

Willits Weekly

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Tribes fear bypass construction schedule may endanger archeological sites

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On Monday last week, Caltrans announced it would stop work on the Willits bypass project unless its Army Corps 404 permit was reinstated, citing high costs to the agency and taxpayers if further delays were incurred. The Army Corp's action last week to lift the permit suspension was in part contingent on assurances by Caltrans it would speed up mitigation work that has lagged far behind deadlines.

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Supes ban Styrofoam food containers

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Supervisors last week adopted an ordinance banning the use of polystyrene disposable food containers in the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County.

Third District Supervisor John Pinches cast the lone dissenting vote. First District Supervisor Carre Brown was absent when the vote was taken.

The ordinance states that retail food establishments (restaurants) and other

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Hearst-Willits Road gets a life preserver

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County road crews have been busy laying down a "chip seal" treatment on a portion of the Hearst-Willits Road and other county roads this summer.

The new-look section of Hearst-Willits Road runs from just past the "y" at Valley Road to its intersection with East Side Road.

California's drought may be to thank for it.

"The drought is bad for a lot of reasons – but it is really good for roads,"

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It's time to go Farmers Marketing!

The Willits Farmers Market is just about in full swing – tomatoes are due any time now – and the market tables are loaded with early summer's bounty.

Beautiful shiny zucchini, yellow, green and striped, picked that morning, share the stage with red onions, garlic, eggplant, strawberries in "Chinese food to-go boxes," and three kinds of peas: snow peas, sugar snap peas and English peas.

Giant green cabbages, dinosaur kale, aromatic basil, and brown bags full of a mix of yellow cauliflower, purple broccoli and lime green spiral romanesco tempt the shopper. And plenty of garden starts are still available for backyard gardeners just deciding to get some veggies in.

The rainbow bags of brassica are offered by Rainbow Ranch Farm, a new market vendor, visiting Willits for the first time last week. "This is our first market in Willits, but we've been gardening for years," said Monica Carnahan, minding the table with her daughter, Jade Marchese.

At top: The market's most beautiful zucchini last week, from Green Uprising Farm, along with jars of Besto Pesto, made fresh with "today's best picks from the garden." Above, left: Elizabeth offers happy and healthy vegetable starts at her market table. Above, right: Robert Goleman of Bolliver's Fine Foods holds a fresh-baked focaccia featuring goat cheese, artichoke hearts and pancetta.

Below, left: Anita Blu, Nancy New and Don Fiers of New Blu Trio. Below, right: Piles of summer vegetables. At bottom: Frozen apple and pear cider from Gowan's Oak Tree are sweet treats on a hot day.



"There's a lot to learn about growing for market: this season is about getting organized." All the cabbages, broccoli and cauliflowers at Rainbow Ranch are doing great this year: "After we overcame the cucumber beetles with Safer soap," Monica laughed.

Another new Willits market vendor this season is Black Dog Farm, run by Caroline Radice and Jason Pluck, offering an overflowing box of fresh green beans, the last couple of weeks, along with long Armenian cucumbers and a collection of jarred preserves made with fresh local fruit. The couple has been farming in Redwood Valley for six or seven years now, but just moved to their new farm this year.

"Later this year we will have a ton of heirloom tomatoes," Caroline enthusiastically promised. "We've planted 30

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Bypass work

'ramping back up' ... slowly

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Caltrans contractors are back at work in wetlands areas of the Willits bypass project, after the Army Corps of Engineers reinstated the project's 404 permit on Thursday last week.

"Work started back up last Friday" in areas where the suspended permit had halted construction, Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie said. But that work is not "ramping back up" as quickly as Caltrans would like. Some of the skilled workers laid off two weeks ago, including those who'd been working on bridges

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Police raid five arrests, 200 pounds of pot

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Pot-busting law enforcement stamped out more than 2,000 marijuana plants last week in a series of raids southwest of Willits. They also found more than 200 pounds of marketable weed.

The County of Mendocino Marijuana Eradication Team, with agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force, were in on the action.

Police arrested Willits

Read the rest of **Raid** |
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Living with the Beast, part 3

What the district accomplished ... and what it cost

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This is the final part of a three-part series.

The Willits Unified School District spent \$8.88 million in school bond funds on Baechtel Grove Middle School, Blosser Lane and Brookside elementary schools, the Willits Charter School, and Sherwood School.

Funds spent on solar installations at the three "B" schools totaled \$3.25 million. Adding in the

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Moises 'Muscles' Leon

takes home two trophies at bodybuilding competition

On Saturday, July 12, Willits' Moises Leon, 43, showed off his muscles and toning at the World Natural Body Building Federations' California Natural Muscle Mayhem competition in Sacramento, and he proudly returned home with two trophies.

Leon placed second in the Men's Masters, 40 and over class, and took first place in the Men's Novice Lightweight division, the last of which qualified him to compete for the overall novice title as well.

While this was Leon's first competition of this year, he is a veteran of the bodybuilding stage and has spent the last 10 years training with the help and guidance of Body Works Gym and Martial Arts Center's trainer Angela Noonan.

"Angie is the best coach," explained Leon. "She is my main motivation! She looks so strong and she really inspired me to get into training and competing. I really thank her for all of her help and encourage anyone who wants to learn how to do bodybuilding to get guidance from her; she's amazing." Leon also expressed his thanks to gym co-owners Mike Tobin and Joey DeMarco for their support over the years.

Leon also gets the benefit of working his muscles during his day job, too: he works as a carpenter and construction worker during the day, then heads to the gym at night.

"Moises is so active!" praised Noonan. "He doesn't have to worry about what he eats or any dieting, just enjoys six small meals a day, just the way to do it! He really works hard and it shows – but he's a real natural, too!"

Leon and Noonan meet once a week to practice posing and work on his routines, tweaking the positions to ensure he looks as good as possible while on stage. His most favorite pose is the "Most Muscular," shown below left.

Next on the docket is the California Natural Bodybuilding Championships in Petaluma on August 9 at 5 pm at the Petaluma Veterans Building located at 1094 Petaluma Blvd. Fellow Body Works Gym bodybuilder Keith Schiessl will be joining Leon at the competition, and the public is welcome to come cheer on the Willits athletes.

Until then, Leon will continue to prepare for the show and support his wife, Rosa, who is working towards running a marathon in two weeks. Their two children Rene, 13, and Hector, 10, enjoy cheering both parents on and supporting the family's activities.

Clockwise from top: Moises Leon holds his two new trophies, smiles for the camera, and shows a side pose.

Photos by Maureen Moore

At the Sacramento competition, Leon, in center, poses for the judges.

Photo by Angela Noonan

Leon shows off his favorite "Most Muscular" pose.

Photo by Maureen Moore



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Fall Hours start August 1st!!!



Current Hours:
MON - SAT: 9am - 7pm
SUNDAY: 9am - 5pm

Fall Hours:
MON - SAT: 9am - 6pm
SUNDAY: Closed

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