&E undertake a 10-year study to determine adequate flows in the Eel River below Cape Horn Dam. Then, in the mid-1990s, the National Marine Fisheries Service began to list various anadromous fish as threatened and endangered. NMFS shouldered its way into a power position in the relicensing struggle, and ordered the flows which had been established as safe by various California agencies be lowered still further. In 2004, NMFS issued its "Reasonable and Prudent Flow" report, which set summer release levels from Scott and Cape Horn dams at levels that would (in its opinion) balance needs in the Eel and Russian River basins.

At the June 17 meeting, Friends of the Eel River Executive Director Scott Greacen told the audience the Potter Valley Project has numerous liabilities which make decommissioning of the two dams desirable, at least to members of the Friends of the Eel River.

First, the project is not terribly valuable as a source of energy. "Its maximum output of electricity is 9.4 megawatts, but that is almost never achieved," Greacen said. "Under the constraints of the National Marine Fisheries Service's listing of threatened and endangered species in the Eel River, power production has dropped to about two-thirds of historic levels. Five acres of solar panels would more than replace the small amount of energy generated by the project."

Secondly, the project diverts a lot of Eel River water. Friends of the Eel River staff said measurements collected on Friday, June 16 (only one day before the symposium at the Center for the Arts), indicated inflow into Van Arsdale Reservoir was 201 cubic feet per second. Flow over the dam and into the Eel River was 69 CFS. Flow into the tunnel and into the Russian River Basin was 130 CFS.

In other words, on June 16, the Potter Valley Project was diverting 64.6 percent of Eel River flows (much of that having been collected and released from Lake Pillsbury) into the Russian River basin.

Greacen said it is common for the percentage of flows diverted into the Russian to be higher than 64 percent. "Currently up to 80 to 90 percent of the water arriving at Cape Horn Dam can be and often is diverted into the Potter Valley Project," he said.

Thirdly, decommissioning the two dams would be an important step toward improving the habitat in the upper Eel.

According to an information sheet prepared by Friends of the Eel River: "Removing Scott Dam would allow access to more than 250 stream miles of prime spawning habitat." The sheet described removing the dams as the "single most important step we can take" toward securing the future of salmon and steelhead in the Eel River basin.

The sheet also claimed the "interdam reach" – the region between the two dams – "functions as an ecological trap for young salmon and steelhead."

A fourth point touched upon by Greacen was dam safety. Greacen gave a quick tutorial on how Scott Dam was built in the 1920s. There was a huge boulder, called The Knocker, which lay on a hillside above the Eel River in 1919, upon which dam engineers had planned to affix the dam. But in November 1920, there was a big rainstorm, The Knocker sagged, then fell to the bottom of the ravine.

Engineers responded by changing the direction of the dam. Two-thirds of the way across the body of the dam, the dam bends, leaving a crease or an angle in the face of the dam. Greacen said a close review of the dam's performance indicates the dam is leaking.

Greacen added the federal government has declared that information about certain energy-producing facilities – including the

Potter Valley Project – is critical to the nation's survival, and has designated that information as CEII (critical energy infrastructure information), making it unavailable to the public.

If a member of the public is lucky enough to see the information, that person must agree he or she will not share the information with anyone else.

As a result of the project's CEII designation, Greacen said, project opponents, supporters and the public are kept from reviewing critical information about the project. Part of that forbidden information focuses on safety plans in the event of a catastrophic dam failure.

Some members of the public are aware PG&E, which owns the project, does have safety plans, but they cannot know if those plans are adequate because they cannot see them.

Willits Environmental Center board member David Drell asked Greacen if he knew how much time downstream communities would have to evacuate in the event of a catastrophic failure of Scott Dam. Greacen replied the front wave would hit Hearst one hour after dam failure; would hit Dos Rios four hours after failure; and would hit Scotia six hours and 45 minutes after the dam gave way.

Greacen pointed to February's Oroville Dam crisis as a "wake-up call" to the dangers of dams. After a winter of near record-setting rains, high water levels in Lake Oroville forced dam operators to release water through an emergency spillway, which was overwhelmed with water. High water volumes eroded the base of the spillway, and the resulting hole began to eat into the underlying dam structure.

A sample letter written by Friends of the Eel River as a guide for what concerned citizens can write to FERC argued: "The Oroville Dam crisis has shown we cannot assume even recently relicensed dams are safe."

Pauli asked Greacen if he had any confidence in the annual evaluations of Scott Dam issued by the California Division of Dam Safety. Greacen replied that he had no confidence in those reports.

Contacted after the talk, Pauli acknowledged that Friends of the Eel River/American Whitewater presentation was powerful, but said it didn't present the whole story.

She reviewed some of the history of the last time the Potter Valley Project was relicensed, a process that took 32 years. "What the Friends of the Eel River fail to mention is that the flows released from Lake Pillsbury are calibrated by very complex formulas designed to mimic natural flows. Those flows are changing all the time, depending on what time of year it is, and what kind of water year it is.

"For example," she said, "in the spring, in most years, the diversion is minimal. In the winter, it is a non-event. PG&E must shut the project down in the winter when flows are above 7,000 cubic feet per second, because the equipment can't deal with that kind of flow.

"In the summer, the flows are regulated to produce natural flows below Cape Horn Dam while, at the same time, producing electricity and providing usable water for the 600,000 people who live below the project on the Russian River side."

Pauli agreed with Greacen's concerns about the information blackout caused by the CEII designation. "There's no reason at all why PG&E and the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services can't release some account of the emergency action plan that is out there. If I lived where some of these folks do – along the Eel River in these little communities – I would want to know the basic parameters of the action plan. The people downstream should have some assurance that plans do exist. They need to know where to go and how much time they have, those kinds of things. I can't believe that we can't have that kind of information."

First District Supervisor Carre Brown said in some years the Potter Valley Project had a positive impact on fish. "If we hadn't had Lake Pillsbury during the drought, fish would have been in more trouble than they were," Brown said. "Take for example the water that we worked on and released in 2015, when the Eel was darn near bone-dry. We never would have had that water to release if we didn't have those two dams and the two lakes."

Greacen urged interested people to get involved in the relicensing process. "If we don't raise issues, we miss our chance to comment," he said.

American Whitewater's Simsman told the audience the most effective way for people to participate is as part of a group which has aligned itself with a state or federal agency. "Align yourself with an agency, because they are your big stick," she said. "They are 4E agencies and they have the ability to tell PG&E what to do."

Simsman was referring to Section 4e of the Federal Power Act, which requires FERC to take into consideration other beneficial uses of water that is being used to generate hydroelectric power, including irrigation, flood control, water supply, recreation and other aspects of environmental quality.

Examples of 4E agencies are California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

FERC will hold two public meetings on the scoping document in Ukiah on June 28. The meetings are at 9 am for stakeholders and at 6 pm for the public.

Deadline for comment on this first phase of finalizing the scoping document is August 4.

FERC can be contacted by writing Kimberley Rose, secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426; or by emailing FERC at <https://ferc.gov/docs-filing/comment.asp>.

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Below: Families enjoy their time at the Ohl Grove.

At right: Chris, with Karyn and Ayden, lounges on the lawn.

Far right: Abigail Penelope Sherf helps with the concessions.

At right, below: Viewers watch "Sing" at Movies in the Grove.

Photos by Mathew Caine



# Outdoor Viewing

Brooktrails Neighborhood Association organizes kid-friendly Movies in the Grove

There were kids everywhere – running around, blowing bubbles, laughing, twirling glow sticks – and, oh, yeah, there was a movie as well. The movie, "Sing," starring the voices of Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Jennifer Hudson, Scarlett Johansson and others, was a delightful tale of a koala entrepreneur who attempts to stage a talent show in order to save his theater. There were many laughs and a few tears, but it was enjoyable all the way through.

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This family-friendly event is the creation of the Brooktrails Neighborhood Association, designed to bring the people of the community together to celebrate summer. Last summer, gatherings of up to 200 people enjoyed the movies in the Ohl Grove. They spread out their blankets, set up chairs, had a picnic dinner, and enjoyed the al fresco movies under the stars. "We brought mac and cheese," said young Sofia Vacarro, "we had four boxes."

Ashley Sherf, one of the organizers of Movies in the Grove, explained: "We sell concessions – candy, popcorn, soda, glow sticks and bubbles. The proceeds go to fund other free events or to the newly renovated playground. Also, by coming to this event, people can hear about the other work we are involved in. We also do the Easter egg and pumpkin hunts here in the grove."

The Brooktrails Neighborhood Association intends to do one movie a month throughout the summer. Come early with a picnic dinner. Movies begin at dusk. Keep up with association happenings on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BrooktrailsNeighborhood](http://www.facebook.com/BrooktrailsNeighborhood).



Above, left: Ashley Sherf, an organizer for Movies in the Grove, works the concessions stand.

Above, right: A little one has fun with bubbles.

Far left: Erin Vacarro blows bubbles for the kids.

At left: The concessions crew – Isabella Simms, Abigail Penelope Sherf, Ananda Da Cruz, Sofia Vacarro and Audrey Sherf – offer candy, popcorn, soda, glow sticks and bubbles.

The rest of Choices | From Page 1

for the fiscal year starting July 1. The councilmembers are expected to vote on the budget at their next meeting on June 28, but only to potentially approve it as a "work in progress," with monthly Finance Committee meetings to follow to continue to assess the situation.

At a May 23 budget workshop, one potential budget plan projected a \$714,342 deficit, and councilmembers considered making drastic cuts to bring it down. They ended up approving more modest reductions to reduce the deficit to \$635,204 at that earlier meeting.

The projected general fund deficit was then lowered further by pulling out of projects including a \$100,000 remodel of the City Hall restrooms to ensure Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and \$80,000 for continued work at Bud Snyder Park. City Manager Adrienne Moore told the council the plan was to look for other sources of funding for these projects, such as grants or loans.

The \$398,748 deficit would bring down the general reserve fund to an estimated 35 percent of annual expenditures by the end of the fiscal year in June 2018, the minimum amount set by city policy.

It could be the second straight year of deficit spending for Willits. At a meeting in March, city staff was projecting a deficit for the current fiscal year (ending June 30), of \$389,000 which would drop the reserve amount from about 53 percent to 47 percent.

Councilmember Ron Orenstein said he had been experimenting with the numbers to see what a 10 to 20 percent cut across the board on all line items would look like.

"We are at the point where we can't cut anymore," said Moore. "It's come down to if you want to cut further that's fine, but it's going to have to be in the way of services."

Moore and others also pointed to some potential new sources of revenue for the city in the near future, such as the city cannabis ordinance (which is also expected to come to a vote at the council's next meeting) and new housing projects.

"We have some very promising revenue indicators on the horizon," said Moore. "So, I'm very concerned we're going to be so focused on this number right now that we're going to lose sight of the bigger picture. And now is not the time to lose sight of that."

"We have managed our scarce resources very well," she said. "We took a big hit, and we knew that was coming. Right now, we've got to stay focused on what can we do to generate revenue."

Orenstein agreed about potential future revenue. "It looks probably more optimistic than I ever remember it looking in the past. I'm confident that we're going to cover this, and we're going to be fine by the end of the fiscal year."

Still he urged for caution given the uncertain times for the city.

"Our job up here is to respect and support [city] staff and everything you guys are doing, and I do," he said. "But we also have a responsibility to not spend any more money than we have to.... I don't want to cut services, but sometimes there are sacrifices that have to be made."

Councilmember Larry Stranske felt strongly that a more conservative "bare bones" approach to the budget was appropriate until more revenue started coming in.

"The thing that keeps bothering me is that everybody says all this [revenue] is on the horizon," argued Stranske. "How soon is the horizon? I am not one that spends the money if I know that it's not coming in.... I think we ought to know and have the money in hand before we start committing to things."

But Rodriguez argued the city needed to have a business-oriented

approach and invest in the community in order to see more revenue come in. She and Moore noted the assistant to the planning department the city plans to hire would be necessary to process more permit applications and increase efficiency.

"If you don't have a plan for the future, if you don't put things in place, if we don't have somebody to help with the planning, how do we expect to drive revenue?" Rodriguez asked. "As a business owner, you must work harder and invest, and risk a little, so you can create a brighter future."

"I don't think slashing services is the answer," she continued. "A 35 percent reserve is still a very healthy reserve for the City of Willits, and it still gives us an opportunity for another year to try and invest in our community. I think we owe it to the community to have some hope, and have some vision about where we're going."

Gonzalez felt with all the changes the city is going through, revisiting the budget situation monthly was prudent.

"There are still a lot of unknowns that are coming in," he said, "and because there's a little bit of a moving target there, we'll continue to keep our finger on the pulse. My biggest concern was at a \$600,000 [deficit] we would be looking at layoffs next year – guaranteed."

"If we address it and continue to address it, then I think it sends a message to staff, to the public, and to ourselves that it's an ongoing problem and we're dealing with it. And it gives us all a chance to weigh in as we go on."

## Test well contract

The council also unanimously approved a construction contract with Weeks Drilling & Pump Company to construct a new test well and perform water quality and production testing.

Moore said the test well is part of a long-term plan to supply Willits with potable groundwater, which would reduce the city's dependency on surface water, improve water quality, reduce operational costs, and provide a backup source in the event of an emergency such as an earthquake.

City Engineer Andrea Trincado also explained some of the benefits of having groundwater as a supplement to the council.

"Groundwater offers a lot of benefits to our current water supply," she said. "Our surface water is prone to seasonal water-quality issues [such as algae].... Use of groundwater during summer season would introduce a clean, fresh, cold source of water, and blending the two would increase the water supply up at the reservoir, which would help the algae situation as well."

The vote was unanimous despite some of councilmembers expressing misgivings during discussion about the project's financial and environmental impacts.

The project was budgeted for 2016/17, but delayed due to weather, and Finance Director Susie Holmes told the council it would cost an additional \$25,000 to move forward with the project in the 2017/18 fiscal year.

Orenstein emphasized the importance of having backup water sources given the recent history of droughts in the area. "There were a couple of years where our reservoir got down to maybe 100 days' worth of supply and then we're dredging the bottom of the thing," he said. "It was dangerous."

He noted a Bartle Wells study during the heart of the drought that presented the council with several options to ensure a healthy water supply in the future, and "the only one that made sense was drilling wells."

"This is the smart thing for us to do looking forward ... to create this redundant system that will give us water security going into the future. It's an investment. Historically it's worked out OK."

The rest of SEIU | From Page 1

smallest labor union, with nine members.

In addition to the 6 percent total raise, the SEIU contract offers a longevity entitlement of 1 percent after 10 years, another 1 percent after 15 years, and another 1 percent after 20 years. The MCLEMA contract offers a longevity entitlement of 2.5 percent at 15 years, 5 percent at 20 years and 7.5 percent at 25 years.

Both contracts will provide no increase in employee healthcare premiums.

Approval of the contracts means that county government employees are still working for below their 2007 pay scale. In that year, new contracts were approved with many government bargaining units, including SEIU.

In September and October 2008, the U.S. economy experienced a financial meltdown and several large banks collapsed. By 2010, the county faced a severe shortage of cash and credit. County employees accepted furloughs and a voluntary 10 percent pay cut. The pay cut continued through 2011 and 2012.

In 2014, the county gave employees a one-time payment of \$1,200. The following year, the county restored 3 percent of the 10 percent cut (plus payment of another \$1,200 to each employee), and in 2016 restored another 2 percent (plus a payment of \$1,000 per employee).

As of June 1 – leaving aside the one-time payments – county employees were still working at 5 percent below 2007 levels.

Adoption of the new contracts means that

The rest of Sanhedrin | From Page 1

class, construction class. They're not passing science and math and social studies and some of those. That's what we can fix at Sanhedrin."

Sanhedrin, he said, is currently designated a continuation high school, "which literally means you continue what you were doing at the high school, just in a different building."

But Westerburg said: "There is nothing more crazy in the educational world than sending a student at the high school, who's a year behind or more on credits, over to Sanhedrin to a continuation school. You tell them to 'keep doing what you're doing, and you've still got to get 230 credits when you're a year behind and – by the way – it's a shorter day over there."

"So, we tell them to get more credits and give them a shorter day. That's not going to happen. So, what happens," he said, "is we end up trying to create crazy credits and do all kinds of stuff we don't need to do. We need to have a true alternative to the high school, and that's what Sanhedrin should be."

There was also unanimous approval for the 2017/2018 school year budget. The budget reflected a \$955,914 funding shortfall, which Westerburg acknowledged would mean WUSD was "definitely spending fund balance." However, he added, the district was still in good shape and, now that negotiations were over with the teachers' union, the district had "two years of no negotiations and could concentrate on student performance and academics, not paychecks."

An alternative education "is a different program than what the high school offers," Westerburg explained. "Sanhedrin will have a different set of criteria for graduation. It will also have a designation of 'vocational alternative education' where you sign up for a career pathway."

Fewer credits would be required to graduate from Sanhedrin than from Willits High School (where students are in an "A to G" college prep program), but state requirements would still be met. Graduates, Westerburg said, could still go to a community college or "even a state college," and they would have CTE (career/technical education) certification. "Instead of doing things like 'Let's give them work experience and try to figure out credit,' they're going to have jobs their whole lives ... some type of skill when they leave the building."

An additional benefit of creating an alternative high school, he explained, is that a student could go directly from Baechtel Grove Middle School to Sanhedrin. "If we have a child who said, 'I want to do ag. I want to take every ag class. I want to go to Sanhedrin, do my required classes that I have to do, and I want to take every ag class possible,' they could go to Sanhedrin and graduate."

Trustees approved the change unanimously.

In other actions, trustees also approved an updated policy regarding instruction on controversial issues. The policy recognizes there are some issues that "may arouse strong reactions based on personal values and beliefs, political policy, culture, religion, or other influences," and directs that instruction concerning such topics "should be designed to develop students' critical thinking skills, ability to discriminate between fact and opinion, respect for others, and understanding and tolerance of diverse points of view."

Westerburg emphasized that policy precludes teachers from advocating personal opinions or showing bias, noting teachers are "representing the district" when they instruct students and must "present both sides" of an issue. That the policy also applies to presentations by guest speakers, he added.

Nearny noted that while the new policy "was controversial in and of itself," it was an improvement because it provided "clarity with respect to responsibilities."

The board also approved unanimously the district's LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan), described by Westerburg as "a 40- to 50-page monster of a document" that shows how extra money received from the state is

after July 1, SEIU and MCLEMA members will be working for wages that are still 2 percent less than what they earned in 2007. The second year of the contract will increase wages to 1 percent more than 2007 levels.

Despite the paucity of the wage hike, both union representatives and county officials seemed happy with the outcome. SEIU Mendocino County Chapter President Kort Pettersen thanked county officials, and board of supervisors Chairman John McCowen said he was happy the two-year agreement was reached so quickly.

County Human Resources Director Heidi Dunham explained why the county has recently favored substantial one-time payments of money rather than agreeing to fatter contracts. "It's because we used one-time money. It's a principle we adhere to – we don't use one-time money for ongoing costs, like salaries. But you can use one-time money for one-time payments, and so that's what we did."

In 2014, county employee and SEIU member Helen Michael said the \$1,200 payment was equal for many employees to a 3 percent pay hike.

"We made progress," said SEIU Mendocino County Chapter Field Representative Aaron Burton. "We didn't get everything we wanted, but we struck a balance, I think, getting the wage hike, plus the one-time payment, plus the longevity bonus. With all that, we're hoping we'll be able to keep more employees here. We still have the highest turnover of any comparable county, and we want to work on that."

being spent to benefit at-risk students (defined as students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals, in foster care, or English-language learners).

That money comprises approximately 14.4 percent of the budget, or \$2.8 million, and is given to Willits Unified because more than 55 percent of its students are considered at-risk. In fact, the LCAP identifies 74 percent of Willits students as socioeconomically disadvantaged and 13 percent as English-language learners.

Westerburg provided some examples of how the money was being spent, including physical education instruction at the elementary school, and art and music teachers at Baechtel Grove Middle School. He said the "good news" is that Willits' large percentage of socioeconomically disadvantaged students helps everybody. "Every child benefits from art and music."

The end of that negotiation process was also marked at the meeting by unanimous ratification of the collective bargaining agreement with the Willits Teachers Association. While acknowledging "both sides should be congratulated," Nearny suggested ground rules should be developed prior to the next negotiation, particularly with respect to confidentiality. He added he "would like to know" how the rank and file felt about the agreement, as the WTA didn't provide percentages. Was there "grudging or enthusiastic acceptance? If 51 percent of the rank and file approved, that is different than 90 percent," he said.

Westerburg agreed there would be different ground rules next time about what's confidential and about timing. He said the process shouldn't be seen as "the board doesn't like teachers. It's not about you or me. It's about a budget. It's a business proposition."

He added he had spoken with teachers, and "they're really happy it's done. The vast majority didn't like the drama that goes with it.... Double stepping for two years in a row [a step represents a salary increase based on length of service] and given more to pay for their health care than they had previously is a good thing for them."

There were no teachers present at the board meeting.

The board also ratified the collective bargaining agreement with the California Schools Employees Association. Westerburg said he was pleased the parties had worked well together in that negotiation process.

Trustees also applauded Willits' Les Schwab Tire Center for donating two "badly needed" softball and baseball scoreboards. The scoreboards, dedicated to Coach David Kline for his 32 years of service, "are a huge addition to the field, totally donated by Les Schwab.... They're wireless. It's a little box, and you sit in the dugout and go ding. It's very cool," said Westerburg.

The board was down one member; a replacement for Trustee Georgeanne Croskey, recently appointed to the county board of supervisors, will not be chosen until the board's August 2 meeting.

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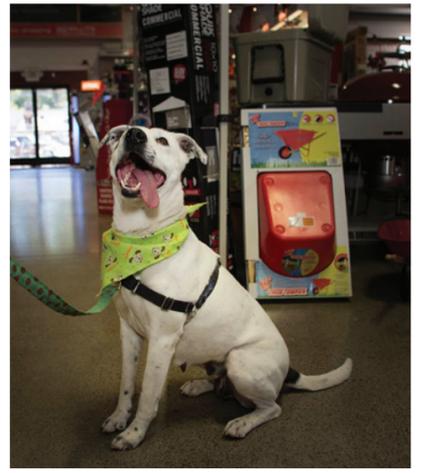
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At top, from left: Delilah is happy to be out and about. Pi and Aaron take a break from wrestling. Zoey, a hound-Lab mix, is eager to meet her new family.

Above: Volunteers wrangle adoptive dogs – Denise Mattos with Murphey, Kathy Shipley with Delilah, Hillary Ames with Zoey, and Linda Schwede with Wayne.

At right: Willits Power and Hardware hosts a Rascal's Rescue animal adoption event.

At right, center: Wayne, the undersized mastiff, is ready for his forever home.

Photos by Mathew Caine



## Rascal to the Rescue

Willits Power and Hardware hosts animal adoption event

"Please spay and neuter your animals. Puppies are cute, but we don't need more of them," said

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Hillary Ames, volunteer and past employee at the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County. The Humane Society brought four dogs and two cats to the "Rascal's Rescue" adoption event at Willits Power and Hardware last Saturday.

Rascal's Rescue was started by Willits Power's Misty Gonzales who wanted to create a way to help finance emergency pet care for families in need. When Gonzales had to make the choice to pay for an expensive surgery or have to put down one of her beloved pets, she didn't want anyone else to have to face that decision.

"I know that so many families face these tough questions and the strain financially it can put on a person," said Gonzales.

Rascal's Rescue was formed to help bring awareness to spay and neuter needs and to help with financial aid, offering the ability to provide

pets with a second chance – including forever homes.

If the animals' friendly demeanor and desire to get petted on Saturday was any indication, they were eager to find a loving home with a family or single person who will take good care of them.

Every adoption came with a free bag of food and a free checkup with a participating veterinarian. The animals have also been spayed or neutered and micro-chipped, and are up-to-date on their vaccinations.

"This event is to get more of our animals out into the public," explained Ames. "We're kind of back into the woods, so not many people get a chance to visit us on site. We want prospective adopters to see them."

HSIMC currently has approximately 20 dogs, 20 adult cats and 30 kittens. "We encourage the public to come and socialize with the animals and volunteer," said Ames. "Volunteering is easy and fun. You need to fill out some paperwork and attend our mandatory dog-walking orientation, which we hold on Sundays at 11 am. The animals would love to meet you. You can give them treats."

Kids can volunteer if they are age 16 or older, or accompanied by an adult. "We have a lot of land for [the animals] to run around on, and we have wading pools in the summer. They love to get wet and dirty," continued Ames.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is a no-kill shelter, where the animals stay until a home is found for them. HSIMC is open Wednesday through Friday, 1 pm to 5 pm and weekends, 11 am to 3 pm. The shelter is located in Redwood Valley at 9700 Uva Drive, off of the West Road exit. To find out more, you can visit the website, [www.mendohumane.org](http://www.mendohumane.org), see them on Facebook, email them at [hsimc@pacific.net](mailto:hsimc@pacific.net), or call 707-485-0123.



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