



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## What happened to civility?

To the Editor:

It is expected that people will have different views on issues like the bypass, but can't we remain respectful? Differences come out in debate as part of the democratic process.

The dominant issue at present isn't the bypass but how as a community we deal with our different values. When civility is abandoned, and debate falls to the level of personal attacks, I feel quite despondent. I hope we can show more respect for those we live among.

And why single out one individual when there are over 4,000 in our county who signed petitions supporting an optional bypass with fewer construction inconveniences for the public? Regarding Mary's recent letter, it was only one in a series of dozens to our town papers voicing an opinion. Surely we can do better. Rather than imagine all matter of dreadful things about one another, we can take a more courageous and beneficial tack and explore what motivates us to project what could be our own disturbed world upon others.

William White, Willits

## Priorities

To the Editor:

Teachers in the Willits Unified School District begin the year with great expectations for a solid year of student learning, growth and dreams fulfilled. Teachers have spent many days without pay this summer moving and cleaning classrooms, attending workshops, studying curriculum, and setting up for a new group of young scholars. We do this because we love our jobs, our students and our community.

We all know the financial strain put on the district due to the bond situation. To add to those problems, the Willits school board has increased the salary (with fewer days worked) for the new superintendent, increased the salary of the business manager by 10 percent, and increased the salary and work days for several administrators. After cutting an administrator to save money, they turned around and hired an administrator for that same position – although giving it a new title. Six teaching positions were cut, and many fine, young teachers went elsewhere looking for employment.

While this type of spending went on, the district has increased class sizes throughout the district. K-3 classes have between 30 percent and 50 percent more students than last year. Overcrowding at all grade levels is sadly too apparent.

The district and the teachers are at impasse in negotiations, because the district wants to cut 5 days again from the students' opportunity for education, along with other additional cuts to teachers and support staff. Examples of this type of prioritizing are disheartening. We hope that the community can tell the current school board members to get their priorities right. We are stuck with the bond fiasco for many years, but we don't need to take it out on our students, teachers and support staff. Please contact the superintendent and

school board members to tell them that what affects our classrooms should be the highest priority.

Paula Nunez, Willits Teachers Association

## 'It's gonna happen'

To the Editor:

If anyone could step up and out-windbag Lanny Cotler's call for turning the Willits Bypass into a national issue, it is our City Councilman Ron Orenstein in last week's Willits Weekly.

Ron Orenstein – who publically declared the Flatiron and Caltrans representatives, who have degraded Willits into a construction zone, to be "gentlemen," with whom he is glad to bargain, incidentally from a position of powerlessness, because he has no more respect for the applicable requirements of the bypass Environmental Impact Report than they do – to use haul roads, not the Willits streets, for their filthy deed.

It is plain that they have no more respect for him than they – and he – do for the lungs of Willits residents, who will breathe in 90,000 tons of carbon poison and dust during the next six years and more, while all this invasive transport is happening.

Ron Orenstein – who talks like apathy and ignorance are noble virtues, monopolized of course by the unidentified "majority" of citizens, knowing by higher knowledge, "it's gonna happen, so there is no need to make any noise about it."

Personally, I suspect the citizens actually sorrow that they have been overrun, along with the reasons they moved and continue to live here – a human scale of life and value, surrounded by stable Nature.

Why wasn't Elder Orenstein leading us 25 years ago when not one citizen of Willits spoke to Caltrans salesmen in favor of a gargantuan freeway through this lovely valley, the last disturbed alluvial valley in California, rich with wildlife and peace, and filled with the artifacts of a past civilization that lasted 10,000 years?

Because if he had been leading us then, we could have cut out the minor details (i.e., public democracy, caution and resistance) and just eliminated 15 to 20 percent of Willits economically right away, instead of waiting until now – followed by the creation of commercial franchise zones at either interchange, so as to destroy Willits permanently as an integrated local economic entity.

Which is what is going to happen now, as soon as the structure is finished – and is why dead-end stub roads on the Caltrans map are strategically placed at the interchanges for new corporate development, absolutely none of it local.

Such wisdom, such sound sense, such vision and plain talk.

"It's gonna happen." The abandonment of responsibility. Abdicate, absquatulate, eviscerate, pontificate. Extremists on the right, extremists on the left, and thank God there is Ronnie, by some miracle smack dab in the center, rolling over for Caltrans.

With his obeisance and Bruce Burton's whining he wants his town back, and the City Council's evacuation of its primary responsibilities to protect the health and welfare of its own, Flatiron now can – legally – use the Willits city streets to accelerate the demise of our business community.

while simultaneously destroying the implicit peace of the watershed, represented by the Little Lake Valley.

And if, while we're waiting, 25 percent of the greater Willits driving population, that used the East Valley roads for convenience and basic necessity, are suddenly and arbitrarily funneled into the bottleneck produced by Caltrans 20 years ago, don't be impolite about it, serve some barbecued hippie.

It will go on in the same general outline, for years, Commercial Street, Valley Street, Shell Lane – meaning Baechtel Road – and East Hill Road, all these despite city streets being disavowed for use in the EIR, which Caltrans swore by, and is legally responsible for, but ignored while sweet-talking Ronnie and his swooning ilk.

From my perspective and conversations, the people are by and large confused, unsure, afraid to object. They have been conditioned to go along since childhood by just such double-talking authorities. There might be a personal penalty for standing up as a citizen. So they mourn to themselves that their lives and surroundings have been overturned.

But that damaging passivity is a plus to Ron Orenstein. No biggie. "It's gonna happen."

So right off-hand, I'd say his playing the lackey to large governmental and corporate entities, who have nothing but profit on their minds and contempt in their hearts, not least for him, is a loser's game. All the gassy op-eds in the world won't change that.

Many, very many, who have sunk their roots here in Willits don't care to lose the way we live, the economy we make together, and – to this point – the unviolated land to which we owe a common sense of goodness, serenity and peace. We will continue to oppose what Ronnie bows and scrapes to welcome.

William Ray, Willits

## Identity crisis

To the Editor:

Like so many other small town in the United States, Willits is going through an identity crisis. Recently, we have become the highlight of news stories about the bypass or marijuana, but we have so much more to offer.

With the bypass completion in the near future (I say near because the estimated five-year completion will be here before we know it), we must be prepared.

Chamber of Commerce representatives and I have talked with many of our active members about how we can combat the perceived negative impact the bypass might bring on business and our town. During these discussions we have determined Willits needs an identity: a branding, if you will. We must give the traveling public a reason to stop, stay and enjoy our town. We must also give our residents a reason to be proud of our heritage and our future.

We must capitalize on our heritage, not our recent heritage as some have suggested, but our heritage that is historic on levels that have spanned generations. Five basic themes have been the most favored: ranching or Western, Victorian, logging or rustic wood, railroad, and vintage Willits. With architecture, paint schemes and fascias that reflect these themes, we could establish an identity that not only will entice tourists and vacationers to stop and stay in Willits (instead of driving through), it will give our residents a reason to be proud of where they live, work and play.

I give an example of a small town in central Washington. Leavenworth was a town dying in front of itself following the loss of the railroad and logging industries. They made the brave decision to completely reinvent the town to resemble a Bavarian village in the central mountains of Washington. Today it is a bustling and prosperous small town that attracts nearly 2 million visitors each year. They accomplished this with a population of fewer than 2,000.

We ask that the Willits City Council team with the merchants, businesses and Chamber of Commerce to develop criteria that will assist in establishing building guidelines that will direct building owners and occupants, when they make changes to paint schemes, fascias and buildings, to adhere to a set of guidelines. We believe the guidelines must be themed in these five ways: ranching or Western, Victorian, logging or rustic wood, railroad and vintage Willits. If other towns such as Leavenworth can make themselves strong, so can Willits.

Obviously, we must do more, such as bring small industry to town. What we suggest is just one part of a complex plan we must complete. There is no margin for failure here. We either work to become active and prosperous, or we become just another gasoline stop off Highway 101, with no soul.

Ron Moorhead, president, Willits Chamber of Commerce

## Fears and animosities

To the Editor:

I'm concerned about the well-being of our community. I'm particularly concerned about what's happening to our community as we attempt to work with Caltrans on the bypass project. Sometimes I feel Willits is like a flea trying to have a dialogue with an elephant, as we constantly worry about being stepped on. The Caltrans annual budget is approximately \$14 billion, and they have over 22,000 permanent employees. Our local resources are much more limited. I hope all of us can stand together as a community to express our needs and stand up to Caltrans without being squashed.

But as concerned as I am about our efforts to meet local needs as we work out an agreement with Caltrans, I'm even more concerned about how we are treating each other. The bypass project has triggered fears and animosities that are in danger of tearing our community apart. Abraham Lincoln reminded us that "A house divided against itself cannot stand." I call on all citizens of our community to reach out to each other, with care and respect for those we may disagree with, as we seek solutions to our local problems. As the poet Rumi said: "Out beyond ideas of right-doing and wrong-doing, there is a field. I'll meet you there."

Jed Diamond, Willits

## Sorry, no majority

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago a letter appeared in the Willits News under the heading "We Are the Majority" and signed by 22 people claiming that the majority of Willits residents approve of the Caltrans bypass.

How they figured that 22 people constitutes a majority is a mystery. Perhaps they don't understand the definition of a majority. I knew immediately that they were wrong, but if no one disputed their claim, it would stand. That, I could not allow.

I asked for and received copies of the collected SOLLV petitions opposing the

Read the rest of Letters Over on Page 11

## Back to School Bento

Packed lunches can be easy and fun for kids and parents when made into "Bento Boxes." Common in Japanese culture, families in America too are picking up on the fun, fancy and creative presentation these boxes are known for. See the chart below from www.chalkoneupfortheteacher.blogspot.com for an easy way to decide how to put together a balanced menu, and see these boxes to the left (from Pinterest.com) for ideas and inspiration!

Protein	Fruit/Veggie	Grain	Dairy	Sweet Treat
hard boiled egg	carrots w/ranch	granola bar	yo-yo	chocolate kisses
turkey pepperoni	apple slices	fish-shaped crackers	string cheese	pudding
deli lunchmeat	celery sticks	pretzels	slices of cheese	yo-yo with add-ins
peanut butter (great for dipping)	grapes	crackers	chocolate milk	mini candy bar
tuna fish	fruit cup	dry cereal	cottage cheese	mini candy bar
almonds	banana	slice of bread	cream cheese (great for dipping)	homemade treat
roast chicken	cucumber slices	corn chips	ranch dressing (great for dipping)	cookie(s)
ham chunks	pineapple chunks	rice cakes	drinkable yo-yo	frozen juice tube
pishtachios	melon chunks	popcorn	smoothie	cookie(s)
sliced hot dog	berries	(mini) bagel	milk	raisins

## Pieces and Parts Lunch Guide

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**Tatiana Cantrell**  
Director

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**NOVO THEATRE** Willits, CA  
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**THE BUTLER** (PG-13) 2hrs 15mins  
Daily: 4:30 & 7:30pm  
Sat thru Tues Matinees: 1:30pm

**WE'RE THE MILLERS** (R) the 50mins  
Friday: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30pm  
Sat thru Tues Matinees: 1:00pm  
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## ART CALL!

All ages welcome to enter Soroptimist Art Contest

Soroptimist International of Willits is announcing the 2nd annual art contest for the Willits Community Phone Book.

Show off your talents and have your creation reach 6,500 people. The artist's "story" and contact info will be featured in the phone book. Advertise your expertise and, perhaps, gain some recognition for yourself.

All are welcome to enter. Make sure, whatever format your art is in, that it can be scanned. We will use a digital file for the phone book cover.

Artwork must include the Soroptimist logo (check the Soroptimist Facebook page and other online resources to find the logo).

The 2014 phonebook is the 42nd Willits Community Phone Book. All the advertising dollars go back into the community.

The deadline for contest entries is October 15. Info: Willitsphonebook@gmail.com.

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The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters from area residents, focusing on Willits issues, activities, events and people, have priority. Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred.

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.

## Willits Weekly

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## Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Letter From ... the Willits Charter School Director

By John Kirchiro

It is with excitement and anticipation that I welcome everyone back for our 2013/2014 school year and our 15th year in operation.

Willits Charter School has always been committed to providing our students with a unique and rigorous education in a relaxed, family-oriented atmosphere, and I look forward to continuing this effort in the coming school year.

Students attending Willits Charter School study more than the core academic subjects required for graduation. Students also learn the crucial interpersonal skills needed to work together to create the school of their dreams.

There are many things that set WCS apart among these is our "Friday Academy." Every quarter, students pick three electives from the four categories of physical education/movement, liberal arts, science/math, and arts/life skills.



Letter From ... the La Vida Charter School Director

By Ann Kelly

La Vida Charter School's all-school theme for this coming school year is "The Abundance of Life's Diversity." Students will explore biodiversity, neurodiversity and multiculturalism in their activities and classes on the beautiful Ridgewood Ranch.

La Vida is offering a new abundance of classes and collaborating with community members to provide rich, educational opportunities for our students.

Students can also learn skills such as utilizing broadcasting equipment and producing programming content in La Vida's Digital Literacies Video Class.

lined up but will include; Archery, Guitar, Intro to Culinary Arts, Classic Cinema, Advanced Art, Creative Writing, Drumming, Yoga, Ballet, Knitting, Novel Writing and much more!

Willits Charter School is a living, breathing institution. We are continually growing, changing and reimagining ourselves to become the best school we can be, adapting and changing to meet the growing demands of our students, families and our community.

I would like to thank all of the teachers, board members, parents and students who have worked so hard to get the school ready for our first day of school on Tuesday, September 3.

WCS is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for both middle school and high school grades. Please remember that Willits Charter School is a free public school that does not charge tuition.

by Kara McClellan

Willits Elementary Charter School, located on the corner of Lenore and Commercial, will welcome new and returning students on September 3 at 8:30 am.

In particular, we look forward to continuing to improve how we structure children's days to address their individual strengths and needs, and expanding our students' opportunities to participate in meaningful inquiries.

One of our most exciting plans to reach our goals for this coming year is based in our garden. With help from a local expert, each class will participate in a series of student-centered, inquiry-based garden projects.

In his recent book, "Creating Innovators," author Tony Wagner states: "Play, passion, and purpose: These are the forces that drive young innovators."

Ezra and Xavier De la Fuente in the garden

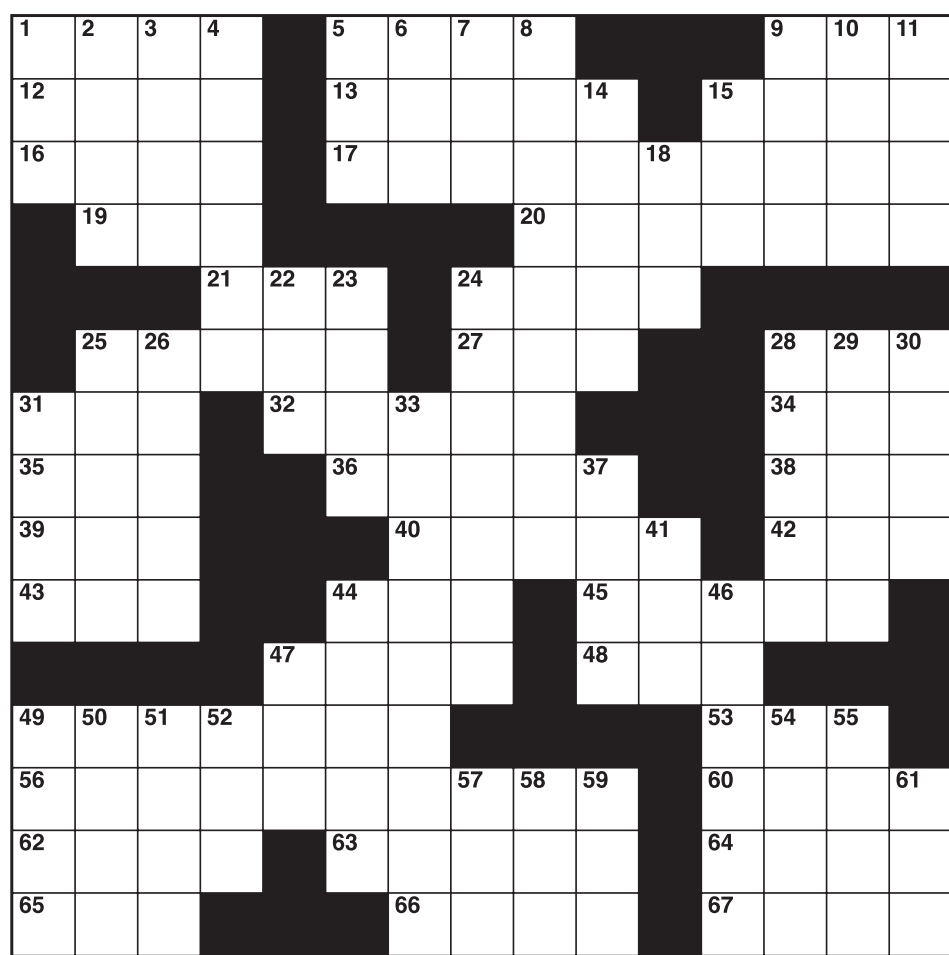


Lessons are those that students have helped to create and that are guided by their questions. We will continue to find ways to tap into that passion, which leads to such a vibrant school community.

Kindergarten teacher Ashley Sherf notes: "Learning naturally occurs when children are engaged in their environment. Questions about surroundings frequently arise, and these inquiries offer chances to further explore concepts."

Our goal each year is to give students the tools to develop integrity, compassion and confidence through inquiry-based learning. We look forward to continuing lessons that drive young innovators.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Feminist Lucretia
5. Lacrimal gland fluid
9. Airborne (abbr.)
12. Double-reed instrument
13. De Mille (dancer)
15. Burn plant: \_\_\_\_ vera
16. Represent by drawing
17. Roy Harold Scherer
19. Point that is one point N of due E
20. Causing vexation
21. Belonging to a thing
24. Leg joint
25. Suffragette Anthony
27. Form a sum
28. Point midway between E and SE
31. Convert a hide into leather
32. Radical derived from butane
34. Priest's liturgical vestment
35. Goat and camel hair fabric
36. Sticky
38. Talk
39. Committed information rate
40. Strong twisted cotton thread
42. 331/3 rpm
43. Honey (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 44. Founding Father Franklin
45. Frees from pain or worry
47. Tennis player Bjorn
48. Not inclined to speak
49. Shoulder blade
53. Express pleasure
56. One week before Easter
60. Attired
62. Chew the fat
63. Weighing device
64. Captain \_\_, British pirate
65. Tropical American cuckoo
66. Any place of bliss or delight
67. Remain as is

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Rounders" actress Gretchen
2. Off-Broadway theater award
3. Grave
4. Court game
5. Pitch
6. Sense of self-esteem
7. Mandela's party
8. Lights again
9. Likewise
10. Film set microphone pole
11. "Housewives" Leakes

Willits Otters 2013 Swim Team awards



The Willits Otters Swim Team celebrated the close of its 2013 season last week with the team's annual Awards Night.

Coaches Irene Labus, Izzy Hageman, Curtis Labus, Mattie Pinon and Tanya Ramming presided over the August 22 event, presenting the following special honors:

Jeremy Cortis and Haley King received a "Sportsmanship" award, for encouraging teammates and friendly competition.

Tyler Wieden and Rachel Hageman (not pictured) received a "Gung Ho" award, for intensity and general beastliness at every practice and every meet.

Teo Labus and Delayna Cortis received a "Most Improved" award - something clicked this season, and both swimmers went from novice to awesome!

Ben Branscomb (not pictured) and Mattea Butler each received "Outstanding Swimmers of the Season" awards, for persistently positive attitude, work ethic and focus.

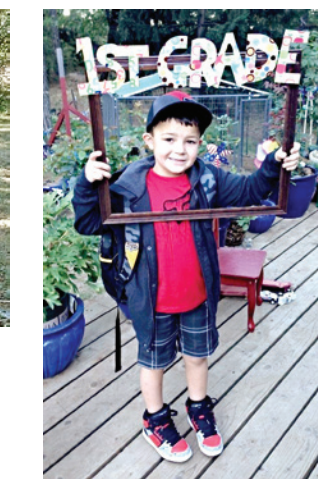
A special "CannonBomb" award went to Michael Kyne (not pictured) for being a joy to coach and a role model to his "Pup" peers. The Otters will be back in March of 2014 and are looking forward to seeing new and old faces, along with parent involvement!



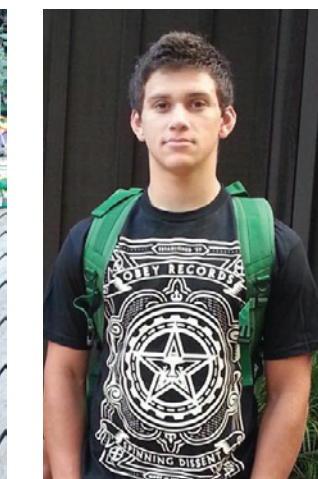
Good Luck Adrianna Martin-Wyatt (WHS Class of 2010) as you begin your senior year at NAU. We love you!



Four pups went 'back to school' for Sallie Palmer's e-collar class last week: Bo, Roxie, Cazi and Sherlock (and their people learned a whole bunch, too!) Great job everyone!



Connor started first grade this year



Kyle started tenth grade this year



First day of homeschool at Forest Valley Country School for Grant Fisher, 5, Declan Fisher, 7, and Ethan Fisher, 10



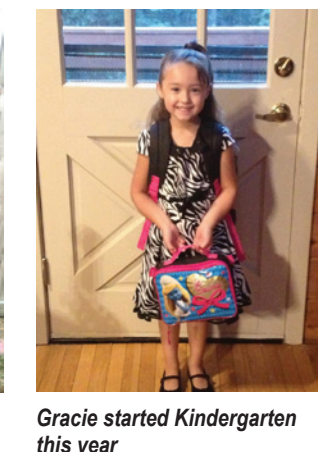
Good luck Nijal Martin (WHS Class of 2012), as you begin your sophomore year at HSU. We love you!



Destiny started fourth grade this year



Mason started second grade this year



Gracie started Kindergarten this year

Advertisement for J.D. Redhouse & Company featuring 'Back to School Sale' with 25% off school supplies, 25% off educational toys, and 30% off clothing & footwear. Includes contact info: 212 South Main St - Willits, CA 95490, 707-459-1214.

Advertisement for Ponderosa & Sun Realty featuring Tony Sorace, Land & Ranch Broker, Certified Financial Planner. Includes contact info: 635 S. Main St. Willits, CA 95490, 707-459-5108 • 707-489-3763.



Steven started eighth grade this year. His sister Stephanie writes: "An Official Big 8th Grader! Where Did Time Go! Soon He'll Be Graduating BGMS & Heading To High School! Goodness! Good Luck Bud!"



Lily started second grade this year



Roanin started first grade this year

Advertisement for 'The Goodies' SHOPPE featuring Traditional Toys, Rubber Stamps, Paper Goods, Art Supplies, and more. Includes contact info: 56 South Main Street Highway 101 Willits, CA 95490.

Advertisement for MTA (Mendocino Transit Authority) featuring 'Cheaper Than A Hybrid!' with 1, 2, or 3 Zone Monthly Pass or PUNCH Pass options. Includes contact info: 800-696-4MTA, www.mendocinotransit.org.



## Thursday, August 29

**“Scripted”**: An evening of short plays and wordsmiths, presented by the Willits Shakespeare Company. Opens Thursday, August 29 at 7 pm at the Willits Shakespeare Tent, 1195 South Main Street; continues Friday, August 30 and Saturday, August 31 at 8 pm. \$15. Info: 456-0152

## Friday, August 30

**“Scripted”**: see Thursday, August 29 listing.

**Black Light Zumba Glow Party**: at Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane. Doors open 8 pm; Zumba from 8:30 to 10 pm, with all the Studio Joy instructors. Come be part of this new wave of Fitness Parties sweeping the country: Have fun and dance, dance, dance in a healthy, health-promoting environment. Dress to impress. White and neon glow the best. Advance \$10, \$15 at the door. Info: 707-841-9799; www.studiojoywillits.com; www.facebook.com/studiojoywillits.

## Saturday, August 31

**Labor Day Parking Lot Sale**: Willits Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. 8 am to 1 pm. Great prices on clothes, household items and furniture, plus hot dogs & root beer floats. Parking Lot Sale spaces available for rent (8



Keith Canova and Kathy de Bane in “Two Across.”

Photo by Ron Greystar

# Variety Show Auditions

Willits Community Services & Food Bank is presenting a fundraising Variety Show on Saturday, October 19 at Willits High School’s Alan Garcia Auditorium. Our community has not had a variety show for many years, and we are excited at the opportunity to see friends and neighbors sharing their talents and entertaining ideas.

There will be approximately 30 acts. Some of the categories include acting, comedy, dance, singing, musical instruments, spoken word, magic, animal acts and acrobatics, to name just some.

There are three available dates for auditions. These dates are: Saturday, September 14, noon to 5 pm, Wednesday, September 18, 7 to 9 pm, and Saturday, September 28, noon to 5 pm. At the Willits United Methodist Church on School and Pine Streets, across from the Little Lake Grange.

So, if you have a special offering of up to 3 to 5 minutes, please come audition! Bring that joke, song, dance, magic trick, ukulele tune, bird call, hula hoop, or whatever, and let’s put a great show together! All ages welcome! Info: Kevin at 456-9429 or Marcia at 354-2801.

## Join Emandal Chorale In Boonville Fair parade

Do you love peace? Then come join the Emandal Chorale, to walk or ride in the Mendocino County Fair parade in Boonville on Sunday, September 15, with the entry, “1000 Grandmothers for Peace.” Bring a large picture of your grandchild or grandmother to carry, a hat for the sun, and water.

Emandal Chorale, based in Willits, will be singing songs of peace in the parade, inspired by Holly Near’s song, “A Thousand Grandmothers.”

# What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

am to 3 pm); \$20 each or two for \$30 (\$5 off for Harrah Center members). Info: 459-6826

**Willits Youth Football & Cheer Benefit Golf Tournament**: Annual fundraiser at the Brooktrails Golf Course. 9 am. Teams of 4 can sign up at the golf course today. Cost is \$45 per person. Lunch provided after the tournament. Questions? Deanna 707-354-4848.

**“Scripted”**: see Thursday, August 29 listing.

**“Music of the East and West”**: a solo classical guitar concert by international virtuoso guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan as part of the guest artist series at the Willits Community Theatre. 8 pm. 37 West Van Lane. “Fresh from solo performances in St. Petersburg, Russia; Sicily and Italy,” the Boston-based classical guitarist makes his debut in Willits as part of his “Route 101 East-West Tour,” in Oregon and California (San Francisco, Sacramento, Willits and Chico). Larget-Caplan will play “exotic serenades and dances of the Iberian peninsula with Spanish and flamenco masterpieces by Isaac Albéniz, Esteban Sanlucar and Pascual Marquina,” a piece by American composer Kevin Siegfried; re-imaginings of American popular songs and lullabies from the Japan by Toru Takemitsu (collaborator with Akira Kurosawa), and a rarely heard masterwork by Keigo Fujii.” Tickets, \$15, available at Goods’ Shoppe, 56 So. Main St., Willits, online from brownpapertickets.com/ event, or by calling WCT at 459-0895 for credit card orders.

## Tuesday, September 3

**“If Not Now, When?”** Health & Well-Being Presentation: Tuesday, September 3 at 6:30 pm at the Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Free. Topic: “Care Giving and Receiving.” Panelists include: Candy Rupe, nurse at Howard Memorial Hospital and caregiver for family member; Carlin

Diamond, whose experience includes counseling, astrology, hospice, and caregiving a family member during the last year of life; Doris Wier, relationship counseling, Shawndee Gamble, administrator for Northbrook Health Care. Info: 459-6826.

## Wednesday, September 4

**Mendocino County Museum**: Free admission on the first Wednesday of every month. 10 am to 4:30 pm. 400 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-2736 and www.mendocinomuseum.org.

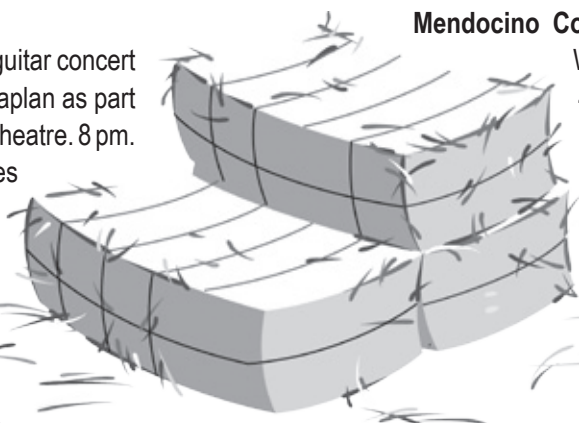
**Strawbale/Clay Plaster Workshop**: free family workshop by Colin Gillespie, local natural materials building. Hosted by the Long Valley Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville, noon to 2 pm. Noon potluck, followed by hands-on building of the new marquee structure in front of the Garden Club: everyone can try their hand at clay plastering. Info: 984-6587.

## Thursday, September 5

**Shanachie Pub**: solo acoustic show with Kent Stephenson of the Kent Stephenson Band, “original Western rock.” 6 pm. No cover. Visit http://www.facebook.com/KSB88

## Friday, September 6

**Kinetic Carnivale Kick-Off Party**: featuring The Aether Brigade, steampunk comedy troupe from Northern California, performing at Willits Community



Aether Brigade

# ‘Two Across’ opens at WCT next weekend

Two strangers, a man and a woman, meet on a BART train at 4:30 in the morning. Both are doing the New York Times crossword. This is the opening gambit for “Two Across,” which opens Friday, September 13 at the Willits Community Theatre.

Written by Jerry Mayer and directed by Dick Graham, the play stars Keith Canova as a charming unemployed flake who thinks nothing of asking for puzzle help, and Kathy de Bane as a troubled but highly organized, rule-abiding psychologist who considers asking for puzzle help a major character weakness.

Very quickly it becomes obvious that each is the kind of person the other has always tried to avoid, but now fate has thrust them together, struggling to find solutions to life’s

puzzles as their BART train romance moves through the early morning darkness.

Both actors in this play have appeared in many local productions. Keith Canova has been in productions as varied as “Psycho Beach Party,” “Little Shop of Horrors,” and “Hamlet.” Kathy de Bane has appeared in “Lend me a Tenor,” “My Three Angels” and “Alone Together.”

Opening weekend for “Two Across” is Friday, September 13 and Saturday, September 14, and the play runs Thursdays through Sundays for the next two weeks, closing on Sunday, September 29. The winning ticket for the WCT “Grand Prize” raffle will be drawn at the closing performance.

Advance tickets are available at Goods’ Shoppe or by calling WCT at 459-0895 and reserving seats with a credit card.

## Poet Melinda Clarke to read at The Muse

Poet, dancer and therapist Melinda Clarke will read her poetry on Sunday, September 15 at 7 pm at The Muse, 30 East San Francisco Street, first driveway east of the Yum Yum Tree.

Clarke has read several times at The Muse over the past few months, and has impressed event coordinators with the humor, warmth, and candor of her poetry.

She is a passionate person and the main thrust of her work is to encourage herself and others to experience life more fully.

“Walking, writing, painting, singing, dancing, gardening – whatever it is that takes us to our source, we’d better go,” she writes. An open reading will follow. Info: Mike A’Dair at 459-1576.

## Willits Shakespeare Company Presents Scripted

“Scripted”: An evening of short plays and wordsmiths, presented by the Willits Shakespeare Company. Opens Thursday, August 29 at 7 pm at the Willits Shakespeare Tent, 1195 South Main Street; continues Friday, August 30 and Saturday, August 31 at 8 pm. \$15.

The Writers: Damian Sebohian, Frank Barry and Jason Irwin. The Directors: Gloriann Lucero, Mitchell Roberts, Frank Barry and Damian Sebohian. The Players: Adam Moore, Sam Guida, Liz Dellett, Shy Silverstein, Garrett Vincent, Damian Sebohian, Andrea Stone, Lee Stipe, Jeremy Herschman, Mitchell Roberts, Mark Hetherington and Dylan Louth.

Between plays, enjoy the talents of local wordsmiths: Michael Riedell, Dan Roberts, Don Samson, Annie Samson, Liam UICearbhail and Steve Hellman.

“Find out what happens when a nouveau riche couple get exactly what they want, then what they deserve. Bask in the absurd hilarity that ensues when a crass American, a militant Israeli, a British tart and a Mexican peace activist are stuck together in a shed awaiting the Socialist Zombie apocalypse. How could a club girl summon two makeover artist devils while sneaking into the men’s room? What happens when she barters her soul for a life with Bradley Cooper? Can they even DO that? Does a legless man without a tongue get to have his final wish of watching the sunset in his homeland? First he has to get past two checkpoint guards. Does he succeed?” Info: 456-0152.



# Not JUST Cowboy Poetry and Apple Pie Throwdown

Saturday, September 14 at Emandal on the Eel River



Above: Tasters sample the contenders at the 2011 throwdown

Below: 2012 throwdown winner and 2013 pie judge, Kathryn Sterngold



Top: Guests gather on the lawn to watch the 2011 Cowboy Poetry event Photos by Maureen Moore

Right: Members of ‘Sons of the San Joaquin’ who will perform at this year’s event Photo courtesy of Emandal

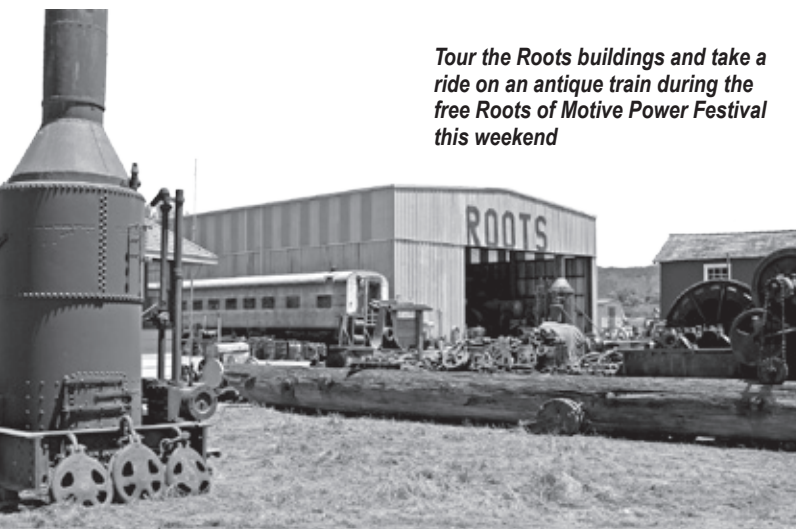
The Seventh Annual Not JUST Cowboy Poetry and Apple Pie Throwdown is set for Saturday, September 14 at Emandal, 16 miles NE of Willits, at the end of the Hearst Post Office Road, on the lawns, in the shade of the apple and walnut trees. An opportunity to try something you never thought you’d like to do....

Bring your friends and family, pack up a picnic, and join all the other folks from far and near, who enjoy being serenaded by masterful singer/songwriters of the Western genre. The Sons of the San Joaquin, exquisite harmonizers, reminiscent of the famed Sons of the Pioneers of a by-gone era, will be at Emandal for one concert only, at 3 pm.

At 2 pm, enjoy the Open Mic portion of the day. At 2:30 pm, the apple pies will have been judged and ready for

sampling, along with homemade ice cream. For just \$5, you may sample, and judge for yourself, just which pie should take home the coveted “People’s Choice” engraved rolling pin. Kathryn Sterngold won first place last year, and will honor us as a judge this year.

Tickets, \$25, are available at the gate, or reserved by calling or emailing 459-9252 or cowboypoetry@emandal.com. Proceeds from the event will go to Willits Friends of the Library, and Willits Daily Bread. Sponsors, without whom we couldn’t provide such a dynamic performance, are: Willits Redwood Company, Yokum’s Body Shop, North Coast Plumbing, SHN Engineering, Alfred F. Kerr, D.D.S., Sparetime Supply, John Ford Ranch, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, and East Hill Veterinary Clinic. – **Tamara Adams**



Tour the Roots buildings and take a ride on an antique train during the free Roots of Motive Power Festival this weekend

## Sunday, September 8

**2nd Annual Willits Kinetic Carnivale**: See Saturday, September 7 listing for details.

**Roots of Motive Power Festival**: See Saturday, September 7 listing for details.

**Auditions for “I Am a Camera”**: Today at 10 am at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, one block west of Mazzahar. John van Druden’s classic play tells the story of young people trying to find love and happiness while living in Berlin, Germany in the early 1930s, in the shadow of the growing Nazi menace. “I Am a Camera” is the basis for the famous motion picture “Cabaret.” Director Joe Dowling is seeking two men and two women to fill out the casting for the play. Available roles are: Sally (female lead, late teens through 20s); Natalia (second young lady, late teens through 20s); Fritz (Natalia’s love interest, 20s through mid-30s); and Clive (Sally’s rich American suitor, 20s through mid-30s). For more info or for scripts, call Dowling at 459-1200.

# Ongoing Events

**Farmers Market at City Park**: Summer produce, including tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant, watermelons and more from area farmers, plus live music (harmonies from New Blu Trio this week), flowers, crafts, baked goods, dinner and more. Every Thursday from 3 to 6 pm.

**Kinetic Carnivale Construction Volunteers**: Work parties on Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, and on Sundays from 11 am to 4 pm. Bring your friends and bring your tools to the Mendocino County Museum, 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Volunteers get perks and free passes to the Carnivale. More info: 684-0738, or http://www.kineticcarnivale.com/ or the Kinetic Carnivale page on Facebook.

**Monday Playgroup**: “for all of our little ones.” 11 am to 1 pm, at the Rec Grove until fall; organizers hope to move inside after that. Bring a few toys if you like. Tell a friend. Call Olivia at 707-671-6260 for more info.

**Willits Community Drum Circle**: 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932

**Open Mic at Shanachie Pub**: Every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm.

# Save the Date:

**Mendocino College North County Center Grand Opening**, September 11

**Mendocino County Fair & Apple Show**, Boonville Fairgrounds, September 13-15

**“Two Across,”** Willits Community Theatre, September 13

**ATV Rodeo**, Willits Rodeo Grounds, September 14

**7th Annual Not JUST Cowboy Poetry & 3rd annual Apple Pie Throwdown**, Emandal Farm, September 14

**“Stress Management Life Balance Workshop,”** with Kathy Espinoza, City Hall, September 18

**Annual Yard Sale**, St. Anthony’s Church, September 21

**Willits Community Harvest Farm to Table Dinner**, Little Lake Grange, Saturday, September 21



<b>ATV Rodeo</b> Starts at 4 pm Poles & Barrels Entry fee: \$20	<b>Best BBQ Ribs</b> Eat at 2 pm (\$10 to judge) Entry fee: \$75	<b>Mower Races</b> Starts at 4 pm Family Fun Entry fee: \$20
Gates Open: 10 am at Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds Spectators: Adults: \$10 & Kids under 12: Free		
Sponsors:		
Splash Bounce House    Craft Fair    Lions Club Breakfast    Horseshoe Tourney		
Contact: Marcy Barry at 272-5395		



Katelyn & Kiera started third grade this year



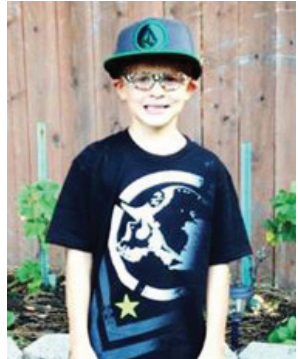
Caleb started second grade and little sister Jayden started Kindergarten this year



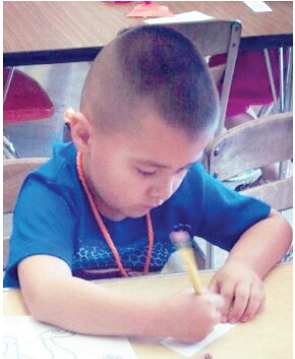
Hailey started first grade this year



Lillie started pre-Kindergarten this year



Dylan started third grade this year



Marco started Kindergarten this year



New Willits High School Freshmen: Caitlyn Forrester, Camryn Christensen, Isabel Gutierrez, Chanel Alexander, Julia Johnstone and Jamie Johnstone

# Education Edition

## Willits High School coaches, fall sports

Willits High School Athletic Director Tim Conrad reports that WHS has found coaches for the girls soccer and volleyball teams, filling out the complete roster for fall sports.

Melissa Johnson is coaching the varsity girls soccer team, and Saprina Rodriguez is coaching the junior varsity girls team. Girls soccer season starts at home on Tuesday, September 10, with games against Middletown, 5:30 pm.

Mattie Pinon is coaching both varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams. Volleyball season starts September 24; the first home games are set for Thursday, September 26, against Clearlake; JV game at 5 pm; varsity game at 6 pm.

For the other fall sports, Nick Williamson is head coach for varsity football, and Ray Britton is head coach for junior varsity football. Football season starts August 30, with three away games (the re-sodded football field needs to "rest" through most of September). The first home football games are Homecoming weekend, Friday, September 27, against Middletown, at 5:30 and 7:30 pm.

Noel Woodhouse is head coach for varsity soccer, and Daniel Haley is head coach for junior varsity soccer. Soccer season starts September 6, but the first home game, against St. Helena, is set for Thursday, September 25, 5:30 pm.

Dave Smith is head coach for cross country. Cross country season starts September 7. There's a home practice meet on Wednesday, October 2, and the first home meet, against Calistoga, Clearlake and St. Helena, is set for Wednesday, October 23, 3:30 pm.

Check out the Willits High School Facebook page to keep up with sports and other events at Willits High School.



Taylor, Kaiden and Jacob on their first day of first grade. "Buddies back together again!" says Drew's mom Jenn



Samantha started first grade this year

### CENTER FOR PAIN RELIEF

## Get Back to a Pain Free Life

If you've been suffering with pain or been diagnosed with chronic pain, you won't want to miss this FREE seminar.

Don't let pain take over your life. Proper management of chronic pain from conditions like migraine, back pain, joint pain or following an injury can help you get back to an active life. Learn about new advances in treatment of chronic pain, from mental, physical and dietary options to new minimally invasive surgical options.

**Michael Young, D.O., Interventional Pain Specialist**  
Dr. Young is a board-certified interventional pain specialist who performs in-office and minimally invasive surgical pain procedures. He has a passion for helping patients to get to the root cause of their pain.

**Rachel Chavez, PA, Pain Specialist**  
Rachel has a passion for working with people suffering from pain. She is focused on the holistic approach to healing by providing education on nutrition, medication management and procedures.

**Rigpa Shumya, P.N.P., Psychiatric Pain Specialist**  
Rigpa specializes in helping patients understand their pain by combining a mental and physical approach.

JOIN US FOR A FREE SEMINAR  
Living Without Pain

**September 12**  
6:00 p.m. registration  
6:30-7:30 p.m. seminar

Ukiah Valley  
Conference Center  
200 S. School St. | Ukiah, CA 95482

RSVP to  
877.596.0644

Space is limited.  
A healthy dessert and light refreshments will be served.  
www.uvmc.org/painfree

Ukiah Valley  
Medical Center  
Adventist  
Health

You can also watch the event live at [uvmc.org/live](http://uvmc.org/live).

SUBSCRIBE to Willits Weekly! 459-2633

**BBQ Sandwiches \$6.95 - \$9.50**  
Pulled Pork Chicken Tri-Tip Brisket

**BBQ Plates \$11.75 - \$13.95**  
Ribs Chicken Pulled Pork Beef Brisket

42 S. Main Street Monday - Saturday  
707-472-6472 12 pm to 7 pm

# Classifieds & More



## Addition / Decking / New Home

Are you looking to add a room, remodel, add a new deck or replace an existing one, build a new custom home or have pest work done? Local licensed contractor #386275 since 1979. Zanardi Construction. Andy: 707-459-6670

## Food Servers Wanted

Adam's Restaurant. 3 years' experience. 707/456-9226 or 707/972-3243.

## For Rent

2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, townhouse/condo in country setting. Washer-dryer hookup. No smoking, garbage paid. \$725/month. Armo: 459-9601.  
2 bedroom, 1 bath, close to downtown. No pets. No smoking. Water/garbage paid. \$770/month. Armo: 459-9601.

## The Fruit Group

Last Truck This Summer!  
9-13-13 @ 10:30 a.m.

Freestone Peaches - yellow/white \$24 field lug  
Nectarines - yellow/white \$24 field lug  
Tomatoes \$21 field lug  
CALL BRENDA: 459-9335

## Got Bats?

Eliminate your mosquito problems with a quality redwood bat house. Small: 12"x24" holding over 100 bats, \$45; Medium: 24" X 24" holding over 200 bats, \$85. Instructions included, shipping available. 707 274 9196 or johnthwoodpecker@gmail.com

## Help Wanted

Position available for a responsible, detail-oriented assistant. Please bring resume to the Willits Pet Care Center at 90 South Street.

## Help Wanted

Position available for a registered veterinary technician. Please bring resume to the Willits Pet Care Center at 90 South Street.

## Instructional Assistant

Willits Charter School is seeking a part-time Instructional Assistant, 12 to 20 hours/week, \$10/Hour. Please contact WCS for more information: 707-459-5506

## Computer Help

Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$35/hr. Tutoring \$15/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerjin@yahoo.com.

## Consignments Accepted

GAVEL DOWN SALES, located at 1611 South Main Street, is open Wed through Sun, 10 am to 6 pm, and is accepting quality home furnishings for consignment. Contact Kapila at 707.459.1300.

## Counseling

Introspection through counseling gives us a chance to see those places that are out of balance. Many fears as well as guilt can be examined and released. Call Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, M.A., 459 2101



## Flea Market

Flea Mkt/ Annual Yard Sale St. Anthony's Church in Willits Sat. Sept. 21 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$15.00/space fee contact Peggy @ 972-2016 or Diana 459-6260 for more details. Save gas, save time, sell your items locally.

## Old Cars Wanted

ALWAYS LOOKING for Cars, Scooters & Motorcycles! '40s thru '50s. Show Car to Parts Car. Please call Alan: 489-7165 or email agrossman@pacifi.net.

## Career Opportunity

Finance Director / City Treasurer

City of Willits, California

Salary: \$64,583 - 78,501 (DOE/DOQ) + Excellent Benefits

Known as the Gateway to the Redwoods and the home of Seabiscuit, the City of Willits (population 4,888) is located in the heart of Mendocino County, on U.S. Highway 101, approximately 140 miles north of San Francisco. Willits, a quaint rural town, rich with history and beautiful scenery, is now seeking a talented Finance Director / City Treasurer to manage all of the City's fiscal activities, under the direction of the City Manager.

The City's financial operations are organized and managed on the basis of funds and account groups, with resources being allocated across various individual funds. The Finance Director / City Treasurer position is a senior management position, and is responsible for the management and monitoring of these funds, including, maintaining the accounting system and records to readily reflect the financial condition of the City. Management shall include oversight with respect to budgeting, financial planning, accounting operations, and financial reporting. The various types of funds being managed under this position include, but are not limited to, the general fund, special revenue funds, debt services funds, capital improvement funds, enterprise funds, and trust/fund agency funds. The Finance Director / City Treasurer is also responsible for the accounting and financial reporting of the City's water and wastewater utilities. Daily activities include oversight of utility billing; accounts receivable; accounts payable; payroll; general ledger; cash management; and account analysis, and budgetary and accounting control.

This position requires a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in accounting, finance, business administration, or other closely related field; and five or more years of progressively responsible experience in municipal government finance. The successful candidate will have strong communication skills, be an effective leader, and possess a positive attitude. The City Manager will depend upon the Finance Director / City Treasurer to participate in City Council meetings; actively guide staff through the budgeting and funds management process; demonstrate a commitment to the community by involvement in civic activities; and to be progressive-minded and a team player.

The City of Willits offers a comprehensive benefits package including enrollment in the CalPERS retirement system; medical, dental, vision, and life insurance; eleven (11) paid holidays; three (3) floating holidays; and nine (9) management leave days.

Applications for this position will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on September 20, 2013. For additional information or to obtain application materials, please contact Brandi Burness, Human Resources Technician, at (707) 459-4601 or BBurness@WillitsCity.com.

A complete application packet must include a completed City of Willits job application; a resumé inclusive of at least three (3) professional references; and a cover letter detailing experience, qualifications, and why you believe you are the best candidate for the position.

The selected candidate will be required to participate in a comprehensive background investigation and medical screening.

The City of Willits is an Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer

## Love Willits Weekly?

Wonderful! We love community support! Help Willits' only locally owned and independent newspaper continue to grow, and keep offering the quality local coverage you've come to expect!

Donate or subscribe through PayPal online easily at [www.WillitsWeekly.com](http://www.WillitsWeekly.com) or send a check to P.O. Box 1698 in Willits. Any and all amounts help!

## Pinball Machines

PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

## Redwood Ave Flea Market

Don't miss the annual street-long Redwood Ave Labor Day flea market, Saturday, Aug 31 9am.

## Timber Photo Project

Come see the "Mendocino County Timber Photo Project" on Facebook. If you got 'em you can post 'em.

## Eckankar

Have you had a spiritual experience? You are invited to participate in an ongoing, spiritual discussion Tuesday, September 24, at 6:30 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

## Get it Sold!

Classified listings in Willits Weekly are a great place to list items and services for sale - or wanted ads to help meet your needs! Contact us today to place an ad - 972-7047 or 459-2633. It's only \$10 for 30 words for two weeks!

The rest of Schools | From Page 1

Brookside, instead of moving on to Blosser Lane Elementary School. "The third grade is a pretty big class," O'Neill said. Back to School night at Brookside is September 12.

"Enrollment is way up at Blosser Lane," said Tawny Fernandez, principal of Blosser Lane, "and classrooms are full." Fernandez is also principal this year for Willits' alternative schools, including Sherwood Elementary School, and she says "enrollment looks good at Sherwood, too," where Kindergarten is full. "It's been a great kickoff to the beginning of the year," Fernandez said. "The kids are happy, and the kids are coming to school." Back to School night at Blosser Lane is September 21 and at Sherwood, it's September 17.

Kara McClellan, director at the Willits Elementary Charter School, says they have "a huge waiting list for Kindergarten." Many of the other grade levels are currently full, too, she said, except fourth grade, which has a number of openings. WECS, which starts school next week on September 3, is still accepting applications for all grades, McClellan said, in anticipation of some new openings in other grades, too.

"We're really excited about the start of school and our staff," McClellan said. "We've assembled such a magnificent group of folks, our old team back again, and a few new faces."

Tatiana Cantrell at Learning Roots Pre-School and Childcare in Willits says her school also almost full, with only a couple of part-time slots open right now. "They're saying everybody's moving out of the area - and enrollment was declining a bit every year," she said, "I'm on a couple of site councils for the local schools - and all of sudden there's all these kids here." Cantrell also coaches with Willits Youth Soccer, and said there's many younger kids getting

Willits Weekly | August 29, 2013

The rest of Pinches | From Page 1

Wagenet ran against Lucier. Both Pinches and Wagenet defeated Lucier in the primary, and Wagenet won a narrow victory over Pinches that November.

Pinches defeated Wagenet in November 2006 and Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal in November 2010.

For the remainder of his term, Pinches said he intended to "keep the finances of the county on track."

The rest of Bridge | From Page 1

would come from the state and federal governments, the portion of the funding the county would normally pay has been covered by funds from a new state law that directs funds gathered from bridge tolls to pay cost of replacing of rural bridges. So the cost to the county to replace the current bridge will be zero, he said, beyond labor and administrative costs.

Supervisor John Pinches said he supported the project. "We got to look out for the future," Pinches said. "Out in that area we got mostly 20-acre parcels, and you can have two dwellings on each parcel."

More of Budget | From Page 1

Revenue from property taxes has remained almost perfectly flat since 2008-2009, rising from \$27.3 million in that fiscal year to \$28.16 million in 2010-2011, and then falling to \$28.07 million in 2011-2012. Property tax revenue for the past two years has remained at \$28 million, and is predicted to rise only slightly over the next three years.

Those revenues make up almost half of the county's total annual discretionary budget - the money available for supervisors to spend.

A number of factors are limiting sales

"It's like an engineer on a train," he said. "You come onto a train and you're the engineer, but the train is off the track. Well then, the first thing you have to do is get the train back on the track. I've done that twice. I did it when I came on in 1994, and I did it again when I came on the second time in 2007.

"People in politics like to spend more money than they have," Pinches said.

So growth in the future even in that area is possible.

"I'd hate to be the guy who voted against infrastructure improvement, especially in this county, especially in the rural areas of this county, where we have so many roads and bridges that run over creeks, especially when this bridge is basically free. So I'm gonna vote 'yes.'"

The rest of the board followed suit, and the modified negative declaration of environmental impact for the project was approved.

tax revenues as well. Apart from the illegal marijuana economy, which is difficult to gauge, the rest of the county's economy is showing only modest growth. It remains difficult for employers to find capable and reliable employees, and local industry faces stiff competition from other parts of the country and the world. In addition, the United States is only slowly climbing out of the last recession.

When all of these factors are added together, the revenue stream available to support

Read the rest of Budget | Over on Page 11



Far left: top: Rides are free, but donations are also accepted; center: Big gears help run the antique machinery; bottom: Huge logs and Roots equipment go hand in hand

At left: An antique tractor "No. 185" from "The Best Manufacturing Company" of San Leandro

Below: Chris Baldo of Roots of Motive Power

Bottom: Chains and gears in the Roots building

Photos by Maureen Moore



## Roots of Motive Power steams it up with festival this weekend

The Roots of Motive Power crew will be steaming up for their major event of the year, the Roots of Motive Power Festival, on Saturday, September 7 and Sunday, September 8 at the Roots facility on Commercial Street.

"We try to run every piece of steam equipment that we have that is operable," said Chris Baldo of Willits Redwood Company, a longtime Roots stalwart. "Steam tractors, steam shovel, steam roller, crane, there's a lot."

The Roots festival will take place the same weekend as the Kinetic Carnivale, giving steampunk fans the opportunity to experience the real steam deal.

Last year's Kinetic Carnivale attendees thoroughly appreciated learning about steam engines – and costumed revelers enjoyed posing in front of the massive machines

and locomotives from days gone by.

Roots will be offering free train rides around the tracks with the Mason County No. 7 steam locomotive again this year. "We have a new diesel locomotive that we operated for the first time a week ago," Baldo said, "and that will be going around the tracks too."

The 20-ton Whitcomb locomotive was built in 1941 by the Whitcomb Locomotive Works, and was last operated for Boise Cascade in Steilacoom, Washington.

In addition to the steam-up, the Early Day Gas Engine Society will set up their gas engine "contraptions" again this year at the Rec Grove, and Saturday afternoon features the annual Roots Appreciation BBQ at 4 pm.

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Summer's Tasty Fruits & Veggies are filling our shelves now!

### Mariposa Market

Natural and Organic Foods

Organic Produce • Bulk Foods • Grass-Fed Beef  
Wild-Caught Fish • Local Products • Cafe

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Mendocino County's government remains stagnant, while costs are rising and long deferred bills are coming due.

This has brought the county to a place where, as poet Robert Frost wrote, "two roads diverged in a yellow wood." On the one hand, the county could have decided to restore employee wage concessions and even give county workers a raise. On the other hand, the county is faced with deteriorating infrastructure: obsolete technology, leaky roofs, aging equipment and an uncertain future with its retirement fund.

This year the county decided to focus on infrastructure.

For the first time since 2006, Mendocino County has invested a sizable portion of its budget on capital improvements. It also has eliminated some costly fiscal maneuvers, such as borrowing low-interest money during the summer to fund governmental activities during cash-lean months.

The county also has gone a long way toward paying off its Teeter fund debt, and

has paid off the debt incurred to implement its emergency communications system. At the same time, it has increased its general reserve fund to more than \$7 million, the most money ever held in that fund.

This approach is opposed by a number of county employees who attended the meeting. The disgruntled workers have formed a group, Mend Mendocino, which held a canned food drive prior to Tuesday's meeting.

Sandi Madrigal-Crawford, an employee with SEIU Local 1021, the labor union for the majority of county employees, summed up county employees' position:

"We haven't had a raise since 2007," Madrigal-Crawford said. "We've given back and given back and given back, for years. We are working for 2007 wages, and meanwhile it's 2013. Our healthcare costs have gone up 15 percent, and a lot of us can't make it anymore. It's like, we are the working poor."

"And the thing of it is, these are county jobs – the best jobs in the county. So what does it mean when the workers who have

the best jobs in the county can barely survive, and some of us can't survive? That means things aren't right."

Despite an able presentation by county Assistant CEO Kyle Knopp, who touted the county's achievements in the face of a difficult economic environment, many audience members asked about the one thing the county seems to have overlooked: "What about investing in people?" "Why are employees' salaries not mentioned?" "Why are new and older county employees leaving the county to find work elsewhere?"

"What would have been the cost to the county if it had accepted the union's offer?" asked county employee Dave Eberly, president of SEIU Local 1021.

"If the discretionary part of the county budget is \$57 million, then five percent of that would be about \$2.8 million," said Second District Supervisor John McCowen.

"Really, I feel that discussion of that point is much more suited to the negotiating table," Knopp said, "and I don't want to talk about it here."

before he arrived with his camera and was arrested.

Eberhard was booked at county jail on suspicion of trespassing with a \$5,000 bail, booking records stated.

Eberhard donates his work regularly to The Willits News, photographing bypass construction and other events around town.

Several MediaNews Group newspapers republished versions of an editorial that appeared in The Willits News concerning Eberhard's arrest.

From the beginning of bypass work and protests, Nomad Films videographer Tony Ellis has been assembling footage for a documentary. "Our First Amendment rights have been stomped all over," Ellis claims.

"I have watched [Eberhard] get turned away over and over again," he added, noting he has almost 30 videos of Eberhard being asked to leave the freeway right of way.

"I take photos for the community," Eberhard said. "I have a right to go out there, and I try to go along with the regulations Caltrans has put on us."

Eberhard said an officer was about to read him an order to leave state property. "I was going to leave like I always have before," Eberhard said. "I have been doing that for five months."

But he never got the chance: As the CHP officer searched his cell phone for the text of the order he would read, another officer began to handcuff Eberhard, the photographer said.

Deputy District Attorney Matthew Hubley appeared in court for the DA's Office Friday morning to make it official: a case would not be filed.

Eberhard noted the CHP said he can now phone CHP dispatchers, who will contact officers on bypass duty to tell them he will be out taking photographs.

Mendocino Forest Products owns the source of the fill, a vacant sawmill north of Willits, north of where the railroad tracks cross Highway 101 and south of Outlet Creek.

In an August 28 letter to Mendocino Forest Products, Mendocino County's chief building inspector, Chris Warwick, writes: "It has come to my attention that permit BU-2013-0452 for the proposed grading located at 25500 Highway 101 was issued in error.... Therefore, I am revoking permit BU-2013-0452 and ordering all work to STOP."

"My client is not happy with what the county did," said Jim King, attorney for Mendocino Forest Products, in the courtroom Wednesday. "The work has stopped."

King said that the soil was tested at the site of the excavation and that surveys conducted for the Northern Spotted Owl, raptors and song birds detected nothing.

The Willits Environmental Center and Keep the Code, an area group formed to oppose the Harris Quarry expansion project, filed papers Friday with Mendocino County Superior Court to ask for a temporary restraining order against the dirt moving.

Keep the Code and the Environmental Center asked for the county to comply with CEQA and SMARA, court documents stated.

Due to the county's Wednesday decision to rescind its grading permit, no action was taken by the judge.

In an e-mail Wednesday afternoon, Save Our Little

Lake Valley announced they'd be turning an 8 am rally Thursday into a celebration of the work stoppage.

Zoia, according to her website, works cases that challenge project approvals and related environmental documents like Environmental Impact Reports and violations of CEQA.

She has represented citizen's groups and environmental groups that include the Audubon Society, Bodega Bay Concerned Citizens, San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center, Santa Monica Baykeeper, Sierra Club and the Surfrider Foundation.

### Caltrans in "serious breach" of bypass permit conditions

The Army Corps issued an August 16 letter to Caltrans, saying the highway agency was not in compliance with conditions under which its permit was granted in February 2012.

"Caltrans has failed to complete mitigation site preparation activities in a timely manner as required in the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan," the letter, signed by Jane Hicks, chief of the Army Corp's Regulatory Division in the San Francisco district, states.

Army Corps staff "is concerned that future required mitigation actions detailed in the MMP will be behind schedule because of Caltrans failure to retain a qualified contractor to accomplish the required work in a timely manner."

The letter lists a number of concerns and "corrective

measures" that must be taken to "assure future compliance with the permit conditions in a timely manner."

First on the list of five specific requirements is that, by September 1, a meeting be scheduled with Army Corps staff and Caltrans hydrologists "to discuss potential secondary effects from wick drains on wetland hydrology."

Other requirements include completion of mitigation site preparation by October 1; complete revisions of Mitigation and Monitoring Plan chapters "that have not met, or are likely to not meet" deadlines in the plan by October 1; complete the study and final report on "baseline conditions" dealing with target species in the rehabilitation parcels by October 1; and "select treatment types and final mitigation plan designs for the rehabilitation parcels by October 15."

The Army Corps "considers non-compliance as a serious breach of permit conditions," the letter states. "Failure to remain in compliance with the permit ... may result in permit suspension, revocation or medication and administrative penalties."

Caltrans responded in a statement: "We are committed to the 2,000 acres of mitigation and other efforts to protect and enhance the environment in the Little Lake Valley. We are working closely with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and are taking all requested steps to ensure compliance with our permit."

Additional reporting by Jennifer Poole

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### Puzzle Answer

From Page 4

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Above: guests enjoy the gallery display; below left: photographs by Stephanie Jimenez; below right: the bookcase Tim Oslund built and the sunny windows of the North Street house

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# North Street Collective



Above: Noel Woodhouse and Natasha Hoehn stand in the garden

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## Art and community thriving at 350 North Street

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Grandma Mavis Bromaghin's old house, a Craftsman cottage built 100 years ago at 350 North Street, has started another new chapter in Willits history. Members of the North Street Collective, led by educators and artists Natasha Hoehn and Noel Woodhouse, have been renovating the house, inside and out, for more than a year now.

Sunday before last, the collective had its first Apprentice Program Showcase, featuring the work of seven young local apprentices and a BBQ and party in the garden.

This summer's apprentices were: Tim Oslund (entryway bookshelf and display case); Anthony Gonzalez (Mavis shed redesign - the shed was brought, in three pieces, from Jackass Creek on the coast, where Mavis and her husband, Cy, were living before moving back to Willits in 1960); Fernando Meza (original portraits for the Willits People project, a series of portraits of influential people in Willits); Katie Stranske (original portraits for the Willits People project); Isaac Sanchez (fire pit and seating from salvaged materials at 350 North Street); Stephanie Jimenez (Guanajuato photo project, original portraits for the Willits People Project and

North St. documentation); and Tasia Hooks (curator and host).

This summer's apprentices were asked for feedback on the program; here are some of the comments: "It was so great to have the opportunity to do work I really love and meet new people." "This experience made me want to do so much more with my life!" "I'm so glad I got to be part of this."

The North Street Collective plans four apprentice sessions every year, for those aged 17 to 25. The Fall 2013 session starts on September 16 and runs for 12 weeks through December 9.

Hoehn has extended family in Willits, and shares her time between Willits and San Francisco. Woodhouse grew up here and teaches and coaches soccer at Willits High School.

"The North Street Collective was founded to carry forward Grandma Mavis' abundant creativity, connections, and kindness," Hoehn said. "Mavis has more than 50 years living here, loving and inspiring generations of young people with her warmth, her energy, her quilts, her volunteer activities ... and her cookies!" Grandma Mavis passed away in January 2011.

The North Street Collective has been funded with seed money for three years by the Community Initiatives Foundation, including a stipend for the young apprentices. Hoehn continues to seek

grant funding to expand the collective's programs, which will include exhibitions and artists residencies, as well as the apprenticeship programs.

Sculptor James Brody is preparing an installation for North Street this fall. An Artist Committee will invite promising artists to spend up to eight weeks at North Street. The artist residents will be asked to provide one free event (exhibition, class, workshop) to the public per month of residency and, if possible, leave behind one work of art.

For more information, check [www.northstreetcollective.org](http://www.northstreetcollective.org), stop by 350 North Street or call 415-370-0552. To sign up for the mailing list, send an email to [info@northstreetcollective.org](mailto:info@northstreetcollective.org). To donate to the project, go to this Community Initiative Foundation link, [www.communityin.org/support.html](http://www.communityin.org/support.html), and scroll down to North Street Collective.



The garden is full of goodies including Quinoa, above and zucchini, below



Gordon Oslund, Fernando Meza, Anthony Gonzales and Isaac Sanchez chat in the garden

Photos by Maureen Moore

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