

Willits Weekly

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State cuts Brooktrails water rights

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Brooktrails must immediately stop diverting water flowing into the district's two reservoirs, Lake Emily and Lake Ada Rose, according to a June 30 State Water Resources Control Board letter.

The letter said the water board was acting in response to drought conditions which have made water supplies in the northwestern part of the state too low to meet the needs of both pre-1914 and post-1914 water rights holders.

"The state water board has determined that the existing water supply in the North Fork Eel River, Main Stem Eel River and the Van Duzen tributary is insufficient to meet the needs of senior water rights holders. With this notice, the water board is notifying all holders of post-1914 water rights of the need to immediately stop diverting under their water rights, with the exceptions noted below. This condition of

Read the rest of **Water**

Over on Page 13

Brooktrails passes resolutions explaining sewer dispute

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The Brooktrails directors Tuesday unanimously approved two resolutions explaining why the township will continue to pay the City of Willits a portion of strongly contested fees for ongoing waste water treatment.

Both resolutions insist any payments Brooktrails makes to Willits in no way imply the township is admitting guilt or has made an error in its assertions that Willits has done wrong to Brooktrails.

"All payments made in the current fiscal year to the city shall be made with full reservation of rights and no waiver of position shall be inferred by the district making any payments hereunder," both resolutions state.

To understand the significance of the resolutions, it is necessary to recapitulate some of the history between Willits and Brooktrails.

According to one resolution, the worst part of the trouble between the two entities started in

Read the rest of **Sewer**

Over on Page 13



A cowboy tries to hold on to the bucking bronco during the CCPRA rodeo

Caltrans has not stopped bypass construction work - yet

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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Caltrans has not yet suspended construction work on the Willits bypass project, and after a long Wednesday afternoon meeting with the Army Corps, the decision has been put off yet another day.

Caltrans said Monday that it would suspend virtually all construction work on the Willits bypass project if the Army Corps of Engineers did not reinstate its suspended 404 permit by end of day Tuesday.

But Tuesday afternoon, Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie announced the decision to suspend the project had been delayed for a day, until after a Wednesday afternoon meeting with Caltrans.

Frisbie told Willits Weekly Wednesday evening that the Army Corps has asked Caltrans for a formal response, in writing, by Thursday morning, to three requirements the Corps laid out in a Tuesday, July 8 letter, for Caltrans to be able to resume construction on the Willits bypass.

"We have a commitment from the Corps," Frisbie said, "that after they receive our formal letter, they will make a ruling tomorrow [Thursday] one way or another. Either we are back in full construction mode tomorrow, or we are still suspended."

Frisbie said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty, District 1 Director Charlie Fielder, and Willits bypass project manager Mauricio Serrano attended Wednesday's meeting with the Corps.

Army Corps spokesman J.D. Hardesty told Willits Weekly on Wednesday: "We met with Caltrans, and we're still working through the issues, or trying to find solutions. Those discussions are ongoing."

The three requirements in the July 8 Army Corps letter are: "The Corps will ... allow resumption of all construction activities on the Willits Bypass only after 1.) completion of fencing, water lines and grazing exclusion on all 404 mitigation parcels, 2.) receipt of the documentation for initiation of seed collection and plant propagation, and 3.) receipt of a revised project description reducing fill in wetlands or a detailed Mitigation and Monitoring Plan that is acceptable to the Corps."

Frisbie said Caltrans could comply with the first two items by the end of July, but that item No. 3 "could take at least six months. We can't wait six months on this project, that's not acceptable," he

Read the rest of **Bypass**

Over on Page 13

Parade, Rodeos & Fun



Willits Frontier Days Parade Results

Thanks to everyone who participated in the parade this year, and congratulations to the winners, listed below:

Horse Categories!

Novelty Costume: 1st place: Lonnie Sloan

Plain Western: 1st place: Claire Moyle

Working Western: 1st place: Ginger Franklin; 2nd place: Jessica Cronin and Caleb & Ashley Griggs; 3rd place: Jaden Doak and Alexis Johnson

Mounted Group: 1st Place: Vaqueros Mexicanos; 2nd place: Willits Horsemen Association; 3rd

place: Mendocino County Sheriff's Mounted Posse and Search & Rescue K-9 Unit

Family Group: 1st place: Junior Bear Ranch; 2nd place: Wonderland Fairies and Cowboy; 3rd place: Ronna & Jessica Lewis

Ethel Clatty Award: Ronna & Jessica Lewis

Read the rest of **Parade** Over on Page 4



Above: Black Bart Gunfighters. Below: Willits Frontier Days' Tylor Yadon. Bottom: Roots of Motive Power.



Top: Miss Mendocino Kassy Aldaco rides in the parade. Above: Junior Rodeo Bud Suttles award-winner Gunner Cogburn stands with Beau, Tim, Jaiden and Justin Suttles. Below: A young cowboy rides a rather "rank" little calf in the junior rodeo.

Photos by Maureen Moore



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Thanks to volunteers

To the Editor:

As you know, the Haehl Creek Trail is open. So this letter is to thank publicly the volunteers whose hard work has made its construction possible.

Our volunteers (we call them "Trail Rovers") include the American Legion, Tom & Laura Allman, Don & Ann Alumbaugh, Mike & Laura Aplet, Keith & Lotus Baker, Rachel Belvin, the Boy Scouts, Linda Buletti & Bruce Burton, Martha Carroll, Rachel Cash, Misty Cook, Paula Day, Jed Diamond, Alan Falleri & Patty Bruder, Erin Fitzpatrick, Ken & Cathy Gott, Jeff & Julie Harris, Laura Herman, Shelby Hermosillo Medina, Lil Hoaglen, Keith & Ananda Johnson, Jann Lamprich, Tory Lawrence, Linda Meyerhoff, Roxanne Lemos-Neese, Freddie Long, David & Bonnie Madrigal, Gabe & Holly Madrigal, Kyle Madrigal, Ed Mitchell, Val Nordeman, Linc North, North Valley Bank, Tom & Grace Parker, Hillary Renick, Gail Richards, Javier Silva, Jerry & Sandy Turner, Verd Vanbezooyen, Kris Wagner, Brad Walton, Richard Willoughby, Tom Woodhouse and Carolyn Wyatt.

Thanks also to Willits Weekly for your excellent, ongoing editorial support of this project.

Again, the Haehl Creek Trail would not be possible without the hard work of our Trail Rovers. Please thank these friends and neighbors when you see them. Now go bike, hike, walk or ride horseback on the Haehl Creek Trail. And please tell your family, friends and neighbors about it.

Thank you.

Larry Stropes, Willits

Balancing transportation and environment

To the Editor:

I'll be honest, I never thought much about "the environment" until my wife, Carlin, and I moved to Willits in 1991. I was born in New York City, grew up in Los Angeles, and spent a lot of my adult life in the San Francisco Bay area. Transportation was always the most important issue for me. I needed to get back and forth to work, and I needed a car to do that. When we bought a small house 10 miles north of Willits, we still needed a car to drive into town to shop and to work.

When I first heard about the Willits bypass, I wasn't in favor or opposed. It didn't appear to greatly improve transportation needs, and the little bypass-route lines drawn on maps didn't appear to have a major impact on the environment. That all changed on January 23, 2013, when I joined 18 other people who took a tour of the bypass route sponsored by the community group, Save Our Little Lake Valley (SOLLV). For the first time, I could actually see and feel the damage that a freeway would cause to the environment.

Slowly at first, then more rapidly as time went on, I began to see that the losses of the natural environment – the wetlands, the fish, the animals, the trees – weren't balanced by the benefits of creating a freeway to bypass Willits. This shift in perception culminated on June 26, 2014 when a group of Native Americans came to Willits as part of the American Indian Spiritual Marathons which have been taking place each year since 1978.

Teams from various Native American tribal groups completed a 500 mile, six-day run that began at the Pitt River Nation near Burney, California and culminated in Willits. According to Director John T. Mallory Jr.: "This is a spiritual relay following the tradition of early Native American runners and is based on ceremony. Our theme and message this year has to do with the responsibility to preserve and protect all waterways."

The group joined local citizens in Willits City Park to unite in support of modifying the Caltrans bypass to preserve

Native American historical sites and preserve the wetlands that would be destroyed by the freeway. Caltrans admitted it had destroyed a major Pomo village site and failed to notify the tribes as required by law.

Last week, just before all construction involving wetlands and waterways was halted by the Army Corp of Engineers, Caltrans operators disturbed yet another ancestral site, again failing to properly notify native monitors, and continuing work after artifacts were found. Priscilla Hunter, Coyote Valley tribal representative said: "The Army Corps' decision to halt work on the Caltrans' Willits bypass did not address tribal concerns, nor did it notify or follow protocol regarding violations."

I was deeply touched by many of the speakers including 14-year-old Miguel who had run 100 miles per day while praying for healing, in support of his twin brother who had died, and in support of his native culture and the environment. We all need to be reminded that the quality of life of our children and grandchildren is being determined by the decisions we make today.

My wife and I have five children and 14 grandchildren. Listening to Miguel, this dedicated young man, putting his body on the line in support of a better future, made me think about what I want for my own grandchildren, and all grandchildren, in the coming years. On balance I want them to have more water, more land to grow food, more fish, more animals, and more beauty. We'll always need transportation, but it shouldn't overshadow these other needs.

Native Americans and local citizens aren't the only ones concerned about the impact of the Caltrans bypass. On June 20, 2014, the Army Corps of Engineers, which is mandated to assure no net loss of wetlands, suspended Caltrans' permit due to serious, ongoing violations, including delays in mitigation and lack of assured funding. According to local resident, Madge Strong, who spoke to the assembled group on June 26, 2014: "the Army Corps of Engineers estimates that 85 percent of the damage to wetlands and rivers was done, while only 5 percent of the mitigation was done."

According to a June 26, 2014 article in Willits Weekly, "Army Corps suspends permit for Willits bypass," the Army Corps suspension "prevents contractors from moving any more fill onto the northern interchange area of the bypass route," because "no additional permitted work within waters of the U.S., including wetlands, may occur on the bypass construction until Caltrans complies with the permit conditions."

Caltrans posted a letter of response on its Willits Bypass Project News website and wrote: "Caltrans staff were disappointed and surprised by the Corps decision to suspend the permit."

Sometimes the needs for transportation should take precedence, but at all times the needs of the environment should be heard. The environment is our life-support system, the legacy to our grandchildren. Water is essential to life, and we must do everything we can to have enough for future generations. There is a solution according to Madge Strong. "The simple design modification using the roundabout as the northern terminus of the bypass avoids an estimated 25-30 acres of fill and destruction of both wetlands and cultural sites. At the same time, it could reduce the need for so-called 'wetland creation areas,' with their own destruction, expense, and uncertainty of success."

I hope that everyone who is concerned about transportation and the environment will take time to think about the needs of kids like Miguel, and the needs of all our grandchildren. What would be best for them as we look to balance transportation and the environment? I can still hear the heart-beat of the drum and the songs of the Native Americans who came to Willits in support of our water, our land, and the world we all share. I hope that beat resonates in everyone's heart now, and forever.

Jed Diamond, Willits

to produce, shunting requests from us citizens and even requests from Congressman Jared Huffman, the water board, the Army Corps of Engineers (to name but a few). If they have those numbers (perhaps Caltrans has shared them with you), why won't they show them to the rest of us?

Here is what we do know to be true:

- Caltrans claimed that only a four-lane plan would qualify for Federal Highway Administration funding. We recently found out through a Freedom of Information Act request that this claim was never true. A two-lane, ground-level bypass would have qualified for federal funding. They lied – to the public, all the resource agencies, and to the federal court.

- Caltrans has \$300 billion in "deferred maintenance" (infrastructure maintenance and improvements to existing highways, overpasses, bridges, etc.) yet they can justify new construction? By the way, the Willits bypass is the costliest per mile highway project in California. This, for a 6 mile bypass around Willits that could have been accomplished at a fraction of the cost by constructing a two-lane ground-level bypass, and it would have been done by now!

- In the early '90s Caltrans re-striped the section of 101 south of the railroad track, overnight creating the bottleneck we have all endured since. There were many options available for Caltrans to fix that bottleneck, the funds for which were not connected to the bypass funding.... They chose not to take any of them. Well, until this years' restriping ... which brought us back to what had essentially been in place before. One wonders why they created a bottleneck only to "fix it" 20 years later when the bypass was a "done deal."

I learned long ago the principle that "if repeated often enough, many will assume a statement to be true." Caltrans has repeated, ad infinitum, that their design of the Willits bypass is the only solution. That downsizing is not an option. That only they, the experts, have the best plan for the rest of us. Why? And why do we continue to be the victims of government/corporate decisions without our consent?

I realize that many in the community just want to "move on with it" and are really tired of this fight. I am certainly one of those people. But, that said, I cannot abandon this last plea to all of you to object to the further destruction of our precious wetlands and the many Native American cultural sites beneath them. We do not need a four-lane interchange to connect a two-lane bypass to a two-lane highway heading north to Laytonville and beyond. Repeat: We do not need this!

Lastly, Caltrans' claim that it is costing them (i.e., us taxpayers) \$30,000 per day in delays due to the Corps of Engineers' suspension of their 404 permit. To my way of thinking, these delays are the result of Caltrans' poor budgeting and back-pedaling.

As most of us know by now, the Caltrans bypass was never about Willits. It was never about solving our local traffic problems. If it had been, it would at least have included an off-ramp for easy access to Highway 20. No, it has always been about interregional traffic needs ... big trucks moving big cargos from north to south and back.

If you agree with my plea to downsize the northern interchange, you can call or email those who have some influence over this, the final battle to save our life-sustaining wetlands:

Congressman Jared Huffman; (707) 962-0933; Field Rep: heather.gurewitz@mail.house.gov

U.S Army Corps of Engineers; (415) 503-6771; Jane Hicks: jane.m.hicks@usace.army.mil

Cultural Studies Office, Caltrans; (916) 653-6187; Anmarie Medin: anmarie.medin@dot.ca.gov

CA State Transportation Agency; (916) 323-5400; Kate White: kate.white@calsta.ca.gov

Northern Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; (707) 576-2220; Matthias St. John; matt.st.john@waterboards.ca.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein; (202) 224-3841; https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me

Tell them that you support the Army Corps' suspension of the 404 permit and that you want to downsize the northern interchange to preserve 40 acres of wetlands and the Native American cultural sites. Proud member of SOLLV (Save Our Little Lake Valley: www.savelittlelakevalley.org),

Freddie Long, Willits

COLUMN | Mendocino County Fisheries

Summer, water, and life

With the solstice recently passed and the onset of summer conditions coming on strong, the talk of water security and adequate supplies is a common and highly charged topic. Folks who have been blessed with strong wells for many years may find that last year's rainfall was not enough to recharge their aquifer. Other people who are not as fortunate have already started buying trucked water. One of Benjamin Franklin's often-quoted sayings "Only when the well runs dry do we know the true value of water" may ring

especially true this year.

What can we do as a community when water becomes so scarce that our daily lives are affected? Some people think that we need to create more storage, while others say we need to use less. In the absence of creating more storage immediately, our only option this summer is to use less. There have been workshops, news articles, and lists of water conservation tips on websites to mull over for the last 12 months or more. Everyone has heard or read of at least one way to use less water. Whether or not we put these tips to good use at work or at home is a big question. How efficient our families and businesses are with water will affect the larger community, which includes our creeks and rivers.

The water we have at our fingertips is one of the greatest riches our society provides, yet we so often take it for granted. "Water is life" is a phrase used by conservation geeks, but is a valid concept nonetheless. The only things at home that need water every day are your animals and your people. Your plants should have the ability to live and produce by watering on a less frequent schedule; once or twice a week if you mulch and drip irrigate. Flushing less frequently, taking shorter showers, and installing low-flow showerheads and faucets really do make a difference in reducing your household "water footprint."

If we are conserving as much as possible and still face water shortages, then how can we increase storage? Reservoirs are a common method, but are costly and that water requires extensive treatment if you want it to be potable. Permaculture folks promote storing water in the soil, which is very effective and not too expensive to conserve water yet have a vibrant landscape. Capturing rainwater and storing it in a tank can produce high-quality water, with the potential to achieve drinking water purity. The American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association promotes systems with potable supply as the goal, and their website is an excellent resource (www.arcsa.org). The concept of pumping from the creek (if you have the water right) in the winter and storing it in a tank for summer use has been a community success story for many people in the Mattole River watershed. By storing the winter-caught water and using it in the summer, many families out there have a secure supply of good quality water. The tradeoff is agreeing to not pump from the stream in the summer.

Water security is one goal we all share, but don't necessarily think about unless the supply is short. If you and your neighbors have an interest in improving your water conservation toolbox or improving your own water security, contact the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District to get the conversation started. You can also check our Drought Resources web page at www.mrcrd.org/drought-water-conservation-resources/ for drought information and a list of upcoming water conservation workshops.

Joe Scriven is a conservation geek and fisheries biologist for the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, and can be reached at 462-3864 ext. 104 or joe.scriven@mrcrd.org.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Great Ace

I am Ace, and I am one great dog! Yep, I bet you think all the dogs at the Ukiah say that. Do not tell them, but even the staff and volunteers rave about me. My vital statistics: 1 year old; single with no kids, as I am neutered; Australian Cattle dog mix; love to go on walks in the sunshine or moonlight; like to star gaze; enjoy a cool drink of water; have excellent manners; am looking for companionship and a long-term relationship.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. For more information about adoptions please call 463-4654.

Photo by Sage Mountainfire



Congratulations Column

New Judge Vicki Ashworth

Mike and Darlene Lewis of Laytonville (Lewis Racing Engines) are extremely proud to announce the election of their daughter, Vicki Ashworth, to the position of Superior Court Judge in El Dorado County.

Vicki, after successfully prosecuting thousands of criminal cases including special circumstances homicide, gangs, sexual predators, fraud, domestic abuse, elder abuse, etc. for the past 16 years, decided last fall to enter the race for judge. She had enormous support from law enforcement, judges, attorneys and citizens in the county.

After running a successful campaign against two other local attorneys, Vicki was surprised and humbled that she won outright with over 51 percent of the vote, which means she won't have to face a runoff in November. She will take the bench January 1, 2015 unless the presiding judge can get approval from Governor Brown for an earlier appointment.

Vicki, along with her very supportive husband, Bob, a captain with the local Sheriff's Department, have a son who served in the Army in Afghanistan and is presently going to college and a daughter who is a sophomore in high school.

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Cody Mason joins Willits Police Department

Cody Mason was sworn in Monday morning at City Hall as the newest member of the Willits Police Department.

Mason, 23, attended police academy at Santa Rosa Junior College this year, with his tuition and expenses paid by a loan from the Mendocino Public Safety Foundation, which will forgive the loan after he completes three years' service with Willits or another Mendocino County police agency. Mason is the first graduate of this scholarship program, which is intended to help local men and women become law enforcement officers who will stay and serve in Mendocino County.

Mason's father is Sheriff's Lieutenant Kirk Mason, a longtime member of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez held Mason's badge during the swearing-in ceremony, conducted by Deputy City Clerk Cathy Sanders, but he called Lt. Mason up to pin the badge on his son after the oath was sworn.

"I am very proud of him," Lt. Mason said. "He worked very hard to get to where he's at, and I'm sure he'll have a very successful and very long career."

women's and gender studies.

It wasn't until his junior year of college, Mason said, that he decided to pursue a career in law enforcement, after an internship as a counselor with a sexual assault crisis line. He found he could "keep calm and relaxed and controlled" while working with individuals in crisis or with situations in their lives that required assistance. Then, "I was lucky enough to be accepted to go to police academy," he said.

Mason started 15 weeks of training Monday. His mother, Debbie Mason, his grandmother, Jo Foley, his girlfriend, Amanda Ishmael, and friends Heidi and Keely Ahders were also present at the swearing-in.

A prospective sheriff's deputy, Alex Johnston, is currently attending the police academy with the Public Safety Foundation's financial support. Scholarships are funded with tax-exempt donations from concerned citizens: Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 123, Ukiah 95482, or made by PayPal at www.ProtectMendocino.org.

Organized in 2011, the foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity. Board chair is former county Supervisor Jim Eddie of Potter Valley. Foundation president is Ross Liberty of Ukiah and vice-president is Janet Orth of Brooktrails. Sheriff Tom Allman and the three city police chiefs serve as advisers to the board.



Sherwood Valley Rancheria Annual Big Time

July 12, 2014

12:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Please Come Join Us!

At our Annual Big Time event, which will be held by our Casino. We will be featuring ventors, food stands, salmon and everyone's favorite — FRY BREAD! There will be our traditional Native American dancers throughout the day. Come join us as we celebrate our ways with good people and good food.

Any questions call: 707-459-9690

Hope to See You There!

Hwy. 101 to Willits. Turn left on Hwy. 20. Take your first left onto Blosser Lane. Then follow the signs.



The rest of Parade | From Page 1

Floats!

Best Mechanical/Imagination: 1st place: Willits Kinetic Carnivale; 2nd place: Willits Relay for Life; 3rd place: Grace Community Church
Best Patriotic: 1st place: Willits American Legion Post 174
Best Theme-Based: 1st place: Willits Rotary Club; 2nd place: Pathfinders; 3rd place: Sherwood Valley Rancheria Casino
Open Miscellaneous/Non-Float: 1st place: Nuestra Alianza de Willits; 2nd place: Charros Regionales del Pacifico; 3rd place: Frank Howard Hospital Auxiliary

Car Categories!

1950-59 Mod.: 1st place: I-M-P Classics, Johnny Ferguson
1950-59 Orig.: 1st place: Shifters Car Club, Jim Montalvo, Willits Police Replica
1960-70 Mod.: 1st place: Steve Quinlin; 2nd place: Craig & Cyndy Sales, Shifters Car Club; 3rd place: Richard Huddle
1960-70 Orig.: 1st place: Debbie Huddle; 2nd place: Chris Orr, Shifters Car Club
Group of Cars: 1st place: Harrah Senior Center; 2nd place: VeriHealth Ambulance
Group of Motorcycles: 1st place: Willits Toy Run
Vintage Pre-War Gas/Diesel Steam: 1st place: Weston Potter
Decorated Car Non-Year Specific: 1st place: Michael Quinlin; 2nd place: I-M-P Classics, Bryan Casey, Sr.
Truck - Open: 1st place: NorCrawl, Chris Lamprich; 2nd place: McFarland Trucking, Dennis McFarland; 3rd place: Mendocino Transit Authority, Glenna Blake



Counterclockwise from above:

Isabel and Cassandra Andich pose on the Kinetic Carnivale float. Nuestra Alianza de Willits dancers perform during the parade. Willits Horsemen and Junior Horsemen ride down Main Street. 2014 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Haley Schuck. Roots of Motive Power's antique logging equipment. First runner-up for the 2014 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart title Calayan Knight. Amanda Maciel waves out the window of her husband Michael's logging truck as they go down Main Street. Michelle McCoy and Kathy Tobin (and little ones) smile from the Relay for Life float. A Nuestra Alianza de Willits member holds an American flag leading the group's dancers down Main Street.

Photos by Maureen Moore



An arrangement by floral artist Anthony Ward, shown below

'Being with Flowers'
Floral Art as Spiritual Practice

When floral artist Anthony Ward came to Willits to visit friends, he was "instantly romanced by the beauty of Brooktrails," and knew he needed to live here.

Ward's intricate and avant garde floral creations have shared the stage with everyone from the Dalai Lama to Michael Franti. Deemed a "floral sculptor" by Dr. Maya Angelou, Ward has taken flower arrangement far beyond the traditional bouquet and raised it to a new artistic high. He hopes to share both his techniques and his passion for flowers with the community of Willits through his upcoming "Being with Flowers" workshop at the Brooktrails Community Garden.

Ward has devoted an area of the community garden to cultivating an abundance of flowers, many to be used in the workshop. Those who attend can also expect to experiment with grasses, vines, ferns and other natural inspirations. The workshop costs \$100, with half the proceeds being donated to the further development of the community garden. Each participant will create two unique arrangements to take home if they wish.

Ward especially encourages people who garden to take the workshop because they already have a connection to plants and arranging them seems to be a natural extension of that connection.

"Being with Flowers: Floral Art as Spiritual Practice" will be held July 12, at the Brooktrails Community Garden, from 9 am to 4 pm. For more information and to register, email info@beingwithflowers.com.

- Becky Button, contributing writer



Dahlias at the Shuster garden last year. Photo by Maureen Moore

A Garden Party

What's all the buzz about? Well, if you haven't heard, get out your calendar for August and jot this down: "A Garden Party" at Phil and Kathy Shuster's, 1660 Center Valley Road, on Saturday, August 16 beginning at 4 pm.

Not only are you permitted to wander through the Shuster's beautiful flower and vegetable gardens at this incredible annual party, but you'll be wined and dined by the best - volunteers whose only aim is to please.

Walking through the entrance and under the beautiful old grape arbor patio, you will notice a special bar set up to serve chocolate martinis. Or, you have your choice of fine wines, sodas, beer or water - all masterfully served by gents from Willits Rotary.

Once you've wet your whistle, there's a fantastic small-plate buffet set up to serve all sorts of goodies - everything from that mouth-watering barbecued tri-tip or oysters, to assorted cheeses and crackers, deviled eggs, fresh vegetables and dip, can't-eat-just-one quiche, or all kinds of fresh fruit. You'll have to get another plate for the table of dessert possibilities.

Every seat is the "best seat in the house," but if you like music and a little live action, steer yourself towards the west side of the house where there will some great music played by The Basics, a silent auction and drawing for raffle items, skillfully handled by Master of Ceremonies Sheriff Tom Allman. The east side of the house is also wired for sound, and visually you are literally dining in the garden.

Sponsored by Willits Rotary Club and Willits Educational Foundation; proceeds from this annual event benefit schools in Willits Unified School District to promote art, music and libraries. Tickets purchased in advance are \$20 and available through Willits Rotary Club members and WEF members, or at Cat's Meow and Goods' Shoppe. Tickets at the gate are \$25. Info or tickets, call: John Cross, 485-2274; Sue Bertsch, 459-2030; or Kathy Shuster, 459-2659.

- submitted by Gail Richard for WEF

Pancake Breakfast!



Above: Willits Lions Club members volunteered their time to cook and serve the breakfast again this year. From left: Verd, Diana, Dean, Robert, Chuck, Eldon, Bill, Lisa and Tony.

Left: Wayne Bashore pours pancake batter on the grill.

Right: One of the many plates of pancakes, eggs and ham patrons enjoyed at the event.



Photos by Maureen Moore

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Thursday, July 10

"Paws To Read" Willits: Summer Reading Program at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Thursdays and some Saturdays, 11 am to noon. Today's program: Dance Around the World: "Get moving with this awesome program put on by Nikola Clay. Explore the dances and music of many lands and cultures." Info: 459-5908.

Kinetic Carnivale Volunteer Work Parties: every Thursday evening from 5 to 8 pm, starting tonight, and every Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street (west side door).

The 2014 Kinetic Carnivale will be in town in less than two months, August 9 & 10, and we have dates for volunteers wishing to help out with pre-work for this fun event. We have a need for volunteers to help with construction and decoration, and no skills are necessary. Of course, we would love for you to bring your enthusiasm, and if you have skills and/or talents that would be great as well! As always, there are perks for helping out, and this is a great time to get started on your hours to get free tickets to this fun event. Work hours must be completed prior to the event: 4 hours = Free Saturday or Sunday Fair; 8 hours = Free weekend (both days) Fair; 20 hours = Free Entrance to Grand Ball; 28 hours = Free weekend Fair and Grand Ball." Visit www.kineticcarnivale.com for more info.

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly Jazz Night, featuring vocalist Sarah Ryan, Michael Cantwell on piano and keyboards, Aaron Bellomo on guitar, and Jesse Bessoni on drums. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. Every 2nd and 4th Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, July 11

"Paws to Read" Covelo: Kids Summer Reading Program at the Round Valley Public Library, 23925 Howard Street. Fridays from 2 to 3 pm. Today's program: Move Your Body!: "A local expert will share some cool moves to keep your body fit and healthy. Show your friends and family some great dance moves! Afterwards, we'll cool down and make some super cute finger print animals." Info: 983-6736.

Local Author Earlene Gleisner: 7 pm at the Willits Library. Gleisner, RN and Reiki Master, will talk about the creative process and read excerpts from her various stories. Gleisner will also offer a preview of

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

her next novel in the Sacred Bundle series; her latest work, the first book of the Sacred Bundle series, is entitled "The Marriage Bundle" and begins the circular tale of intense relationships across time. Earlene is an author of both non-fiction and fiction works, and, for 20 years, was a regular contributor of medical and news articles, as well as personal essays, to the Mendocino County Observer newspaper in Laytonville. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL) and is free to the public.



Shanachie Pub: Soulevity, reggae-rock-ska-punk-metal-hiphop band, featuring Tucker Morninglight (vocals), Shlanky (guitar), Tommy Garrison (drums), Zack "Tubesteak" Bloomquist (bass), Sumo (keyboards). And Self Fulfilling Prophecies, folk, rock, grunge, popping, featuring Buckminster West, Morgan Stocker and Bodhi Idarius. 9 pm. \$10. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Diggers Dancehall Fridays: Joey D Productions presents: Dancehall, Dubstep, Hip Hop, Reggae, Trance, Latin: Positive Music /Positive Vibes at Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street. 21+. 10 pm to close. No cover. Tonight: Selekt Lou.

Saturday, July 12

"Being with Flowers: Floral Art As Spiritual Practice": workshop at the Brooktrails Community Garden, 9 am to 4 pm, led by master floral artist, Anthony Ward. Ward has been creating with flowers professionally since 1991, and has created personal floral pieces for the Dalai Lama, Thich Nhat Hahn, Maya Angelou, Eckhart Tolle, Sally Field, Bobby McFerrin, Alice Walker, Jane Fonda, Michael Franti, Uma Thurman, Madonna, Deepak Chopra and many others. \$100: Half of the proceeds will go to benefit the Brooktrails Community Garden. Register by emailing info@beingwithflowers.com. Visit www.beingwithflowers.com for more info.



"Paws To Read" Willits: Summer Reading Program at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Thursdays and some Saturdays, 11 am to noon. Today's program: Let's Make

a Dance: "Join us in exploring some great movements! We will express, share, create and make new friends! The library's own Jenna Byrne will share her expertise and experience working with all types of movement activities for all ages." Info: 459-5908.

Sherwood Valley Rancheria's Annual Big Time: Featuring vendors, food stands, salmon and fry bread. Traditional Native American dancers throughout the day. Noon to 6 pm. "Come join us at our annual Big Time event, as we celebrate our ways with good people and good food." Outside Sherwood Valley Rancheria Casino, 1220 Blosser Lane. Questions?: 459-9690.

Shanachie Pub: The Slow Poisoner, 1 man Surrealistic rock and roll from San Francisco. 8 pm. No cover. Visit: www.theslowpoisoner.com. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Sunday, July 13

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Enjoy pancakes, eggs, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon. \$7 adults; \$6 members, and \$5 for kids.

Howard Hospital's annual Free Sports Physicals: "Free sports physical exams to children in elementary and high school, who are participating in a sports program." Sponsored by Frank Howard Memorial Hospital / Adventist Health. Call to schedule for today, Sunday, July 13, 8 am to noon, or Thursday, August 28, 9 am to 1 pm: 707-456-3185. Walk-ins welcome. "Wellness for parents, too." 11 Oaks Conference Room, 1040 South Main Street.

Monday, July 14

Free meals for kid in Willits: Starting Monday, July 14, kids under 18 years of age can go to the Blosser Lane Elementary School cafeteria Monday through Friday for a free breakfast between 8 and 8:30 am and for a free lunch between 11 am and 12 noon. This program offered through August 8. Sponsored by the USDA as part of its "Summer Food Program." No income requirements or forms to fill out. Info: 459-7700.

Vacation Bible School: Agape Bible Church's free Vacation Bible School is offered to the entire community of children from Willits and surrounding areas, from Monday, July 14 through Friday, July 18, 9 am to 12:30 pm each day. A staff of volunteers will teach the children about the importance and role of the family; their immediate family and the family of God. Daily themes are "We Protect," "We Forgive," "We Believe," "We Love" and "We Encourage." Includes entertaining skits (with lots of special effects), Bible verses acted out and read aloud, music and dancing, games, and

crafts. Refreshments provided. In the Multi-Purpose Room next to the church, 290 South Lenore Avenue. For questions or to sign up: 459-1905.

Senior Center Ice Cream Social: Music this month by "The Just for Fun Choir." Enjoy pie, ice cream, coffee, games, prizes, and "Name That Tune." 2:30 to 3:30 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Members \$1; non-members \$1.50.

Shanachie Pub: Supercronopio, 4 piece psychedelic rock/funk. 8 pm. No cover. Visit www.soundcloud.com/supercronopio. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Tuesday, July 15

Mendocino Farmers Guild: meets at 7 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "What is a Farmers Guild? A Farmers Guild is a monthly gathering of farmers, ranchers and agriculture advocates who come together to

socialize, share resources, build lasting relationships, and celebrate our local food communities." Third Tuesday of every month in Willits. Membership is free. With an informal potluck dinner (attracting many young children), which "gives us an opportunity to show off and really celebrate the food." This week's theme: "Value-Added Products on the Farm," includes a discussion of product options, rules and regulations, and marketing and distribution led by local experts. The meetings also feature an "I Have/I Need" message board for community members to post things, as well as general announcements of events and news of interest. In addition the group maintains online forums, an email list, and plans upcoming events including workshops and a meeting of agrarian elders in the winter. Visit www.farmersguild.org for info. See article on page 8 for more info.

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: "Transformers: Age of Extinction" (2D) and "Tammy." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Shanachie Pub: the return of Sleep Ravine, acoustic



quartet from San Francisco: "unique sound, equal parts poetic lyricism and string-playing ingenuity, bends folk and bluegrass in compelling new directions." 6 pm. No cover. Visit www.steepravineband.com. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Thursday, July 17

"Paws To Read" Willits: Summer Reading Program at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Thursdays and some Saturdays, 11 am to noon. Today's program: "Origami Animals": "Kathy Silva will be here to share stories and make all kinds of paws and animals using this incredible form of Japanese paper folding!" Info: 459-5908.

Free Water Conservation Workshop: "Home and Garden Strategies to Use Water More Efficiently." 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Sherwood Valley Rancheria Tribal Office. 1220 Blosser Lane, in the Community Room. Open to all. Includes info on: home water use assessment; drip irrigation; and landscaping water conservation myths and facts. Hosted by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District and Sherwood Valley Tribal Environmental Program. Info: www.mrcrd.org.

"The Organic Life": A Grange Farm School Fundraiser. Now and Then Film Series presents "The Organic Life" at 7 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

A film by Casey Beck about young Sonoma County farmer Austin Blair (Beck's boyfriend) which chronicles the couple's steps towards building a more organic life. Won Best Documentary Feature, at the Santa Cruz Film Festival. "The quest to earn a living from one's passion is not unique to farming, but striving to survive from a traditional lifestyle in modern-day America is both poignant and revealing, as the film opens a window into the truth behind increasingly popular quixotic ideals." Info: www.createspace.com/394630. Suggested Donation of \$5 to \$100 helps the Grange Farm School go forward into their first season. Organic popcorn and chocolate, refreshments for sale by the Grange. Info: 459-6362.

Friday, July 18

"Paws to Read" Covelo: Kids Summer

Reading Program at the Round Valley Public Library, 23925 Howard Street. Fridays from 2 to 3 pm. Today's program: Dog Days! "Come for some great doggie stories and songs! Also hear from some local experts on adopting dogs and dog care. We'll have some fun dog crafts, as well, and a super dog treat recipe that Fido is sure to love!" Info: 983-6736.

Relay for Life Willits: Survivor Meet and Greet, at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, 5 to 7 pm. Cancer survivors are encouraged to come by and learn how they can participate in this year's relay. It's not too late to start a team for this year's event. The third annual Relay for Life, Willits will be held July 26 at Recreation Grove. Info: 272-2718.

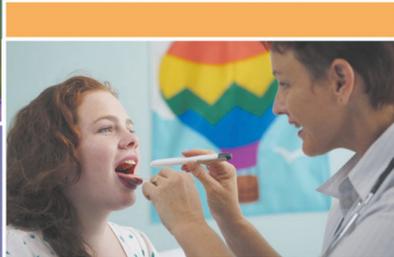
Diggers Dancehall Fridays: Joey D Productions presents: Dancehall, Dubstep, Hip Hop, Reggae, Trance, Latin: Positive Music /Positive Vibes at Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street. 21+. 10 pm to close. No cover. Tonight: DJ Jacques.

Saturday, July 19

Willits Garden Club Scholarship Fundraiser: A golf, buffet lunch, and walking tour benefit for the Willits Garden Club's scholarship fund, set for Saturday, July 19 at Brooktrails Golf Course. Registration starts at 8 am; shotgun "scramble format" tournament starts around 9 am. Also: a raffle (drawing after lunch); guided walking tours of beautiful Brooktrails streams and forest (9 am to noon); Continental breakfast with juice and coffee (8 to 9:30 am); snacks and refreshments (9 am to noon); buffet lunch (beginning around noon). After golfers complete 18 holes of competition and eat lunch, the winners will receive awards. For info or to donate raffle prizes, or to give donations to the scholarship fund, call Gary Bodensteiner at 459-2708.



2nd annual Mike Tobin Invitational: 15-bout boxing show with kids of all ages. 2 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Trophies and shirts for all competitors as well as music, food, silent auction, and 50/50 raffle. Sponsors needed, and items sought for silent auction/raffle. For more info about sponsorships or donations, call Coach Jeff at 707-841-6273.



Artists get a new place to show art in Willits

The Flower Lady of Willits is using her shop windows to show the works of local artists. Flower Lady's owner, Arcelia Duran, said: "Now that our only commercial art gallery has closed, there is no representation for artists on Main Street." Arcelia hopes to fill that gap by showing artists' work in at least one of her windows each month.

Her July windows will showcase artists Kale Haschak and Diana Hinkle. Kale has worked with several noted glass artists including Dale Chihuly. Hinkle has shown in galleries from San Francisco to Willits' own Center for the Arts.

Art from the windows will continue into the shop, with more examples of each artist's work. For more info, call Arcelia at 459-9075.

- submitted by Gary Martin



Teams at last year's alumni game.



Calling All Soccer Fans!

Does the recent World Cup excitement make you wish you were back in the game? On Saturday, July 26, Willits High School alumni are invited to dig up their old soccer cleats and relive the glory days with the WHS Alumni Soccer Tournament. This will be a co-ed tournament with teams forming on their own. If you don't have your own team, you can sign up as an individual by calling the tournament director, Summer Manchester at 210-338-0633 or by finding "Willits High School Alumni Soccer" on Facebook and requesting to be put on a team. Teams can also sign up via the same routes. The cost to enter is \$100 per team, with a recommended roster of 10 players (or \$10/person). A limited amount of non-alumni will be allowed to play.

We've had great turnouts in the past and everyone involved has had a good time playing soccer, while raising money for the WHS soccer teams. Admission to the alumni game is FREE, and donations are happily accepted. Each player must arrive equipped with soccer cleats, shin guards, soccer socks, and must sign a waiver. All money raised will go directly to benefit the Willits High soccer programs. Thank you for your support!



Blues at WCT

Guitarist Dorian Michael will play a mix of fingerstyle instrumentals and a big bunch of blues at the Willits Community Theater on Friday, July 25 at 8 pm. Michael offers up original tunes, traditional American roots music, a little Celtic and Brazilian, and maybe a spin on the ukulele for good measure.

For more than 40 years Michael has been playing his unique blend of blues, jazz, folk, and rock and roll. His playing is both exciting and lyrical as he travels with enormous ease through the possibilities of the guitar. With a love and reverence for the music, Michael shares his dry wit with some amazing music.

Tickets are \$10 and available online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/766240, in person at Mazahar in Willits, and by phone at the WCT office with credit card: 459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 West Van Lane, Willits (behind Shanachie Pub).

- Steve Hellman, for WCT



Vacation Bible School July 14 - July 18

Agape Bible Church's free Vacation Bible School is offered to the entire community of children from Willits and surrounding areas, from Monday, July 14 through Friday, July 18, 9 am to 12:30 pm each day. A staff of volunteers will teach the children about the importance and role of the family; their immediate family and the family of God. Daily themes are "We Protect," "We Forgive," "We Believe," "We Love" and "We Encourage." Includes entertaining skits (with lots of special effects), Bible verses acted out and read aloud, music and dancing, games, and crafts. Refreshments provided. In the Multi-Purpose Room next to the church, 290 South Lenore Avenue. For questions or to sign up: 459-1905.

Foster Parent Orientation

People in Willits - single people or families - interested in becoming foster parents are invited to attend orientations by Tapestry Family Services. Thursdays, July 10 and 24, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at 290 East Gobbi Street, in Ukiah. Info: Kippy Burns, 463-3300 x115.

Join us for Howard Memorial Hospital's Annual Free Sports Physicals

As part of our mission to enhance the health of our community, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is offering FREE sports physical exams to children in elementary and high school participating in a sports program.

Free Sports Physicals Will Be Available

June 29 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
July 13 | 8 a.m. - Noon
August 23 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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- Body Mass Index
- Strength & Balance Test
- Healthy Eating Demo

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'Ten Friends'

July show at Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts current show, "Ten Friends," opened this past Saturday and will be up through July 27. The show, organized by sculptor and ceramicist Julie Byers, includes work from 10 different painters, photographers, textile

Kate Maxwell
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

and digital artists whose lives have interwoven over decades of living in Mendocino. The artists, who have all contributed new art works for display, include: Byers, Mya Byers, Celia Price, Dorothy Asbury, Carolyn Carpenter, Joey Sala, Charlotte Tefft, Tonia Silverstein, Robert Yelland and Lynne Whiting Robertson.

"I wanted to get as many people involved as I could," said Byers, who is celebrating her 20th year in Mendocino this June. After putting together several different shows of work including her own ceramic sculptures and work by her partner, Mya Byers, Julie Byers reached out to other artists from her own circle of friends and whose work she admired. The result is a diverse and yet complementary mix of mostly new work ranging from paintings, sculpture, fabric and textile pieces, photographs, and digital art from the group of ten. "The theme was 'it has to be something new,'" Byers explained.

All of the artists are long-term residents of the area and draw inspiration from their lives in Mendocino, both from the local community and nature. Lynne Whiting Robertson and Robert Yelland paint in plein air at local landscapes and are showing views from Branscomb Road, the Willits Airport, Napa, Humboldt, and Yosemite. Charlotte Tefft's award-winning textiles include "Postal Reaction," an homage to the old Ukiah Post Office, and Byers' sculptures are inspired by themes from life in Laytonville. Dorothy Asbury's photographic work as is devoted to "capturing the most beautiful images of nature," drawn from her surroundings. The paintings of Tonia Silverstein and Charlotte Carpenter also draw from the colors of nature and are complemented by the bright and expressive work by Celia

Price and Mya Byers. The show is rounded out by stunning digital art from Joey Sala.

Most of the group has known each other either from daily life or through the local artists' community. The majority of the group lives in Laytonville, and Robertson, Carpenter, Tefft and Sala have all worked as teachers in the area. Yelland and Robertson have been friends for many years, working on the murals at Laytonville High School together and "camping and painting" local landscapes. Others in the group have taken art classes with each other or respected each other's work as local artists.

The result is a showcase as varied as the artists, but with the welcoming atmosphere of joining a community. While some of the artists have shown work together before, this is the first time all their work is hanging at the Willits Center for the Arts together. "It's really great having shows here," said Robertson, who explains she is sometimes at art shows with more tourists visiting than locals. At Willits Center for the Arts, she says with a smile: "People come out for the art, they're having conversations about it, and it's really great."

You can join the conversation and visit the galleries on Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm, through July 27. The artists will be rotating gallery hosting shifts. Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street.



Top left: 'Ten Friends' showcases many different media. Top right: Painters Robert Yelland and Lynne Whiting Robertson.

Above: Show organizer Julie Byers with one of her ceramic sculptures, at her left.

Below: More art in the WCA's July show.

Photos by Kate Maxwell



Mendocino Farmers Guild:

Growing Local Community

"We're not providing a service, we're providing an opportunity to participate in your local food community," explained Gloria Decater of her work at Covelo's Live Power Community Farm. Decater was speaking last month to the group of more than 40 local farmers and others in the local food system gathered at the Willits Grange for the monthly Mendocino Farmers Guild.

The guild meetings are for "farmers, ranchers, and agricultural advocates who come together to socialize, share resources, build lasting relationships, and celebrate our local food communities." People of all ages and backgrounds from all over Mendocino came to discuss "Energy Use on the Farm" at last week's meeting, to share experiences and to grow local community via a large potluck dinner held at each third Tuesday meeting. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, July 15 at 7 pm, with the topic "Value-added Products on the Farm."

At the June meeting, locals Ruthie King, manager of the Grange Farm School, Michael Hackleman, and Evan Wiig of the non-profit Farmers Guild facilitated a conversation about energy use, ranging from current uses and sources, best practices, and ways to incorporate more energy-efficient technologies into future farming methods. Decater spoke briefly about her different experiences at Live Power

over decades of using alternative energy and traditional farming methods, while the gathering relished their farm-made dishes.

In smaller groups, participants shared ideas about energy use, ranging from solar on and off-grid, new energy technologies, experiments with alternative fuels for farm equipment by the Mendocino Alcohol Fuel Group, building rocket stoves and solar-powered tractors, LEDs, hydraulic pumps, and much more. The group also discussed upcoming events and workshops in the area, recommended online resources for further research, and planned meetings to teach each other useful skills and projects, like cheese-making. Many excited conversations continued out into the parking lot.

The Mendocino Farmers Guild began a year ago last June as the result of a long-term interest on the part of Decater and other local farmers who wanted "to get together and organize" to create a better network of support and education for the next generation of farmers. Decater has run a biodynamic farm and CSA with her husband and now children in Covelo since 1973, but over the years she felt that opportunities to share knowledge between farmers, particularly between generations, were often infrequent due to limitation of time and physical distance. "Even within

the county we're quite a ways apart," she explains, though "there is so much information and so much experience within Mendocino County."

Last June 16 she organized an event at Emandal, bringing together 60 local experienced and younger farmers including those from Live Power Farm, the Solar Living Institute, Willits' Green Uprising Farm, North Coast Opportunities and Ecology Action, among others. "It was an opportunity for people to get to know each other better, to reach out and to share what they're doing," says Decater. The dialogue that began then about what the community wanted to learn has since blossomed into an ongoing conversation and monthly meetings open to all involved in the local food community.

The Mendocino group has now joined up with the regional Farmers Guild group, enabling them to tap into a larger network of food producers and resources. Over the last year the guild has formally become a non-profit, with a number of local chapters in Northern California, including the recently started Mendocino Coast Farmers' Guild.

Membership in the Farmers Guild is free. For more info, visit www.farmersguild.org or stop by the Tuesday meeting, 7 pm, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, with a potluck dish.



Below from left: A farmers' potluck; Grange Farm School manager Ruthie King with the guild's "I Have/I Need" message board; stickers on the map show Farmers Guild farms.



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Puzzle Page & More

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ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you enjoy doing your part to keep your world orderly and balanced. However, into every organized life a little confusion will fall. You will handle it smoothly.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, so many good things are happening around you that you should enjoy this time as much as you can. It is a time for indulgence and entertainment.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you are ready for fun and celebration. Surround yourself with friends and family so the next several days prove even more memorable.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, focus on recreation this week. You have earned the right to relax and escape the daily grind, so make the most of your opportunities to do just that.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

A welcomed gift will come your way soon, Leo. It may be something big that you have had your eye on for quite some time or something that appeals to your sentimental side.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Cast your analytical nature to the side for a few days, Virgo. Embrace sentimentality and emotion this week, as they will help you make the best decisions.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you have a lot of energy going into this week, so tackle any assignments early on. By the end of the week your energy levels may dip, so get to work.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Secrets you have been keeping for some time are ready to come to the surface, Scorpio. These are good secrets, and others will be eager to share them with you.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Don't be nervous if you are a little introspective this week, Sagittarius. Use this time to reflect and find answers to some questions that have been on your mind.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Whatever is going on at work will still be there tomorrow, Capricorn. If you cannot get all the tasks done, do not beat yourself up over it. Just begin tomorrow with a can-do attitude.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, your mind may wander but it is important to remain as focused as possible. Important information is revealed in the next few days.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, a budding relationship appears ready to grow more serious. Take advantage of this opportunity.

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12		13			14		
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	18				19	20			21		
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59					60					64	
62						63					

CLUES ACROSS

1. Iowa State town
5. Dip lightly into water
8. Doctors' group
11. AKA red spinel
13. Actress Lupino
14. Camel or goat fabrics
15. TV delivery system
16. Chronicles (abbr.)
17. Bolivian river
18. Like a moss capsule stalk
20. Short 1st name for actor Bacon
21. Br. boarding school
22. Gorges
25. Guileless
30. More obstinate
31. Pair
32. Blaze
33. Muffed
38. No seats available
41. More blackened
43. Proficiently skilled
45. Flat highlands
47. Hillside (Scot.)
49. Stricken

CLUES DOWN

50. MN 55121
55. Sutter Cnty. City seat
57. V. Woolf playwright
59. Nev. Sen. Harry
60. Ingested
61. Nobel Prize winner Fritz
62. Make a mistake
63. Sirius Satellite Radio (abbr.)
64. Mama's partner
1. Disney network
2. Oldest river (alt. sp.)
3. Dresden River
4. Preservative
5. Bargain
6. Stuck fast
7. Nouveau-riche
8. Plural of 14 down
9. Hand (Spanish)
10. 7th Hindu month
12. A large body of water
14. Assist in some wrongdoing

19. Run with a long stride
23. Volt-ampere
24. Oppenheimer's bomb
25. Don't know when yet
26. British Air Aces
27. C. Clay's new surname
28. Norwegian monetary unit (abbr.)
29. Afternoon nap
34. Actress Thurman
35. ' _ death do us part
36. Snake-like fish
37. Not wet
39. Eye membranes
40. Spotted wildcats
41. Wildebeest
42. Ascend
44. Headgear for a horse
45. Bura
46. Foremost position
47. Cowbarn (British)
48. One who feels regret
51. Express pleasure
52. Pleased
53. Swedish rock group
54. Requisite
58. Geological time



How To Sudoku:

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

8				4	9			5
2			8				3	
	7				5	1		
5		8	7	6				9
3							1	
6			5	3				
7		6						1
			9		3	7		6
	8	4	6					

Level: Beginner

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8	6	3	1	4	9	2	5	7
2	1	5	8	7	6	3	9	4
4	7	9	3	2	5	1	6	8
5	2	8	7	6	1	4	3	9
3	4	7	2	9	8	6	1	5
6	9	1	5	3	4	8	7	2
7	3	6	4	5	2	9	8	1
1	5	2	9	8	3	7	4	6
9	8	4	6	1	7	5	2	3

A	M	E	S		D	A	P		A	M	A			
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Avenues to Wellness Program: 'Wired Kids' How much screen time is too much?

The American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) has advised parents to limit their children's exposure to electronic screens to one to two hours a day, according to Dr. Carla Longchamp, a family physician at Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic in Willits.

Longchamp read between 40 and 50 articles to gather material for her talk. She said that numerous studies have been done which demonstrate a link between "screen time" – the amount of time every day that a child watches an electronic screen – and several negative trends among children, including Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), obesity, sleep disruption and even increased risk of coronary heart disease.

Electronic screens can mean television, computers, computer games and iPads. According to Longchamp, the recommendations apply to children between the ages of 3 and 18 years of age. AAP has advised that children aged 2 and under should not be allowed to watch electronic screens at all. At no time should children be allowed to have screens in their bedroom. She added that when children are allowed to watch electronic screens, the programming should be educational and non-violent.

"I think that we have had perhaps one of the greatest social experiments in our culture that perhaps we have ever had," she said. The average child under the age of 18 in the United States now consumes 7.5 hours of screen time daily.

Longchamp gave her talk on July 1 at the Avenues to Wellness speakers program. It was presented at the Willits Senior Center and was sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Foundation.

"The television industry and the video games industry spend millions of dollars a year studying how to get children sucked into watching. They've learned how to use lights, colors, music, action, violence, camera angles – all these elements – in order to get children watching and to keep them watching. Children get addicted to the sensory stimulation that is put into these things. It's intense. It's lighting. It's music. It's contrast. It diminishes their ability to pay attention to other things, like watching a sunset, or noticing a snake in the grass. And when they grow up and go out into the world, they can't focus on it."

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Above left: All Around Cowboy and Bud Suttles Trophy winner, Gunner Cogburn, stands with Haley Schuck, 2014 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart.

Above right: All Around Cowgirl Hailey Finnegan, stands with Haley Schuck, 2014 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart.

Below: A rider is tossed from his bull. At bottom, from left: A rider approaches the goat as she dismounts from her horse. A cowgirl ties a goat. Haley Schuck reaches for the steer in the daubing event.

Junior Rodeo Results

The 88th annual Willits Frontier Days event finished up with the Junior Rodeo held July 5 at the Jack Sharp Arena. This event gives the under-18 crowd a chance to try their hand at riding and roping livestock, and prepares them for eventual entry into the CCPRA events when they are older.

Results are as follows:
Calf Riding: no qualified rides.
Steer Stopping: Gunner Cogburn of Arcata, 8.30 seconds; Michael Woolbert of Los Molinas, 33.25 seconds.



Steer Riding: Sawyer Johnson of Doris, 71 points; Kyle McCarty of Covelo, 68 points; Clayton Carr of Alderpoint, 51 points.

Girls Breakaway Roping: Haley Schuck of Willits, 4.28 seconds; Shanna Gayski of Willits, 4.75 seconds; Hailey Finnegan of Laytonville, 6.41 seconds.

Boys Breakaway Roping: Gunner Cogburn of Arcata, 4.35 seconds

Jr./Sr. Team Roping: no qualifying times

Jr./Jr. Team Roping: Michael McKinnon of Lakeport and Gunner Cogburn of Arcata, 12.64 (plus 5 second penalty); Danner Gonsalves of McKinleyville and Gunner Cogburn of Arcata, 25.29 (plus 5 second penalty); Hailey Finnegan of Laytonville and Danner Gonsalves of McKinleyville, 49.59 (plus 5 second penalty)

Girls Goat Tying: Maple Gramps, 15.49 seconds; Michell Woolbert of Los Molinas, 17.00 seconds; Gracie Silva of Laytonville, 19.57 seconds

Steer Daubing: Gunner Cogburn of Arcata, 2.77 seconds; Shanna Gayski of Willits, 3.03 seconds; Gracie Silva of Laytonville, 3.78 seconds

Read the rest of **Jr. Rodeo** | Over on Page 13

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Left: Runners head south on Main Street at the start of the race.

Below: Price Runberg of Willits encourages 9-year-old Brayden Orrick as they head north to the finish line.

Photos by Carla Smith



The Willits Mile

The 3rd annual Willits Mile footrace this year featured 47 runners – men, women and children – running down Main Street right before the Independence Day Parade. The men's top 3 winners were: Jonathan Rahaeuser, 23, of San Jose (4 minutes, 44 seconds); Willits' own Kenny Smith, 24 (5 minutes, 4 seconds); and Jesse Ashton, 21, of Martinez (5 minutes, 7 seconds).

First-place women's winner, Nicole Campbell, 32 (the oldest of the top winners), of Mountain View, smashed the old course record for women with her winning time of 5

minutes, 11 seconds. Alex Sciocchetti, 19, of Fort Bragg came in second for women (5 minutes, 31 seconds); and Erin Thomas, 18, also of Fort Bragg, won third place with a time of 5 minutes, 54 seconds. Thomas is a 2014 high school graduate, and Empire "Runner of the Year."

The youngest runner was 5-year-old Jonas Swearingen of Willits, who came in around 11 minutes, improving on his time in last year's Willits Mile of 12 minutes, 46 seconds.

And the oldest was Dr. Glenn Rogers of Willits who finished with an 8 minute time. Go Jonas and Dr. Rogers, and everyone who participated in this revived July 4th tradition.

Willits' first July 4th race down Main Street started in 1978, and continued until 1993.

Anyone who can run a mile in 15 minutes or less (important as the parade starts soon after the race finishes) is invited to participate. Runners start at Main and Commercial, run a half-mile south, then turn around to finish just north of Main Street Music, with their times displayed on an electronic reader. Visit www.willitsmile.com for full results and more photos.

All proceeds from Willits Mile registration fees go to benefit the Willits High School Cross Country team. Thanks to the race sponsors: Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital/Adventist Health, Willits Furniture and J.D. Redhouse, and to organizer Dave Smith.

— Jennifer Poole, with results provided by Dave Smith

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Above: Students from 2004

Below: Students from 1989

Reunited!

Graduates from Willits High School's classes of 2004 and 1989 celebrate reunions during 4th of July weekend



Photos by Maureen Moore

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The rest of **Water** | From Page 1

curtailment will continue until water conditions improve."

The water board added a curtailment certification form to the letter, which provides an exemption to the curtailment order if the water in question is the "sole source of water for human health and safety."

Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose said Brooktrails would be applying for an exemption to the order because the water flowing into the two reservoirs is the township's only source of water.

"We've done drilling, and the wells came up dry. We've done seismic studies, and they came back negative. We don't have any groundwater. We only have the runoff that we get from our watershed," Rose said.

Rose told the Brooktrails board of directors she is planning to respond to the water board's order and to mark the box stating that watershed runoff is Brooktrails' "sole source of water for human health and safety."

Rose said the water board order does not immediately throw Brooktrails into panic mode. "We have water now," she said. "But it could become a problem if the rains don't come next year."

The rest of **Jr. Rodeo** | From Page 11

Girls Barrel Racing, 12 and under: Bella Colombini of Calpella, 18.68 seconds; Claire Moyle of Willits, 19.83 seconds; Jaden Doak of Willits, 21.68 seconds

Girls Barrel Racing, 13-18: Tea Green of Ukiah, 18.22 seconds; Hailey Finnegan of Laytonville, 18.62 seconds; Shanna Gayski of Willits, 18.65 seconds.

Bull Riding: Tyler Miner of Willits, 68 points

Willits and North County participants included:

Danielle Barry of Willits, who competed in girls barrel racing, 12 and under

Sarah Caldwell of Willits, who competed in steer daubing, girls barrel racing, 13-18

Noah Davila of Covelo, who participated in bull riding

Jaden Doak of Willits, who competed in girls barrel racing, 12 and under

Hailey Finnegan from Laytonville, who competed in girls breakaway, steer

The rest of **Bypass** | From Page 1

said. "There's too much additional cost for taxpayers, too much potential for environmental issues, with water quality and fish this winter. There needs to be some sort of compromise."

The Army Corp "conditionally" suspended the 404 permit for the Willits bypass on June 20, due to Caltrans' noncompliance with permit conditions.

Caltrans was driven to announce a suspension of work on the bypass, Frisbie said Monday, due to the mounting costs "to keep bypass workers and equipment on hand, with no work going on." Frisbie estimated those costs to be a total of \$800,000 so far, and now up to \$100,000 a day.

Frisbie said 45 bypass workers were laid off last week, and 55 workers would be laid off this week.

The rest of **Sewer** | From Page 1

2001, when Willits began to design a new wastewater treatment plant. Willits broke down the construction of the plant into three phases. Phase 1 would be construction of headworks for the plant; Phase 2, construction of the plant itself; and Phase 3, construction of enhanced wetlands.

In June 2007, Brooktrails paid \$3.8 million to Willits, as its share of cost (37.69 percent) for the \$10.3 million Phase 1. At the same time, Brooktrails signed a Fourth Amendment to the contract between Willits and Brooktrails.

Subsequently, Willits proceeded with the design of phases 2 and 3. When the designs were complete, Willits asked Brooktrails to sign a Fifth Amendment to the contract, requiring Brooktrails to pay 37.69 percent of the costs for a third loan to finance the rest of the project.

Brooktrails wanted to add a stipulation to the Fifth Amendment requiring the city to provide Brooktrails with "advance notice of change orders in excess of \$100,000." According to the first Brooktrails resolution, Willits would not agree to that stipulation and went ahead with the loan on its own.

Brooktrails maintains it did not sign the Fifth Amendment to the contract, and is therefore not obligated to pay its share of costs under an agreement that does not

exist. According to the resolution, the City of Willits "represented to its lender that it would work out the dispute in the future with Brooktrails."

The first resolution stated Brooktrails "will not make payments on the third loan for which no contractual amendment was ever signed by the parties; but will continue making payments on the first two loans governed by the Fourth Amendment until the issue as to the amount of the district's share of the city's \$26 million wastewater treatment plant project is resolved by the court."

The second resolution states that because Willits has failed to send Brooktrails both audits of the wastewater treatment plant operation and a wastewater treatment plant operations budget for either the previous or the current fiscal year, Brooktrails has no idea what its current payments to Willits should be.

The resolution says Brooktrails will pay Willits the amount it has been paying since 2011-2012: \$18,172 a month.

Willits Weekly attempted to contact Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore to get Willits' view of some of the assertions written in the Brooktrails resolutions, but Moore was not available for comment.

stopping, Jr./Sr. team roping with Cain Finnegan, Jr./Jr. team roping with Danner Gonslaves, girls goat tying, steer daubing

Shanna Gayski of Willits, who competed in girls breakaway, steer daubing, girls barrel racing, 13-18

Dylan Guerra from Covelo, who competed in calf riding

Kyle McCartney of Covelo, who competed in steer riding

Tyler Miner of Willits, who competed in bull riding

Claire Moyle of Willits, who competed in girls barrel racing, 12 and under

Adrian Phillips from Covelo, who competed in calf riding

C.J. Powers from Willits, who competed in calf riding

Sheldon Powers of Willits, who competed in steer riding, girls barrel racing, 13-18

Haley Schuck of Willits, who competed in girls breakaway, steer daubing, girls barrel racing, 13-18

Gracie Silva of Laytonville, who

competed in girls breakaway, girls goat tying, steer daubing, girls barrel racing, 13-18

Jocey Thieman of Covelo, who competed in girls goat tying, steer daubing, girls barrel racing, 13-18

Wacey Vann of Covelo, who participated in bull riding

All Around Cowgirl: Hailey Finnegan

All Around Cowboy: Gunner Cogburn

High Point Rider of the Day / Bud Suttles Memorial Trophy: Gunner Cogburn

Some of Bud Suttles' family members came to present the trophy to Gunner Cogburn at the conclusion of the rodeo, including grandpa Beau, son Tim, and grandsons Jaiden and Justin. The group chatted and came to realize that Gunner was possibly a long-distance relative on the Suttles side, something that Tim and Beau were pleased to hear, noting their excitement to be able to keep the award "in the family."

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CCRPA Rodeos

Professional cowboys and cowgirls show their skills at July 3 and 4 rodeos



Above:
A cowboy holds on during the saddle bronc event.

At left, from top:
A roper tries for a calf. A cowboy hits the ground after falling from his bareback bronc. Marcy Barry and Billy Rutler crown Cutest Little Cowgirl Contest winner Kiera Dragness with her silver tiara.

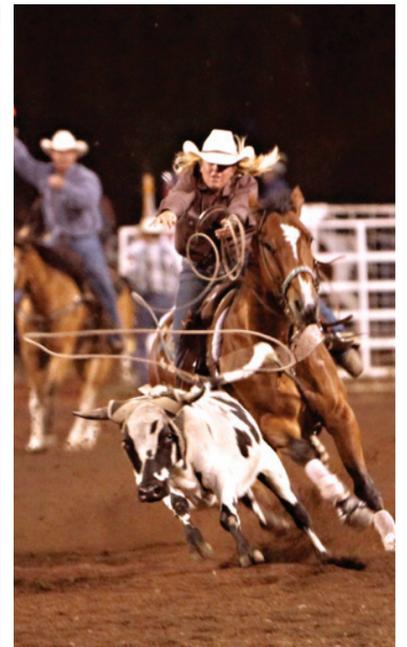


2014 All Around winner, J. Cody Jones of Ukiah, and Local Team Roping Heeler, Olivia Armstrong of Laytonville. Not pictured: Header Casey Persico of Willits.

At "Crusty" Robinson in his Black Bart finest after performing with many other members of the gang during the July 4 rodeo's half-time show.

The Grand Marshal and Heritage Award Winners were presented to the rodeo audience in beautiful horse-drawn carriages.

Below and at right: Cowboys try to hang on to bucking bulls for the full eight seconds. Far right: a cowgirl throws her rope, hoping to catch the steer.



Photos by Maureen Moore



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Live Music!

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FOLLOW OUR WEEKLY CLASSIFIED AD FOR MORE INFO

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Starts 7/18
Planes 2, Earth to Echo and Jersey Boys

DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

(PG13) 2 hrs 10 mins

Fri-Thurs: (2D) 12 noon & 6:00pm
(3D) 3:00 & 9:00pm

Movie Times for 7/11 thru 7/17

TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION

(PG13) 2 hrs 45 mins

Fri-Thurs: 1:00, 4:30 & 8:00pm

TAMMY

(R) 1 hr 37 mins

Fri-Thurs: 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15 & 9:30pm

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5