



## Topics to Talk About!

Here are just a few brainstormed topics aimed to help inspire you to send in a letter to the editor:

What five businesses would you like to see start up in Willits?

What could Willits do to make it easier for new businesses to come to the area?

What would be the best way to increase downtown parking?

Revival of the "Open Late on Friday Nights" downtown plan to have shops and restaurants stay open later – worthwhile? Not?

What are five things you shop for out of town? Who could look to carry those items locally?

What improvements or changes would you like to see at the Hometown Celebrations (July and October events)? What do you appreciate about them? What do you hope doesn't change?

How could we better include south-side Willits businesses into the Hometown Celebrations?

How can we encourage more participation in our local non-profits and club organizations (Soroptimists, Rotary, Boy Scouts, Willits Horsemen, etc.)

Main Street, post-bypass: What do you envision?

How could we increase tourism in town?

In addition to fairs and festivals already planned, what new events would you like to attend?

How could merchants get more customers to shop locally?

What are the five things you like most about Willits, and what five need improvement?

What could we provide or create as positive, motivating opportunities to the youth in the community?

Come up with your own topics! We love to see diversity on our letters page and would like to encourage potential first-time senders to give it a try! See our "The Rules: LETTERS" box below for info on how to send in your letter to the editor.

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## About Willits

To the Editor:

I'm replying to your request for comment on your list of topics:

A great new business to have in Willits would be a bowling alley, with video games for the teens. Right now, there's no place for them to go to have fun.

We might see an increase in tourism if we had a couple of bed & breakfasts or inns; also a wine-tasting bar.

I think merchants could get more customers to shop locally if they lowered their prices a bit.

The five things I like about Willits are as follows:

1. We're getting a new hospital and a bypass! (at the same time). I never thought this would happen in my lifetime.
2. I can drive to the movie theater in about 5 to 7 minutes, and if I leave a little early I can visit the art gallery, which is right next door (of course, during their open hours).
3. We're close to the coast; close to state parks; all the shops are close by as well.
4. We have a very large variety of stores to shop at.
5. Most of the time we don't have to contend with a lot of traffic: the bypass will take care of the overflow.

For the adults, we need someone or someplace to offer adult education classes: like a cooking class, woodworking, upholstery, etc., at a reasonable charge.

When I'm driving home from Santa Rosa or Sonoma, and I reach Healdsburg, I start to relax, and I can breathe more easily: I'm going home to the peace and quiet of Willits.

You can't stop progress!

Rita Priestly, Willits

## Burn permits still suspended

To the Editor:

With cooler temperatures and the possibility of precipitation CalFire Mendocino Unit wants to remind everyone that residential and open outdoor burning permits are still suspended. The suspension will remain in effect until formally cancelled.

Although the change in weather is welcome amid California's extremely dry conditions, it will do little to ease the current hazardous fuel conditions. That

will require significant wet storms for an extended period of time.

Mendocino County fire history shows that suspending debris burning is an effective way of preventing wildfires that result from debris burn escapes. Although all fires cannot be prevented through a burning suspension, their numbers can be significantly reduced. This is particularly critical in our current situation.

CalFire Mendocino continues to ask residents to do their part to prevent wildfires; "one less spark – one less wildfire." For more information on how to prepare for wildfires, go to [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org).

Christopher P. Rowney, chief, CalFire Mendocino Unit

## Rocking and rolling

To the Editor:

The Vote Holly campaign for 3rd District Supervisor is rocking and rolling! All voices are needed to make this election a success, and we are hustling to register voters.

The last day to register to vote is Monday, October 20. We have the forms at Vote Holly headquarters, 716 South Main Street (open Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday from 11 am to 3pm), so stop by and sign up. There is no time to waste.

Your ability to vote for your local supervisor is an opportunity that should not be missed. Your vote will make a difference.

If you missed the Town Hall meeting last Sunday, there are still a number of community candidate forums coming up. I urge everyone to attend at least one of these events.

I get so energized engaging with voters and hearing what is important to them. My hard-earned experience serving as your mayor gives me an understanding of many of the topics that matter most in our community. I would love to hear from you and answer your questions.

Next up is a candidates meeting on October 2 at Willits City Hall on environmental topics. Laytonville Elementary School is hosting a candidate's night October 9, and on October 15 at Willits City Hall, you can learn more about the candidates for supervisor and the ballot measures. More details are on the calendar at [voteholly.com](http://voteholly.com).

Hope to see you on the campaign trail, and don't forget to vote on November 4.

Holly Madrigal, Willits

## Thank you

To the Editor:

As team captain of High Hopes for Relay For Life Willits 2014, I'd like to say a big "Thank You" to the vendors of our town, for their in-kind donations or for donating a raffle item to Relay for our team.

Raffle item "Thank You's" go to: 1st Nail Salon, Main Street Video, Moon Lady, Willits Pet Care Center, Les Schwab, Old Mission Pizza, Lumberjacks and Diana Mann.

A big "Thank You" to Flowers By Annette and Mane Effects for their donations, and to my wonderful team members: Margaret Judy, Judy Williams, Darla Martinez, Trinity Barrett, Liz Gardner, Becca Gardner, Michelle Mothershed, and Ruth Ford.

Another "Thank You" to all the people who donated online. To Radio Shack and Brown's Corner for letting us keep money jars at your businesses. Also thanks to Jerry Saunders and Ray Martinez for hauling our stuff to and from the park and helping us set up and take down our booth.

This, our first year, Team High Hopes raised over \$1,600. Overall Willits raised \$60,000 for 2014!!!

If you'd like to join Team High Hopes for the 2015 Relay for Life, contact Sharron Kidd at 459-9285 Thanks again!

Sharron Kidd, Willits

## Vote Woodhouse

To the Editor:

I have lived in the Third District of Mendocino County for the past 33 years. I have come to understand that this may be one of the most pristine places on this planet in which to live. It takes stewardship and leadership to protect the quality of life that we have here in the North County. That is why both Supervisor John Pinches and Sheriff Tom Allman have endorsed Tom Woodhouse in his candidacy to become our new representative. I, too, support Tom because I firmly believe he will be an effective voice to protect the quality of life that surrounds us. Won't you join us in voting for Tom Woodhouse as the Third District Supervisor?

Noel J. O'Neill, Willits



"What's for lunch today?" veteran Brian Johnson asked at the Saturday Brown Bag Lunch Program in City Park last month, offered that week by St. John Lutheran Church of Willits.

The answer: ham & cheese sandwiches on wheat bread, chips, a banana, a pear (thanks to the Grateful Gleaners) and cookies, packed in about 40 brown bags, plus juice and water.

"Wow, you folks went craaaaazy today," Johnson said in admiration.

"It's the Lutheran Church," Don O'Reilly said. "We always do a good job."

O'Reilly also had a big bag of dog kibble from the Second Chance Dog Association and was giving out plastic bags of dog food to anyone who could use it.

The lunches are available to anyone who shows up: there is no paperwork to fill out (just a sign-in form) and no eligibility requirements. People who show up include veterans, people with disabilities (some belong to both categories: Johnson talked about the traumatic brain injury he suffered as a serviceman), single people, teens, and families with children. Anyone who could use a free lunch is welcome.

St. John is one of many churches, businesses and individuals in Willits who pitch in to take rotating responsibility for providing brown bag lunches in City Park every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm.

The 2014 roster of groups includes: Soroptimists of

# Saturday lunch at City Park

By Jennifer Poole



Top row from left: Veteran Brian Johnson, about to enjoy his lunch. Don O'Reilly holds the Brown Bag Lunch Program notebook over boxes packed with bag lunches. Tami Rempel and Vicki Ham put together sandwiches at the St. John Lutheran Church hall.



At left, above: Helping hands put together a sandwich. At left: Geraldine Armond setting up the distribution point in City Park. At right: Sandwich assembly team from left, Tami Rempel, Duane Davis, Vicki Ham and Geraldine Armond. Photos by Jennifer Poole

## OPEN HOUSE! SEPTEMBER 27TH



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(PG) 1 hr 53 mins  
Daily: 5:30 & 8:00pm  
Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm

**DOLPHIN TALE 2**  
(PG) 1 hr 47 mins  
Daily: 5:15pm  
Sat/Sun: 12noon & 5:15pm

**THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY**  
(PG) 2 hrs 2 mins  
Daily: 7:45pm  
Sat/Sun: 2:30 & 7:45pm

Movie Times for 9/26 thru 10/2 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5



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## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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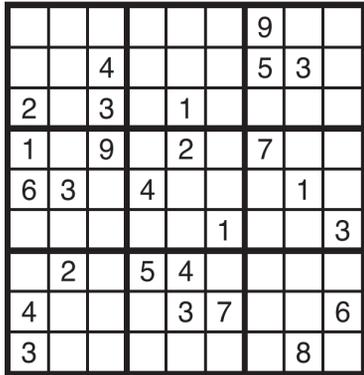
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# Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

## Sudoku



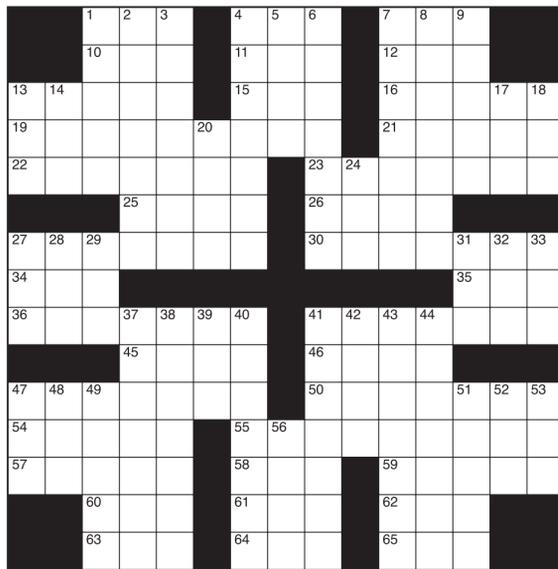
Level: Intermediate



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!

## Crossword Puzzle



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Time unit (abbr.)
4. Semiliquid infant food
7. Pacific Standard Time
10. Unitary
11. Brew
12. Language of Laos
13. Higher up
15. Toupee
16. A love affair
19. Exaggerated emotional play
21. Hadith
22. Used to one's advantage
23. Ancient Persian governors
25. Surrender possession
26. Carbamide
27. Can't move
30. \_\_\_ Institute, Santa Barbara
34. Helps little firms
35. Consumed
36. Plural of index
41. Of the African desert
45. Part in a play
46. Famous British School
47. Paragon of chivalry

### CLUES DOWN

1. Slang for money
2. Itemized bill
3. Pine leaves
4. Processions
5. Medical astringent
6. Winged horse
7. Wall & ceiling coating
8. Japanese warrior
9. Chinese mahogany genus
13. Doctors' group
14. Am. soprano \_\_\_ Sills
17. Atomic #105 symbol
18. British astronomy org.
20. Interpret
24. Something curved in shape
27. The 23rd Greek letter
28. Airborne (abbr.)
29. Radioactivity unit
31. Golf score
32. School organization
33. 1/100 yen
37. A citizen of Iran
38. Treated with indulgence
39. \_\_\_ Lilly, drug company
40. Sensory
41. Calmed by drugs
42. At the peak
43. Esteemed recipient
44. Reverse dactyl
47. Drinking establishment
48. Shower month (abbr.)
49. Rental contract
51. Educate
52. Make a mistake
53. Obstruct water
56. Toward the mouth

## In The Stars

### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your thoughts are spinning and it's pretty difficult for you to get a hold of any one thing. Take a step back and try to clear your head before proceeding.

### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, don't let your nerves get the better of you this week. Find someone who can calm your nerves and help you realize you have nothing to be nervous about.

### GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Gemini, you have plenty of motivation to get a project started. All you need is some help to get things off the ground. Others will be inspired by your enthusiasm.

### CANCER

June 22/July 22

Cancer, others seem to spend time in the spotlight, but you're more comfortable spending time in the shadows. Make the most of this time for quiet reflection.

### LEO

July 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may be anxious to try a new hobby this week, but just don't know which direction to go. Get some recommendations from friends about what keeps them busy.

### VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Sometimes it is difficult for you to talk about your feelings, Virgo. You want to present a brave front, but you're only human and should let others in this week.

### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, staying the course may be a challenge this week. You have too many things pulling you in different directions. But you'll be successful if you can get a foothold in one thing.

### SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Work associates may not be holding up their end of the deal, Scorpio. You're content to help out once in a while but not take on the work of everyone else.

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Use your charm to win someone over, Sagittarius. This is an influential person who will be good to have in your corner. You never know when you might need a good ally.

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, if certain ideas didn't work in the past, give them another try. All of the components may fall into place this time around, and you'll like the results.

### AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, the coming weeks may be ideal for some rest and relaxation. Plan for some downtime and make the most of this chance to recharge your batteries.

### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, expect things to flow much more smoothly this week than they have in recent weeks. You may find you have more free time.

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## Tom Woodhouse for 3rd District supervisor

My name is Tom Woodhouse, and I am running for 3rd District supervisor. My wife, Carlyn, and I moved to Willits in 1974. We feel fortunate to have built a home and raised our two children in the supportive community of Mendocino County. I have sold acreage to many dreamers like us that resulted in a lifetime of learning experiences and lasting friendships. Working with people from all walks of life and dealing with the most important financial decisions in their lives has been a great privilege and given me deep insights into how to work with people in challenging situations. I want to apply the skills I have learned in my life and business to improve the way our county leaders govern and how we as citizens can work together.

I am not a career politician. At the same time, I am no stranger to the importance of political service. My grandmother, Chase Going Woodhouse, was the first woman Democrat to represent the state of Connecticut in the United States House of Representatives. My choice has been to work behind the scenes with boards, councils, groups and neighbors to enhance, improve and restore our community. I believe this is my time to step forward and contribute publicly to our county. Thanks to tremendous encouragement, support and hard work, I was the top vote getter in the June primary. It is of the utmost importance to me to work with Covelo, Laytonville, Willits, and all the other outlying areas, to ensure that we all get a fair share of our county resources. Our next supervisor will be under intense pressure to cut existing services to the rural communities. This is not acceptable to me. I intend to use my knowledge and experience to advocate for the needs of the entire district, particularly for the people whose voices seem to go unheard. I want to influence the tone of government, so it is more responsive to the citizens it serves. This will require an ongoing partnership and communication between all our scattered voices. My office at #2 North St., Willits, for years has been the perfect setting for people dropping by and exchanging ideas. If I am elected my office will continue to remain open to the public.

Our county is facing tough issues involving failing county roads, infrastructure, emergency response, ongoing wildfire concerns, a much-needed Brooktrails second access, the marijuana economy and the retirement fund dilemma. Then there is the water and the issues we must deal with, from illegal diversions to the increasing scarcity.

I have never pretended to have all the answers, and I refuse to make promises that are impossible to keep. The issues facing the county require a lot of money, yet our government revenue stream is flat to declining. The question has to be how do we stretch our limited resources to meet all these needs. My common-sense approach and willingness to think outside the box makes me optimistic that we can prioritize and accomplish these goals and stay within a budget. There is no other choice; the days of surplus, borrowing and passing on the bills to future generations are over. We must invest in living wage jobs to fund and grow our economy.

I am very proud to have the endorsement of the Mendocino County Farm Bureau, North Coast Builders Exchange and North Bay Association of Realtors. I also am proud to be endorsed by 3rd District Supervisor John Pinches and Sheriff Tom Allman.

"I feel that Tom will well-represent the entire 3rd District while keeping jobs, road infrastructure, and public safety as top priorities. He will face additional challenges such as representing a diverse population and keeping the county reserves at an acceptable level on stagnant revenue, but I believe that Tom is up to the task. Please give him your vote."

– 3rd District Supervisor John Pinches

"Mendocino County needs very strong leadership as we continue to recover from the recession. Tom Woodhouse is a strong leader, has a good business background and possesses the ability to listen to both sides. I have

## Big vision, small town: A profile of Holly Madrigal

Holly Madrigal made a decision in 2000 that would change her life. She headed home to Willits after college instead of moving to Silicon Valley, where many of her fellow economics majors at the University of California Santa Cruz were snapping up high-paying jobs in the trillion-dollar dot.com industry.

Out near Northspur, in Mendocino County, a mile from the Skunk Train station, Holly and Gabe Madrigal, her high school sweetheart, lived off the grid, building a straw bale cabin in the woods for some close family friends. Neither had any construction experience.

"It was a great adventure," Madrigal says. "Building a house can end a relationship. But it cemented ours."

Three years later, cabin complete, Holly and Gabe moved to town, tied the knot and bought their house on Pearl Street, where she and Gabe still live with their dog, Butter. Gabe launched his career as a natural builder, while Holly took a job at Sparetime Supply.

In 2004, at age 26, Holly ran for Willits City Council, and won.

"Running for city council was the first political thing I'd ever considered," Holly says. "I'd never been class president or a cheerleader or on a sports team. I'd been a dancer and was kind of artsy. But I decided if I was going to be here, I wanted to dig in. I wanted to participate in the shaping of our community. If you want something to happen, you have to take part in making it happen."

Since embarking on public service, Madrigal has been part of successful efforts to:

- bring solar panels to the Willits water plant;
- create the Local First group with the Chamber of Commerce;
- build the first skate park in Mendocino County;
- fund the new Kids' Club;
- lure the Kinetic Carnival to Willits; and
- pass a resolution in support of gay marriage.

Eager to keep in touch with constituents, she holds regular "office hours" at the Willits Farmers' Market.

After 10 years on the Willits City Council and three terms as mayor, Madrigal believes she's created the countywide connections she needs to get things done as 3rd District Mendocino County supervisor. Among her goals are supporting the local food movement, in part by bringing a slaughterhouse to the county, and preparing the county for the legalization of marijuana – something's she's long supported.

While welcoming the economic and business opportunities legalization of cannabis could bring, Madrigal deplores the negative environmental impacts that the "gold rush" pot boom has had on Mendocino County. "It's gotten so big and so out of hand, taking off hillsides and leaving toxic chemicals and draining water."

Mike Griggs, owner of Sparetime Supply, has known Holly since she was 4 years old.

"The things I think make her the best candidate are that

Read the rest of **Vote Holly** Over on Page 13

## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

# Brother Fritz

Fritz is one of a litter of six puppies now at the Ukiah Shelter. Please come and meet this cute pup and his family! Just 2 months old, these pups are a combination of cuddles and plenty of energy to play! If you have time for a puppy – a commitment to train and guide one – then Fritz or one of his brothers or sisters might be the pup for you!

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 6:30 pm. We have many other wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here as well. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: [www.mendoshelterpets.com](http://www.mendoshelterpets.com) or visit our shelter. For more information about adoption please call 463-4654.

Photo by Sage Mountainfire

## We Endorse Tom Woodhouse For 3rd District Supervisor

"Mendocino County needs very strong leadership as we continue to recover from the recession. Tom Woodhouse is a strong leader, has a good business background and possesses the ability to listen to both sides. I have endorsed Tom for his teamwork approach and his ability to get the job done."  
 Sheriff Tom Allman

"I feel that Tom will well-represent the entire Third District while keeping jobs, road infrastructure, and public safety as top priorities. He will face additional challenges such as representing a diverse population and keeping the county reserves at an acceptable level on stagnant revenue, but I believe that Tom is up to the task. Please give him your vote."  
 Third District Supervisor John Pinches

"He comes with listening skills and no political baggage. He works for youth, and community, and has never flipped/flopped on an issue. He seeks ways for government to help its people without intruding. What more could we want? Tom Woodhouse will be my next supervisor."  
 Hal Wagenet, Former 3rd District Supervisor

"I like Tom's pro-business approach to government and a desire to minimize the size and scope of regulations that eat into our freedoms."  
 Clay Romero, Former Supervisorial Candidate

**Join us and Cast Your Vote November 4**

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water statewide.

Senate Bills 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739 will "collectively establish a new structure to regulate the state's groundwater," the governor wrote in his signing statement on the historic legislation.

The bills, in combination, will mandate the creation of sustainable groundwater basin management plans by local agencies, operating with state oversight.

Mendocino County has 21 such basins. In many groundwater basins, water is being withdrawn at higher rates than water in underground aquifers is being recharged, causing what is referred to as "overdraft" conditions. This can lead to soil compaction, subsidence, and ultimately less groundwater aquifer storage.

Approximately a quarter of groundwater basins statewide are currently considered overdrawn: many located in the Central Valley, where ground subsidence has been a problem for decades.

Extreme drought conditions have emphasized the importance of groundwater resources within the state, as people increasingly turn to wells and other water sources as surface flows from rivers and streams and rainwater are not sufficient in dry years.

Drought also affects the ability of groundwater basins to refill: the primary sources of groundwater are rainwater, snow melt, irrigation runoff, and other seepage. Reports released in July 2014 by Stanford University, and satellite research conducted by NASA and UC Irvine, reveal groundwater is disappearing at a higher rate during droughts than previously understood.

Currently, landowners are only obligated to monitor, report and regulate groundwater use if local legislation exists. Once the Groundwater Management Act takes effect in January, basins and sub-basins will be need to become sustainable within 20 years, allowing consideration of local habitats and stream flows, with stricter time requirements for basins designated as "subject to critical conditions." Data on the basins will be reported to state agencies every five years.

In order to implement basin-level management plans, new agencies can be created, existing agencies can work in partnership, or county-level government can develop the usage plans.

"A central feature of these bills is the recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally," Brown's statement reads. Local agencies will have the power to assess and regulate groundwater, such as monitoring wells and springs, as well as to impose fines and other penalties on landowners who don't comply and "take the necessary steps to bring those basins into balance."

Only if and when local agencies are unable to create management plans, or to enforce sustainable use according to specific standards, will the state take over regulating particular basins to ensure sustainability.

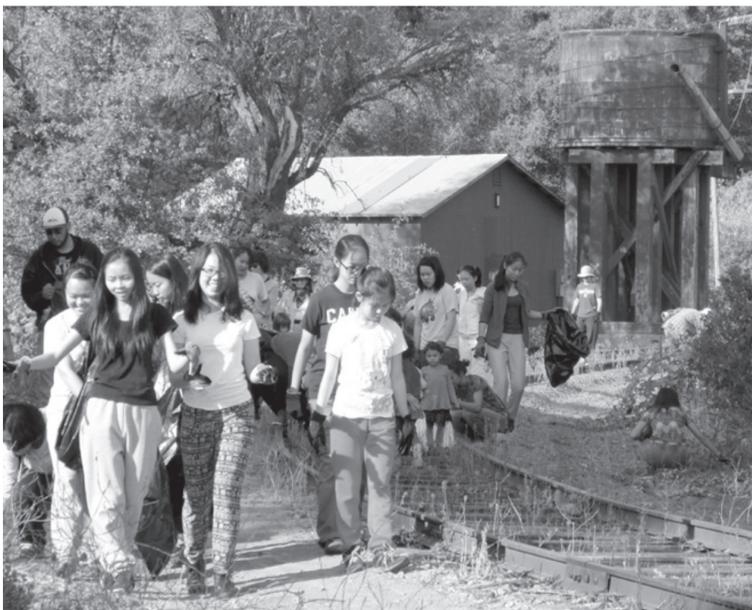
At the end of August, SB 1168 and SB 1319 passed with a 25-10 vote in the state Senate, and AB 1739 passed with a 47-28 vote in the state Assembly. The bills are considered to be addressing goals outlined in the California Water Action Plan released by Brown at the beginning of this year. The plan is designed to better integrate the state's water resource management toward overall long-term sustainability.

Many of the specifics regarding how the legislation will be implemented are not yet clear, as local agencies begin to undertake the necessary steps towards creating "groundwater sustainability agencies."

In combination, the bills outline the regulation requirements, allow for state oversight, and create certain time-based exceptions for agricultural interests – in part due to opposition from ag groups, including the California Farm Bureau. In contrast, some environmental groups have stated the legislation does not require timely enough action for stressed basins.

Brown also stated, when he signed the groundwater legislation, that he will work in the next legislative session to "streamline judicial adjudications of water rights" and further clarify some specifics of the new regulations.

*Editor's Note: this is the first in an occasional series of stories by Willits Weekly reporter Kate Maxwell, which will examine the effects of the new groundwater regulations on local, rural jurisdictions.*



**Students from the Developing Virtue Secondary School in Talmage, girls division, came up to Willits last weekend to help clean up garbage along the creeks as part of Coastal Cleanup Day. These students – setting off from the water tower along the railroad tracks – contributed to the total 3,000 pounds of trash and recyclables cleaned up on Saturday. More on the Willits Coastal Cleanup Day efforts next week in Willits Weekly.**

Photo by Jennifer Poole

ago, I thought when we had emergencies or problems, government would be there handing us what we needed, and they had it under control. The time I've spent working with government, they do not have it under control.

"Government: its purpose is not to rescue us. We have to be involved and rescue ourselves and our neighbors. It's really up to individuals.

"Everybody keeps saying: What can government do for me? Well, how much more money do you want to hand government to dole back to you? It's not going to work. We're going to have less money and a flat revenue and less money."

Madrigal disagreed with Woodhouse's assessment. "I really try to govern from a place of abundance," she said. "Scarcity is stressful, and we absolutely need to use our resources wisely, but I don't want to hamper our vision for what our community can be. So I want to be visioning what our community can be.

"This is not government doing everything: this is individuals working in partnership with government. Because government really does play a really key role."

Walter Abramson asked what each candidate was going to do to allow homeowners to stay in their homes when local infrastructure has collapsed.

"You are not going to be removed from your home," Madrigal said. "There is a certain amount of water necessary for human health and needs, sanitary water level amounts. I believe it's 75 gallons; I'm not totally positive.

"There's a threshold that's required for health and human safety and, if the worst case scenario happened and every municipal water source was dry, what we would probably end up doing is coming up with – we would be at an emergency status at that point – and we would make sure [water] was available. It really would be a rationing, and people could come and get water from some shared water source."

Woodhouse took a "tough love" posture. "I come from 40 years of business experience, and I see the difference between government and business. Government touches on these things. Now we're touching on water as an emergency or mental health as an emergency or roads as an emergency. There's never long-term thinking and priorities and saying: 'Here's what we're gonna do. Here's the thing we cannot fund anymore unless you give us more tax money, and here's our approach.' We just need to commit to work on them one at a time and actually make progress.

"In business, you either make progress or you go out of business. I can't afford to not close a deal, solve a problem, figure out what people want. You

have to come up with an answer; that's when you get paid.

"Government just touches and bounces, like they're being dragged around. That has to change. We have to make progress. That's going to take all of us, being patient, with our timing and our ideas and working together, not just picking at each other."

The candidates were asked if they felt the problem raised by the grand jury report on the county library system merited a solution.

That report states the county is not paying the head librarian according to the requirements of state law and that approximately \$1.2 million has been taken from library funding to pay for the librarian over a 15-year period, when those funds should have come from the county's general fund.

The report also found the accounting methods and procedures used by the county regarding its administration of the library are contrary to law and, in particular, its A-87 charges to the library are unwarranted and unfair.

The board of supervisors has denied any wrongdoing on the part of the county, and has claimed almost all of the grand jury's findings and underlying assumptions are incorrect.

"The \$1.2 million is an interpretation, but it's the reason people don't want to pay more taxes," said Woodhouse. "They're not going to pay more taxes and have the government take away the money they're already dedicating to that. So the fire tax we're going to be going for here, it's going to have to be very specific to earn the trust of the voters.

"Nothing will happen with that money, or change at all, unless the people in this room hold government accountable and ask the questions again and again and again. Larry [Stranske] pressed for that North Main Street water thing by himself for two years at every meeting, and he was totally ignored until finally there was a change and he was listened to. I am certainly going to give my commitment to mental health and to the library. Those are important things for all of us."

"On the library measure, you might remember that it has to be supplemental," Madrigal responded. "It is illegal for it to become the primary, sole source of funding. I agree with Tom, that having that library measure approved, it really brings up a trust issue that things are being accounted for correctly.

"I thought the grand jury report was really scandalous. I mean, if it is accurate, it was a scandalous allegation. I don't have a master's [degree] in library accounting finance, but we really need to make sure the accounting is being done correctly. Because what was happening was, utilizing Measure A funds for things that on the face of it, appear to have been not appropriate uses for that.

"I know the board of supervisors said, 'That's not true.' But I think that more investigation needs to be done. Because, that response isn't sufficient for me."

Also present at the forum were Ron Orenstein, Larry Stranske and Robin Leher, who are running for two seats on the Willits City Council. A report on their statements will be the focus of second article.



## Willits Charter School students enjoy Wente Lake Camp Out

Willits Charter School students ventured off on a three-day camping trip to the Wente Scout Reservation during their second week of school, Tuesday, September 9 through Thursday, September 11. Taking more than 100 sixth- to 12th-graders on a camping trip is no easy feat, but WCS finds the trip to be an excellent way to start off the school year.

Students engaged in a variety of activities with their teachers and parents, such as archery, kayaking, canoeing, "catch and release" fishing, yoga, hiking, nature walks, board games, and swimming. Students were able to choose what activities they wanted to do during the day, and evening activities included a school dance and theater/improv performances by the students. Healthy meals were all prepared by the school's kitchen staff, teachers and parent volunteers.

The trip was such a great success due to the hard work of many parent and community volunteers. "We are so grateful and fortunate to have developed this partnership with Wente Scout Camp, and that they welcome our students to their beautiful site. There is so much benefit to outdoor learning experiences, and for students to get a chance to spend time with faculty and staff outside of school," said new WCS Director Jennifer Lockwood.

"It was a great way for me to get to know all of the students," Lockwood said, "and for students who are new to the school to quickly become a part of our community." WCS looks forward to engaging students in these team-building activities year after year.

– submitted by Willits Charter School



Top: From left to right: Cooper Wilkes, eighth grade, Tyler Anderson, ninth grade, and Kyren Anderson, sixth grade, carry a watermelon to the kitchen.

At right: Sixth-graders Ahanu Casey, left, and Heath Moen do a little "catch and release" fishing.

Right, below: Ninth-graders, left to right, Chloe Breen, River Hickman, Finlay Moore and Stephany Brundage enjoy some downtime between activities.



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**Voters Education Forum**  
Wednesday, October 15<sup>TH</sup>  
6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Willits Community Center  
111 East Commercial Street  
Moderated by Joe Oslund  
Candidates for 3<sup>RD</sup> District Supervisor  
Holly Madrigal • Tom Woodhouse  
Candidate for County Superintendent of Schools  
Warren Galletti  
Mendocino Women's Political Coalition  
will host a discussion on the State Ballot Propositions and Measure S, the local anti-fracking measure  
Candidates will speak for three minutes each and answer prepared questions and written questions from the audience.  
Come meet the people who may be making decisions for your future!  
Cablecast live on Comcast Channel 3  
by Willits Community Television  
Sound by Modern Music Sound Service



OBITUARY | Jayne Ann Harrah

## Jayne Ann Harrah

Jayne Ann Harrah of Willits peacefully passed away on September 21, 2014 surrounded by her loving family. A native of San Bernardino, and former resident of Taft and Bakersfield, she had lived in our community for the past 73 years. A loving homemaker for 78 years, she was a member of the Willits Chapter #314 of the Order of the Eastern Star, the First Baptist Church of Willits, and the Harrah Senior Center.

Jayne was proud of her accomplishment as the first woman twin engine pilot in Northern California.

Predeceased by her husband, Robert Harrah, and grandson, Steve Lovell, she is survived by: daughters, Margie Handley and Bonnie (John) Dye; grandchildren David (Denise) Lovell, Ron (Judy) Lovell, Robert (Miriam) Rutler, Chuck (Joanne) Rutler, and Billy Rutler; and 18 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

You may pay your respects at a viewing on Friday, September, 26, 2014 from 5 to 8 pm at Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel, Willits.

Funeral services are to be held at the Harrah Senior Center on Saturday, September 27 at 10 am.

If you wish to make a memorial contribution in her name, the family suggests donating to either the Frank R. Howard Foundation Wellness Center or the Harrah Senior Center.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

OBITUARY | Vera Kline

## Vera Kline

Sally "Vera" Reitzell Kline, 96 years old, passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, September 5, 2014, surrounded by her family. Vera was born April 20, 1918 to Julian Fredrick and Cecile Eugene Blackman Reitzell in Columbia, Louisiana. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to all who were blessed to know her.

Earlier in her life, she worked in Rockport as a waitress, where she met Edward Lloyd Kline whom she married in 1946. They lived most of their life in San Francisco, where Ed worked at Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard.

They moved to Willits after his retirement. She also worked at Brookside School as a teacher's aide and then volunteered her time there. Many know her as "Grandma Vera"; she was a foster grandmother until the age of 90 years old. She loved children and spent as much time as she could at Brookside School.

Vera is survived by her sons Terry (Pamela Wong) Kline and David (Judi Harris) Kline, and by her granddaughters Elizabeth Wong Kline (Martin), Grace Kline Kinney (Chris), and step-granddaughter Sheri Dockins. She is also survived by great-grandchildren Benjamin and Addison Kinney and step-great-granddaughters Sylvie Lynn Dockins and Ava RE- Etherton. She was predeceased by her step-grandson Eric Dockins.

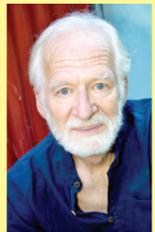
She is also survived by her sister Billie Jean Reitzell Lamprich (Charles) of Willits and brother John Reitzell (Dodie) of Ukiah. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Edward Lloyd Kline (who died in 1993), her father, Julian Fredrick Reitzell, her mother, Cecile Eugene Blackman Reitzell, her sister Freddie Reitzell Ray, "Billy" Julian Fredrick Reitzell, Daphne "Kate" Reitzell Scaife, William Reitzell, and Baby Ruth Reitzell Gregory.

There will be no formal service, but a Celebration of Life is planned for Saturday, October 18 at 1 pm at the Harrah Senior Center.

Thursday, September 25

**"The Nightmare":** at the Willits Community Theatre; directed by Don Samson. In a production intended to keep audiences yearning for relief, succour mom



Playwright Don Samson.

Photo by Ron Greystar

April Buckley attends an annual teachers' convention in Chicago, has a few too many margaritas, and soon finds herself descending into a spiral of sex, lies and blackmail. If there is only some way for Buckley to undo what's been done, but every turn she takes leads an otherwise moral and innocent woman deeper yet into another soul's obsession. "The Nightmare" will run through October 5. Performances are Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and Sunday matinees (September 28 and October 5) at 2 pm for \$10. Advance tickets are available at Mazahar in Willits; online at Brownpapertickets.com and for credit cards orders, phone the WCT office at 459-0895. Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 W. Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

**Shanachie Pub:** twice-monthly Jazz Night, 8 pm. No cover. "Local musicians coming together to form a fun and spontaneous jazz group. They take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming.... Fellow jazz musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments and partake during the second set, so long as it fits within the moment of sounds!" Every 2nd and 4th Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, September 26

**Round Valley Indian Days Celebration & Softball Tournament:** September 26 to 28, Hidden Oaks Park, Round Valley Reservation. "Everyone is invited to come out and have some fun!! 'Renewing Our Ties to the Earth by Keeping Alive the Ways of Our Ancestors.'" Classic Amusement Carnival: Kids Ride Free! Hosted by the Round Valley Tribal Council. Today, Friday, September 26: 10 am to 3 pm: 34th annual Health Fair at the RV Indian Health Center, Food, Music, Information Booths, Exhibits, Demonstrations and More!!! 12 noon: BBQ Lunch at the Health Fair. 6 pm: Bingo at Hidden Oaks Park. 9 pm: Street Dance - Hidden Oaks Amphitheater. Info: www.rvt.org, (707) 983-6126, or www.facebook.com/roundvalleyindiantribes.

**AAUW Tech Trek Program:** The American Association of University Women's September program, 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Willits Library, featuring Kailee Wisniewski, Karen Hernandez, Daisy Barrett, the three (now eighth-grade) girls who attended the Stanford University's Marie prestigious Curie Science and Math



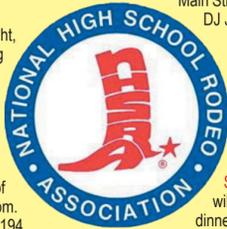
Tech Trek Camp for one week this past summer. The girls will speak about their experiences and what they have learned and how they have grown at Tech Trek.

**Family Fun Friday:** 6 pm at Grace Community Church, 25 Hazel Street. There will be a free spaghetti dinner, games and a movie. Info: 459-3106.

**"The Nightmare":** 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, September 27 listing for details.

**Shanachie Pub:** The Reggae Revival w/Black Emperor Shelter w/Trinity and Selecta K / I-Selecta, and special guest DJ/Singers in a Jamaican-style stage show. 9 pm. \$7. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Pub 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: DJ Jaca Lioness and DJ Konnex.



Saturday, September 27

**District 2 High School Rodeo:** the California High School Rodeo Association, District 2 presents a weekend of rodeo events at the Willits Frontier Days Arena, from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday. The public is welcome. Lion's Club will run the snack bar, and will have a chicken dinner Saturday night. "Do you like horses, rodeo events & enjoy supporting our youth?!! Then this week end's event is for you." More info about the Rodeo Association: www.chrsdist2.com.

**Willits Jr. Horsemen Gymkhana:** final event in the 2014 Gymkhana Buckle Series, starts at 9 am at the Willits Horsemen's Arena, 850 East Valley Street. Starting with Jackpot Barrels, then Cloverleaf Barrels, Washington Poles, Single Stake Race, Birangle Poles, Speed Barrels, Dipper Race, then Relay Race. Refreshments and lunch available. For info: call Kathryn at 489-6565 or willitsjrhorsemen@gmail.com.

**Round Valley Indian Days Celebration & Softball Tournament:** September 26 to 28, Hidden Oaks Park, Round Valley Reservation. "Everyone is invited to come out and have some fun!! 'Renewing Our Ties to the Earth by Keeping Alive the Ways of Our Ancestors.'" Classic Amusement Carnival: Kids Ride Free! Hosted by the Round Valley Tribal Council. Today, Saturday, September 27: 11 am: Parade (entries show up at 9 am). 12 noon: Hidden Oaks Park Activities: Traditional & Bear Dancers; Arts/Crafts & Food Vendors; Co-Ed Softball Tournaments (Adult & Youth); Horse Shoe



**Willits Farmers Market:** Summer market at City Park, every Thursday from 3 to 6 pm. Tomatoes, greens, onions, strawberries, watermelon, summer squash, eggplant, cucumbers, peaches, squash and other summer produce, cut flowers, local meats and fish, dinner, crafts, live music, and more.

**Grateful Gleaners:** This volunteer crew is available to pick fruit that you aren't able to use, to donate to local organizations in need of fruit. If you're interested in having fruit picked by the Gleaners, or in volunteering with the group, contact the Gleaners' voice mail, 513-9489, and leave a message, and they will return your call as soon as possible.

**The Emandal Choral:** this community chorus based in Willits is in its 20th season, and you are welcome to join! Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm. No auditions necessary. The Choral meets upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

**Willits Center for the Arts:** September show features Willits artists Ursula Parch, Peggy Hebrard and Morgan Rex, with fiber art hangings, metal and glass sun sculptures, paintings, textiles, photography, garments and accessories, water fountains and more. Runs through September 28: gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm; and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. Info: www.willitscenterforthearts.org or 459-1726.

**Junior Grange After-School Program:** "an after-school program democratically run by children ages 5 to 14, with guidance from Grange adults." Mondays from 3 to 6 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Membership fee: \$1, plus \$1 annual dues. Activities - including chess, fundraising projects, organic gardening, cooking, and a new skill each month: September: "Grid Beam Construction" and October: "Sewing Halloween Costumes" - are free to members (except for singing classes on Tuesdays taught by Nancy New, info: 459-1276). Visitors of all ages are welcome! Info? Contact Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or zeyny34@yahoo.com.

**Cards and Games at Willits Library:** free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. All activities are free! Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Info: Donna at 459-9035. Tuesday evenings: "Dungeons and Dragons, the Adventurers League," from 6 to 10 pm. Both newbies and experienced players, ages 13+, are welcome to join. Info: Dan at 972-3154. Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm: bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

**Willits Library Cyber Cafe:** Enjoy a fresh cup of coffee in the conference room while browsing the internet. Coffee is \$1 a cup. Bring your own cup from home or buy a ceramic cup from the library for 50 cents. The cafe is open most Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 to noon, or until the coffee runs dry. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

**Life Changes:** Discussion and support group with Linda Posner, Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am. Harrah Senior Center,

1501 Baechtel Road.

**Grange Farm School Volunteer Work Days:** Every Wednesday at the Grange Farm School, 16200 North Highway 101, south of Willits. Bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy under the cool shade of redwood trees or at the reservoir from noon to 2 pm. Starting at 2 pm: guided farm tours and construction sessions for volunteers, of all ages and skill levels are welcome any time from 2 pm until dusk to assist in projects with the Farm School team and to tour the school. Please bring water and gloves, and your favorite garden tools. Contact info@grangefarmschool.org with question or comments.

**Willits Community Drum Circle:** 7 to 10 pm at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Friday. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

**Free Zumba for Teens:** Zumba is always free for teenagers on Friday nights at Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane. Class at 6 pm with Melissa. Info: 707-841-7499 or www.studiojoywillits.com.

**Smoking Cessation Program:** Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Willits Frontier Twirlers:** Monday nights at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, beginners' class from 7 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Info: 459-9526.

**Free Sheriff's Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

**Brooktrails Lodge:** Open Mic every Friday at the Lodge's Caminiti's Lounge. Live jams featuring local artists: all performers please see Mr. Larry when you arrive. 24675 Birch Street. Info: 459-1596.

**Brooktrails Lodge:** Ladies Night every Thursday at the Lodge's Caminiti's Lounge, 8 pm to 2 am. \$3 drink specials. The Dream Capsule Band presents live music and karaoke. 24675 Birch Street. Info: 459-1596.

**Shanachie Pub:** Open Mic every Wednesday. New time: 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. New: World Music Open Mic every Monday this fall at 8 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Karaoke Night at AI's Redwood Room:** every Wednesday night, karaoke in the bar. 207 South Main Street. 459-2444.

**Laytonville Farmers Market:** Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm in downtown Laytonville. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, jewelry, aprons, children's clothing, knife sharpening and more.

# What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

**Becky Vann Memorial Barrel Racing:** 12 noon: Cookie Bake-Off. 2 pm: Western Play Day (Mini-Rodeo): Sign up before 1 pm. Info: www.rvt.org, (707) 983-6126, or www.facebook.com/roundvalleyindiantribes.

**District 2 High School Rodeo:** see Saturday, September 27 listing for info.

**"The Nightmare":** 2 pm matinee at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, September 27 listing for details.

Tuesday, September 30

**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: "The Maze Runner," "Dolphin Tale 2," and "The Hundred-Foot Journey." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Wednesday, October 1

**East Hill Road Closed:** City of Willits advises that the closure of East Hill Road, originally planned for Friday, September 26, has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 1, due to the weather forecast. Bypass contractor Flatiron will be doing concrete work from 6 am to 1 pm.

**North County Women in Business:** Monthly networking meeting features Jan Stephens, owner of Organic Attire and representative for Juice Plus, speaking on "Demystifying Network Marketing." 8:15 to 9:30 am at Willits City Hall. \$5; free to Chamber members, first meeting always free. Refreshments. Bring your business cards! A program of the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Info or to RSVP: Call 459-7910 or email ncwb2012@gmail.com.

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

**Free Canning Workshop:** Long Valley Garden Club hosts a potluck at noon followed by a talk on simple canning techniques to make putting up autumn's bounty quick and easy. A hands-on workshop to pack yourself a jar to



take home. 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville. Info: 984-6587.

Thursday, October 2

**Candidates Forum with a Focus on the Environment:** hosted by the Willits Environmental Center and the Little Lake Grange. 7 to 9 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. First up will be questions for the Willits City Council candidates, Robin Leler, Ron Orenstein and Larry Stranske, followed in the second hour with questions for the Third District supervisorial candidates, Holly Madrigal and Tom Woodhouse. Each half will begin with questions from the sponsors focusing on environmental issues facing the city and the county, such as land use issues, water issues, energy conservation, etc., followed by questions from the public on any topic of concern facing the city and county. Info: Willits Environmental Center at 459-4110.

**"The Nightmare":** 7 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, September 27 listing for details.

**Shanachie Pub:** Boston Rock Reggae by Soul Rebel Project and Green Lion Crew. Visit: www.sourelbelproject.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Pub info: 459-9194.

Friday, October 3

**"The Nightmare":** 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, September 27 listing for details.

**Shanachie Pub:** Gnarly Pints, followed by Rey Resurreccion and J. Lately Nice Dreams. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Pub info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 4

**Blessing of the Animals:** annual event at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church. 11 am. All animals large and small are invited to come to the garden at the church, at the corner of Main and Commercial streets. After a short service each animal will receive a blessing: all animals must be restrained in a carrier or cage or on a lead. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

**"The Nightmare":** 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, September 27 listing for details.



**Shanachie Pub:** Taluna Duo, originally from Turin, Italy: "Gaia Mobilij is center stage with his accordion, the old "Iira Calabrese" and her warm and evocative voice, the violin of Marco Ghezzo exudes elegant

notes that make the audience dream and dance." 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Pub info: 459-9194.

Sunday, October 5

**Willits FFA Bake Sale:** Future Farmers of America benefit bake sale today from noon to 2 pm, outside of ER Energy at the Safeway plaza. Baked goods donated by FFA officers and WHS ag students. All proceeds to go to Willits FFA to help support sending members to conferences and to help pay for other chapter activities.

**"The Nightmare":** 2 pm matinee at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, September 27 listing for details.

**Potluck and Preserved Food Swap:** the Long Valley Garden Club hosts a 100 mile potluck and preserved foods swap. 4 to 6 pm. Bring a dish made of mostly local ingredients and any preserved food to share/swap. This can include fermented, dried, frozen or cultured foods. 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville. Info: 984-6587.

**Harrah Senior Center Sunday Bingo:** Doors open at 10:30 am. Snack bar opens at 11 am. Games begin at 11:30 am. Bingo buy-in: \$10. 1501 Baechtel Road. 459-6826.

**Keeping Our Dogs & Cats Healthy**

**Tuesday, Oct. 7 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Preventing & Treating Animal Dental Disease**

- Signs and causes
- Types and stages
- Impact on general health

Join Dr. Chana Eisenstein and learn how to keep your animal companion in tip-top dental shape. Dr. Chana purchased the practice of the beloved Dr. Frank Grasse and has made her home in Willits the last four years. She completed her clinical training at the University of Missouri-Columbia after graduation from the University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Chana also works with the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County providing veterinary care which is especially fulfilling for her. Attend this ATW presentation and discover how you can improve the health of your animal family.

See www.avenuestowellness.org for Speaker Series Topics

## Playwright Don Samson on 'The Nightmare'

"The Nightmare," a three-act drama of intrigue written and directed by local playwright Don Samson, continues its fall season run at the Willits Community Theatre through Sunday, October 5. The play follows soccer mom April Buckley from her fateful one-night stand at a teacher's convention through a series of increasingly complex efforts to counteract an ensuing blackmail threat.

The core idea for the play came to Samson after his viewing of the black comedy film, "A Simple Plan." Samson says he became fascinated with the notion that there are certain lines someone can cross in life and never come back from. The award-winning playwright says, "One little step over the line can have incredible consequences."

Samson's first encounters with intrigue may have begun as far back as 1962 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army and ultimately found himself stationed in Germany and Monterey, California while he worked for the Army Security Agency. At the start of his writing career, Samson took jobs with United Press International and newspapers, including the San Luis Obispo Sun Times. He would later turn to a 30-year career in writing legal briefs, including death penalty appeals.

He says of his law career: "The work made me a smarter writer. There's a story in every legal brief, every trial, and you're marshaling the true facts in the best possible way." His plays have been staged in San Francisco, San Rafael, Ukiah, Redway, and, on several occasions, in Willits. Three of his one-acts have been awarded first place by the Bay Area Critics in competition at the Marin Fringe Festival at Dominican College. His full-length musical, "The Last Payphone in Willits," was staged at the Willits Community Theatre in 2012.

"The Nightmare," with a cast of eight, twists its way through compelling questions of right and wrong, guilt and innocence, and legal causation. See Thursday, September 25 Calendar listing for schedule and ticket details. Info: 459-0895.

- submitted by Steve Hellman for WCT

## Senior Center Meet and Greet

Tuesday, October 7

Willits Harrah Senior Center hosts a Meet and Greet on Tuesday, October 7, featuring the candidates for 3rd District supervisor. 12:30 pm. 1501 Baechtel Road. "Holly Madrigal and Tom Woodhouse will be there to introduce themselves and answer any questions you may have." Info: Mariya at 459-6826.

## Community Forum

Wednesday, October 15

A community forum with supervisorial candidates Tom Woodhouse and Holly Madrigal is set for Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 pm at City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. The evening will also feature information about all contests and propositions/measures on the ballot for the Tuesday, November 4 election. Candidate for county superintendent of schools Warren Galletti (the only active candidate, as Paul Joens-Paulson has withdrawn from the race) has also been invited. Moderated by Joe Oslund. Sponsored by the American Association of University Women, the Willits Chamber of Commerce, and Willits Weekly.

## Annual Blessing of the Animals at St Francis Episcopal Church

On Saturday, October 4, at 11 am, all animals large and small are invited to come to the garden at the church, at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets in Willits. There will be a short service of prayer and thanksgiving for our animal friends, and each animal will receive a blessing.

All animals and their humans are welcome!

For their safety, all animals must be restrained in a carrier or cage or on a lead. Children who do not have a live animal in their family are invited to bring a favorite stuffed animal.

Though the animal congregation usually includes many dogs, there are also cats who attend, and there have been spiders, lizards, birds, frogs, horses and goats in past years. In case of rain, the smaller animals will move indoors; elephants will need to stay outside, but all will be blessed. The garden and parking lot are just north of the church.

October 4 is the traditional Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, who loved all creation because he saw it as a sign of God's love for all. He called the animals, and all humans also, his brothers and sisters. Francis's faithful life of poverty, service and joy has made him one of the most beloved saints in history.

- Rev. Betsy Bruneau



- submitted by LocalLights



## LocalLights

Left: David Parch. Photo by Ursula Parch Right: Just Enough. Photo by Kim Bancroft

On Sunday, October 12, LocalLights will present Just Enough and David Parch at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Tickets range from \$5 to \$15. For tickets and information call 459-7054.

Just Enough is a Willits-based trio made up of friends Kate Black, Clancy Rash and Helen Falandes. Each has played and sung in a variety of configurations as long as any of them can remember, reaching back to roots in Oklahoma, Washington and Maine. A little over a year ago they fell into playing some tunes together and found a sound and mix that made them feel happy, and opportunities to perform opened up. Close harmony vocals, acoustic guitars (and the occasional ukulele) mix up a variety of tunes: some folk, some rock and American roots music. Just

Avenues to Wellness:

## Keeping Our Dogs & Cats Healthy

The next Avenues to Wellness talk features Dr. Chana Eisenstein, DVM, of the East Hill Vet Clinic. Tuesday, October 7, 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Harrah Senior Center's Lakeside Room, 1501 Baechtel Road. "Join Dr. Chana Eisenstein and learn how to keep your animal companion in tip-top dental shape. Dr. Chana will discuss: 1) Signs and causes, 2) Types and stages, and 3) Impact on general health. Dr. Chana purchased the practice of the beloved Dr. Frank Grasse and has made her home in Willits the last four years. Dr. Chana also works with the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County providing veterinary care which is especially fulfilling for her." Free to the public; donations appreciated. Refreshments served. Info: 459-2777 or visit www.avenuestowellness.org.

## SAVE THE DATE:

Harvest Celebration, October 11 (yes it's a Saturday!), downtown Willits

LocalLights with Just Enough and David Parch, October 12, Willits Community Theatre

FFA Farmhouse Dinner, October 12, Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds

## 10th Annual Humboldt Hoedown

A Celebration of Bluegrass & Beyond!

10th annual Humboldt Hoedown brings bluegrass and beyond to the Mateel Community Center in Redway, on Saturday, September 27, from 12 noon to 12 midnight. Back again to headline the event is Grammy winner singer and guitarist Peter Rowan, whose bluegrass band features some of the best pickers in the business, including Keith Little, banjo; Paul Knight, bass; Chris Henry, mandolin; and Blaine Sprouse, fiddle. Also featured will be top shelf players like Tony Furtado, banjo and slide guitar, joined by acoustic bassist, Rich Shenave, and John Reischman & The Jaybird. Other favorites will include the upbeat murder ballads of The Pine Box Boys, the Blackberry Bushes String Band from Bellingham,

WA, festival mainstays Hicktown Homeboys, and a debut Hoedown performance by California alt country band, Miss Lonely Hearts. The Hoedown will also feature a slew of vendors, a lively kid corral, lots of jamming opportunities, delicious food, backwoods betting games, and a bunch of country-style cakewalks.... In short, a grand ole time for the whole family! Doors open at high noon with music until midnight. Advance tickets are available online only at mateel.org for a price of \$30. Tickets at the door are \$35, and kids 12 & under are free. For more info on the 10th annual Humboldt Hoedown contact the Mateel office at 923-3368 or visit www.mateel.org.

Above left: Miss Lonely Hearts. Above right: Pine Box Boys

# October 2014

Prepare for a busy month. Are you ready for the Grand Fire Trine, October 4 to 9 (Jupiter in Leo, Uranus in Aries, and Mars in Sagittarius), and a Uranus square Pluto, with a Mercury Retrograde, October 2 to 25, and a Lunar Eclipse October 8, with the last Solar Eclipse in Scorpio (for a moment) on October 23? If you are not then you better get ready. Here is how.

This month is packed and ready to rumble, so do a double knot in those running shoes because you are not going to have a moment to lean over and retie them with all this energy going on. You are more likely to step right out of those shoes completely in the rush of forward movement.

Mars wants you to live by a strong moral code and will be sending you the desire for strong principles and a sense of justice. While Mars is firing up an ethical storm, Uranus is going to unleash truth-revealing thunderbolts. It will be interesting to see what we find out as the blinding light of Uranus shines into the darkest corners and shadows. Be prepared to be shocked. Uranus and Jupiter both want freedom; although Jupiter is associated with traditional religion, it will greatly benefit from Uranus's enlightening influence.

Individually, these three planets represent powerful and irrepressible masculine energies. We have the mighty and magnanimous King (Jupiter in Leo), the reactionary and revolutionary (Uranus in Aries), and our crusading Hero (Mars in Sagittarius) all combining without restraint.

The negative side of all this is that the chaos that may erupt from this grand trine in fire can be likened to mania. You can expect to see some people who are abnormally elevated, expansive, or in irritable moods, with self-inflated grandiosity, lack of sleep, desire for huge goals, unrestrained buying sprees, and foolish behaviors.

Remember that the propensity for hubris is massive under this grand trine. Don't leave a trail of destruction in your wake. Remember when you feel on top of the world, you can forget that there are also tender vulnerable parts that can actually get hurt also. Some of those parts are inside you, and then there are those outside in your life. In the rush to discover and uncover yourself, don't forget those who have helped along the way and have walked the path with you.

The positive side of this pattern is when the Mars, Uranus, Jupiter Trine joins the Sun/Venus in Libra, creating a picture like a kite. This effect is October 4 to 10 with its most intense aspect being October 7 and 8. This energy will propel you to individuate and break out of past conditioning, forcing you to walk the path of your own truth and integrity.

Keeping your feet on the ground might be tough, but fortunately the Libra planets, (Sun, Venus, and Mercury Retrograde) and the South Node are insisting on staying grounded and keeping the higher instincts working on harmonizing discord and mediation. Just remember to temper your temperamental side; otherwise gaskets might get blown out. Slow down and allow the new conditions coming into play break you through, if and when you are ready. This energy is so big you do not need to force anything.

What does all this mean? It comes across as a reinterpretation of what religion is now. You can see the influence now with the Pope from the Catholic Church, but you can also see it from the Muslim influence as well, because of the extreme behavior of the Islamic State and how it is not just attacking other religions but even its own. This will force some sort of shift in perspective, if not an outright shift in the tide of support for extremism: meaning that things that go to extreme are being revealed as no longer tolerable, even by their own kind. Old archaic distorted beliefs are potentially going to be shattered.

The Lunar eclipse on October 8 is power packed for revelation. The Solar eclipse on October 23 is inspiring to artists, innovators, music, filmmakers, and those who are willing to take risks for things that they believe in deeply.

In a nutshell, this month is going to reveal many things to you about your passionate self and those next steps needed in order to bring you into a place of clarity. Some of those things are going to be shocking. Some can get your ego intensely engaged and cause problems. Some are going to ignite the hidden things that have been lurking in the shadows waiting for the right moment to shift. What is clear is that your perspective on (potentially) many things is going to be different by the end of this month. Many things are going to be seen in a new light.

That will be refreshing after you get past the shock of it all.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology," which can be found on Amazon.com. To learn more, visit [www.suzannewagner.com](http://www.suzannewagner.com) or call Suzanne at 707 354-1019.



## The rest of Rodeo | From Page 1

Roping, Ribbon Roping and Saddle Cow Riding. No teams were able to fully complete the task at hand in the allotted time in the Calf Branding or Ranch Doctoring events. Rock E Cattle's Drew McElfresh and Raylene Beeson received first place in the Reverse Team Roping event with a time of 26.62 seconds.

Team Sorting was won by Shining Lil R; second place went to Dr. Kerr Cowboys; third to T&T Hookers; fourth to Key Livestock; and fifth to Sunny Basin Ranch. Ribbon Roping was won by Rock E Cattle; second place went to Dr. Kerr Cowboys; third place went to Key Livestock; and fourth place to T&T Hookers. Saddle Cow Riding was won by Anthony McKemy, and second place went to Brian Beeson.

After all the points were tallied, awards were presented and first place went to the Rock E Cattle team, whose members took home the belt buckles and bragging rights. Second place went to Key Livestock, and third place went to Dr. Kerr Cowboys.

Rock E Cattle's first-place win also allowed the "winning spirit" to include the lucky three who "bought" the team during the Calcutta Auction at the beginning of the event. Teams lined up in the arena and presented themselves to the crowd. Drew McElfresh, also an accomplished auctioneer, called bids in from the audience for each team. All the money made from the purchases of the teams was pooled together and whoever "bought" the team who ended up winning the rodeo received 70 percent of the total amount raised.

Rock E Cattle was purchased by Tyler Sizemore, Rochelle Beeson and Nichol Wyant received a nice check for \$1,144.50 as

a result of a \$225 bid.

Some little cowboys and cowgirls also had fun with their own events at the rodeo: the Kid's Dummy Roping and the Cow Chip Toss. First place in the Dummy Roping, for those aged 6 to 9, went to Colton Weiss, second to Zayna, third to Kiera Dragness, and fourth to Emma Garman. Lilah Garman won first place in the 12 and over group. The Cow Chip Toss was a 50/50 split pot for \$1 per toss. JR was the winner.

Local cooks and chefs were able to stretch their competition muscles, too: the barbecue cook-off gave the eight teams a chance to vie for a win in either the People's Choice or Judge's Choice categories of Best Beans, Best Ribs and Best Bread.

Teams included Willits Horsemen's Association, Little Lake Fire Department, Folsom Ranch, Eel River Fuel, ER Energy, Safe Pathways, Red Fox Casino, and Regular Wood Ranch Ramblers.

Winners of the People's Choice awards included Best Ribs: first place: Willits Horsemen; second: ER Energy; and third: Regular Wood Ranch Ramblers. Best Beans: first: Folsom Ranch; second: Willits Horsemen; and third: ER Energy. Best Bread: first place: Willits Horsemen; second place: ER Energy; and third place: Safe Pathways.

Winners of the Judge's Choice awards included Best Ribs: first place: Eel River Fuel; second place: Willits Horsemen; and third place: Folsom Ranch. Best Beans: first place: Folsom Ranch; second place: Willits Horsemen; and third place: ER Energy. Best Bread: first place: Willits Horsemen; second place: ER Energy; and third place: Safe Pathways.



Top row from left: A cowboy in the ribbon roping event; Lilah Garman in the Kids Dummy Roping event; Raylene Beeson goes to flip the steer in the branding event.

Above from top: Barbeque participants: Red Fox Casino, Regular Wood Ranch Ramblers, and ER Energy.

At left: Members of the winning Ranch Rodeo team, Rock E Cattle, stand with Calcutta winners and 2011 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Riata King. From left: Rochelle Beeson, Brian Beeson, Nichol Wyant, Raylene Beeson, Tyler Sizemore, Riata King and Drew McElfresh.

Below: Anthony McKemy tries to stay atop the "Wild Cow" to make a timed ride.

Photos by Maureen Moore



## Amazing Athletes of Willits High School

Willits Weekly is once again proud to showcase some of Willits High School's Amazing Athletes. Athletes are nominated by their coaches. With the help of coach and project facilitator, Dave Smith, Willits Weekly highlights two athletes each week to share their achievements with the community.



### Cross Country | Morgan Riley, 14, Freshman

Breakfast of Champions: Pancakes, eggs and orange juice

Love for the Sport: Seeing all the different tracks, long distance running

Morgan turned in the top time for the Willits girls at the Viking Invitational. With 41 schools competing, Morgan raced to a 16th-place finish with a time of 13:50 on the two mile course. That places her number 5 on the all-time list of Willits Varsity girls, and number 1 for a freshman.

### Cross Country | Robert Swobota, 15, Sophomore

Breakfast of Champions: Cereal; Mini Wheats, Wheaties, Lucky Charms

Love for the Sport: Just running in general

Robert ran an outstanding race on Saturday, coming in 13th place, with a time of 11:32 on the two mile course. He ran a smart race, holding back on the opening hill, where he was in 40th place. By the mile mark, he had passed another 20 runners and moved into medal contention. A returning All-Leaguer from last year, he looks to be one of the top runners in the NCL again this year.

## Willits Weekly CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 2 weeks for 30 words!

**Algebra, Geometry SAT & ACT Test Prep**  
Mac Smith 459-MATH

**Community Hu Song**  
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, September 25, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit [miraclesinyourlife.org](http://miraclesinyourlife.org).

**Help Wanted**  
Willits or Ukiah  
Direct Client Care Worker to provide support to persons with developmental disabilities. Experience preferred. Duties: housecleaning, laundry, shopping, meal planning/preparation, personal care, cleaning, bathing, grooming and occasional transportation. 30-40 Hrs/wk \$10-\$13/hr. To apply visit [communitycare707.com](http://communitycare707.com). For more information call 707-468-9347.

**Help Wanted**  
P/T Food Collector, Stocker and Distributor. Good driving record and people skills. Willits Community Services and Food Bank, 229 E. San Francisco Ave. or [willitscs.org](http://willitscs.org). Include resume, references and recent DMV printout.

**Home for Sale**  
Prime mobile home for sale by owner: in lovely Golden Rule Mobile Home Village, 16100 North Highway 101, Willits, space 50. A great place to live. 2-bedroom, 2-bath, 1,200 sq ft, double-wide beauty. Turnkey move-in shape. Stove, sink, dishwasher, fridge, dryer, and carpet: all 10 years old or newer. Interior painted off-white. Good-flow floor plan. Large 3-area yard. Easy upkeep. 900-brick patio, in shady area. Stick shed w/large freezer. Separate deer-proof garden. Peaceful, safe, beautiful park. Open House every Sunday, 11 am to 2 pm or by appointment. ID required. Jay Johansen, owner, former RE broker: 459-8570.

**For Rent**  
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath home. Large yard- no smoking/pets neg. security deposit required. \$900.00 per month. Please Call 354-1224

**For Rent**  
Newly decorated 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Walk to downtown. Water/garbage paid. No pets. No smoking inside. \$795/month. Armooc: 459-9601.

**For Rent**  
Office rentals in Willits for Holistic Practitioners. New workshop & event space. Cleaning/Utilities included. \$500/month or \$250/2-3 days per week. Call 459-1840 or email [macemoving@gmail.com](mailto:macemoving@gmail.com).

**For Rent, Office Space**  
300 sq ft office space, water, electricity, & alarm system included; \$375/month rent and \$375/security deposit. Call Matt for info: 459-4599.

**For Rent, Office Space**  
250 sq ft downtown office space plus 105 sq ft waiting room area; shared bath; electricity and garbage included; \$395/month rent and \$395 security deposit. Call Matt for info: 459-4599.

**For Sale**  
Good Quality Furniture: 7 foot couch, like new, \$350. 5-piece king bedset, with extras, approx. 1970s, very nice, \$450. Two tall hutches, \$25 each. Outdoor BBQ w/ tank, \$35. 2-drawer metal Pendaflex file, \$20. Outdoor metal bench, \$25. Come by to see or call: 459-8570: Space 50, Golden Rule Mobile Village, 16100 North Highway 101, Willits.

**For Sale**  
Two post car lift 9,000 pound capacity, \$1,800 or offer. 459-2864.

**Help Wanted**  
Shuster's Transportation, Inc. hiring Class "A" Truck Driver, with experience as a commercial log truck driver. Benefits are offered. Call 459-4131 or apply at 750 East Valley St., Willits.

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
Coordinator wanted to help organize and schedule groups and individuals participating in the Saturday Brown Bag Lunch Program for hungry people in Willits. Also looking for more groups. For more information, please call Jan at 707-841-7819.

**Volunteers Wanted**  
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

**Classified Ads:**  
\$10 for 2 weeks for 30 words!  
707-459-2633  
707-972-7047  
Send us your ad!  
[willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

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## MAKE \$\$\$\$

## Feature your artwork on our cover



The Soroptimist International of Willits is holding an art contest for the cover of the 2015 Community Telephone Directory. The contest is open to all ages in all mediums and works should be in the theme of "Willits," "Community," "Women & Girls" or something similar in nature. A CASH PRIZE will be awarded to the winner of the contest and a small feature inside the 2015 book will be printed about the artist also, as well as a congratulatory photo in an upcoming edition of Willits Weekly. Deadline is October 30! For info: [willitsphonebook@gmail.com](mailto:willitsphonebook@gmail.com) or 972-7047.

## There's still time to advertise, too!

Soroptimist International of Willits decided to partner with Willits Weekly, the only locally owned newspaper in Willits, for our 2015 phone book.

This partnership will not only offer additional visibility to our supporters' advertisements, but also helps both the Soroptimists and Willits Weekly to provide local and community-supportive resources to residents of the Willits area.

Willits Weekly will run repeats of ads for businesses choosing to "bundle" their purchase, and those ads will be printed alongside Soroptimist-themed content in the newspaper.

Willits Weekly is also a women-owned and community-focused business in our community, and we are proud to offer their wonderful bundle deal to our advertisers.

- Business Card: \$120**  
WW Bundle: (+\$40) = \$160 for both
- Quarter Page: \$160**  
WW Bundle: (+\$60) = \$220 for both
- Half Page: \$210**  
WW Bundle: (+\$100) = \$310 for both
- Full Page: \$360**  
WW Bundle: (+\$200) = \$560 for both

## A Farmhouse Dinner

Willits FFA holds first annual dinner fundraiser

Students of the Willits High School's Future Farmers of America chapter will hold their first annual Farmhouse Dinner fundraiser on Sunday, October 12 to help boost awareness and community support for the agriculture-based club. They also hope to use funds raised for traveling to conferences and field days, improving WHS' on-site ag farm and, hopefully, working towards purchasing a new ag truck as well.

Tickets are \$25 each, and the dinner will feature farm-raised chicken, tri-tip, bread from Emandal, salad, and ranch potatoes. Iced tea and lemonade will be available, as will beer and wine provided by event sponsor Willits Frontier Days.

Dinner will be served on the lawn at the Willits Frontier Days Grounds from 3 to 6 pm. Along with the meal, a presentation of the FFA's official Opening and Closing Ceremonies is planned to entertain the crowd, as is the famous Dessert Auction, which will make a comeback at the end of the meal, featuring delicious homemade goods.

Students will be out and about selling tickets prior to the event, and the goal is to sell out all 250 tickets printed. Anyone interested in purchasing a ticket can contact the Willits High School Ag Department at 459-7700, Annette Pinon at Flowers By Annette at 459-6588, or Maureen Moore at Willits Weekly at 972-7047.

An event page has been set up on Facebook under "Willits FFA Farmhouse Dinner," and anyone wishing to invite their Facebook friends or to share the event on their page would be greatly appreciated.

The Willits FFA has also set up their own Facebook page, and giving it a "like" will help keep everyone up to date with chapter happenings and other upcoming events.

THIS TICKET ADMITS ONE PERSON

FARMHOUSE DINNER

DESSERT AUCTION  
OPENING & CLOSING CEREMONIES

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE  
**WILLITS FFA**  
2014/2015 CHAPTER

**OCTOBER 12**  
SUNDAY  
Held from 3PM to 6PM  
AT WILLITS RODEO GROUNDS

**TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS**

YOU CAN ENJOY A DELICIOUS DINNER FOR JUST  
OF FARM-RAISED CHICKEN, RANCH POTATOES & MORE.

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

*Willits Harrah Center*

Serving the Seniors of our Community

### Why come to the Harrah Center?

- **Come to lunch!**  
Monday-Friday, 11:45 am to 12:00 pm
- **Love breakfast?**  
Every 2nd Sunday, 8:00 to 11 am
- **Volunteer opportunity!**  
Consider lending a helping hand
- **Low cost transportation!**  
8 am-4 pm door to door
- **Medical equipment!**  
Available at no charge

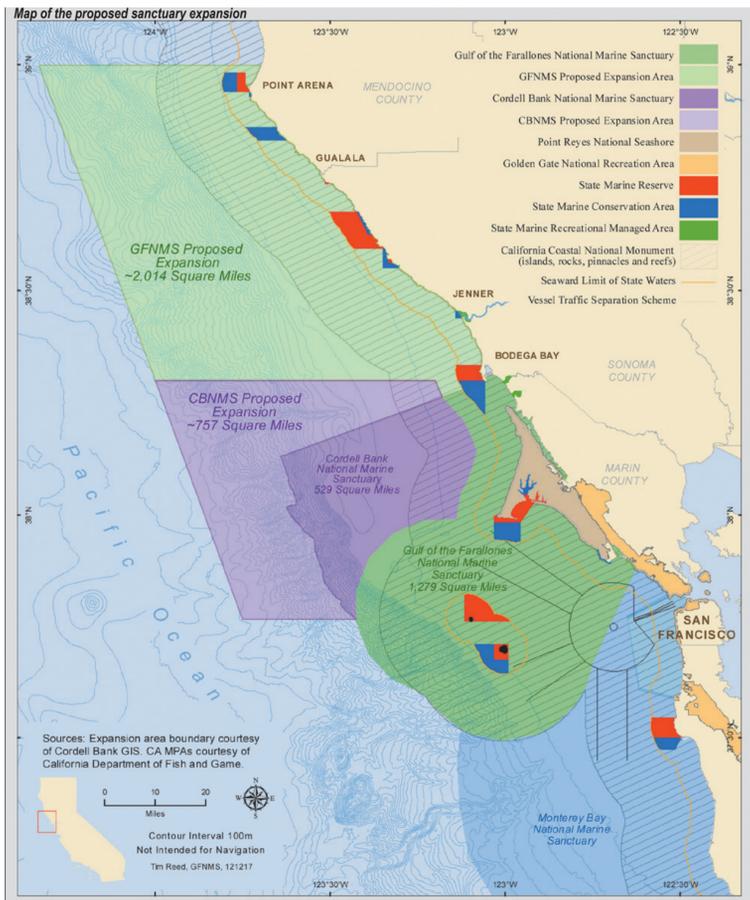
- **Outreach!**  
Information and assistance
- **Meals on Wheels!**  
For homebound folks 55 and older
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## Northern California marine sanctuaries set to expand

Two marine sanctuaries off the coast of Northern California are set to expand, according to a report presented to the board of supervisors on Tuesday by Bill Douros.

The contiguous sanctuaries are called the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

Currently, the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary encompasses 1,279 square miles and runs from approximately the Golden Gate Bridge to Bodega Bay.

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary is tucked into the western flank of the Farallones Sanctuary and extends about 35 miles out into the Pacific Ocean. It currently occupies 528 square miles.

The Cordell Bank sanctuary will be expanded westward another 20 miles, adding another 757 square miles. The Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary will be expanded northward another 50 miles, as far as Point Arena in southern Mendocino County. Its western boundary will be brought out as far as the western boundary of the newly proposed boundary of the Cordell Bank sanctuary, meaning it will extend about 90 miles offshore. Some 2,014 square miles will be added to the Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary, meaning – with the addition of the new areas – the two sanctuaries together will encompass 4,578 square miles, an area larger than Mendocino County.

The Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary extends from the Golden Gate Bridge southward past Santa Cruz and Monterey down to Cambria in San Luis Obispo County. After the expansion of the Gulf of the Farallones and

Cordell Bank sanctuaries, the three sanctuaries together will encompass 10,672 miles, an area larger than the state of Vermont.

Douros, the West Coast regional director of the National Marine Sanctuary system, said the process of approving the boundary expansion is expected to be completed in December, adding he is planning a community celebration on the coast sometime next spring.

Douros said the sanctuaries are not wilderness areas, and some resource extraction is permitted in them. He characterized the approach to resource management as “trying to maintain a balance between ecological concerns and sustainable use.”

He also noted the management plan for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary was 200 pages long, but the list of regulations within the sanctuary was only two pages long.

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

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## Kiwanis Club selling tickets for Oakland Raiders game

The Kiwanis Club of Willits offers tickets to its Sixth Annual Project Honduras football game between the Raiders and the Cardinals at the Oakland Coliseum, Sunday, October 19 at 1:25 pm. Tickets are \$65 (seats located in Section 136, Rows 14-18). \$20 of each ticket goes directly to supporting the Kiwanis Club's mission of shipping, installing and maintaining equipment at Hospital Adventista in Valle de Angeles, Honduras, Central America.



“Our last project shipped and installed a generator, transfer switch and fuel tank to provide power to the hospital. This is mission-critical equipment as power is very unreliable in Honduras. We are on a tight timeline, so please RSVP. As always, we will be having a tailgate party under the Honduras flag in the North parking lot. If you are unable to participate, please consider donating a ticket for a local youth.”

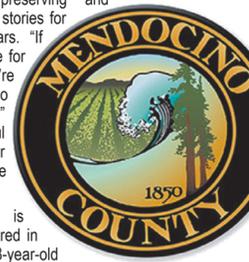
Checks payable to: “Kiwanis Club of Willits” at 21051 Locust St., Willits, 95490. Info: 456-3081 or Thomas.Peterson@ah.org.

– Tom Peterson, Willits Kiwanis Club

## Mendocino County Historical Society seeks funds for new archival and research library building

The Mendocino County Historical Society is a repository for all the stories of all the people who have called Mendocino County home. It has been dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting these stories for close to 60 years. “If you’ve been here for 15 minutes, you’re part of Mendocino County history,” is how Paul Poulos, Director of the Held-Poage Library, puts it.

That history is now carefully stored in a gracious 108-year-old mansion that sits on a large plot at the corner of Dora and Perkins, just west of downtown Ukiah. Its rooms and outbuildings are brimming with valuable and fascinating historical documents and artifacts, as well as 13,500 historical photographic negatives and 4,500 books on local, state, and national history. Many of the older documents in the collection are very fragile, with



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

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The rest of **Vote Holly** | From Page 5

she’s a young woman who has experience, energy and many accomplishments,” Griggs says.

Madrigal opposed construction of the \$200-million-plus Willits bypass project, believing it too costly and too destructive of Little Lake wetlands to justify its construction. She favored smaller solutions to local traffic problems, such as extending Railroad Avenue through the entire east side of Willits. She still hopes that Caltrans will downsize its plan for the northern interchange, but says she’s 100 percent committed to helping Willits and Laytonville thrive when the bypass is complete.

When Holly was 4, April Tweddell, Holly’s mother, moved her family to Willits, supporting her three daughters as a real estate agent. Holly’s father, an artist, stayed in Carmel Valley.

Holly has fond memories of her Brookside schoolteacher Kris Pierce, who taught in Willits for more than three decades before retiring two years ago. Pierce has come to know and respect Madrigal as a dynamic leader and energetic adult.

“I’m voting for her not because I was her teacher, but because she gets things done,” Pierce said. “She’s put in her time in Willits, being on the city council. I really feel like a person needs to start with city government and then move up to county government. She’s done that.”

That Madrigal loves her community and thrives on small town life is obvious to anyone who sees the grin on her face as she waves to parade-goers on the Fourth of July, greets old friends at the Blackberry Festival in Covelo, or dances at the Kinetic Carnival Ball dressed as a suffragist.

When asked if she’ll be able to serve Covelo and Laytonville with the same commitment she’s shown for Willits, Madrigal responds without hesitation. “Once I’m sworn in, I’ll work for the entire district. Covelo, Laytonville, Willits and all the rural areas in between need economic opportunities, strong infrastructure, safe streets and clean water. My job is to support their dreams.”

Madrigal has won endorsements from some well-known representatives, including U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman and State Senator Noreen Evans, who know of her efficient work while mayor of Willits. However, the endorsements she’s earned from many local residents give her the greatest satisfaction.

Alison Pernell, describing herself as “an involved community member” in Laytonville, says the qualities she most respects in Holly are her initiative, vision and accessibility.

“If she gets elected, she’s committed to holding regular office hours in Laytonville,” Pernell says. “I think that’s super important.”

Karen Oslund, former mayor of Willits, cites Madrigal’s involvement in community projects such as the Willits Kids Club and the new hospital as evidence of Holly’s passion for making Mendocino County a better place.

“She has the health and well-being of our community at heart,” Oslund says.

Jane Fitcher is a volunteer for Holly Madrigal’s campaign.

## Holly Madrigal

Campaign HQ: 716 South Main Street

www.voteholly.com

one\_visionary@yahoo.com

“Holly Madrigal for Supervisor” on Facebook

707-841-0612 / 707-459-0447

P.O. Box 2014, Willits, CA 95490

The rest of **Vote Tom** | From Page 5

endorsed Tom for his teamwork approach and his ability to get the job done.”

– Sheriff Tom Allman

I am also grateful to have the endorsement of former 3rd District Supervisor Hal Wagenet, Laytonville Fire Chief Jim Little, Brooktrails Board member Ralph Santos, and Willits City Council Member Larry Stranske. I have to thank the people of the 3rd District who support, encourage and contribute to my campaign every single day.

“When Tom takes his turn during the Public Comment portion of a meeting not only are his ideas well thought out but he has the ability to communicate them in a calm, unemotional style; even if it’s something he feels strongly about he doesn’t allow his emotions or passions to take center stage. Another important quality in the Art of Communication.”

– Joyce Waters

“He is real, no phony baloney, he tells you what his position is, not simply what he thinks you want to hear.”

– John & Charline Ford

I have spent time in every community in the 3rd District and have heard the concerns of hundreds of voters. I want to listen, to learn from, and to represent each of you. I am respectfully asking you to take the time to vote on November 4. Each of your votes counts.

## Tom Woodhouse

Campaign HQ: 2 North Street

www.tomwoodhouseforsupervisor.com

woodhouseforsupervisor@hotmail.com

“Tom Woodhouse for Supervisor” on Facebook

707-459-4677 / 707-367-6334

2 North Street, Willits, CA 95490

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

report. A June grand jury report stated no specific complaints to the City of Willits, but it did ask all jurisdictions, including Willits, to invest in the safety of pedestrians with improvements to markings and signage.

One request by the grand jury is that all crosswalks within any jurisdiction have the same look and be allowed to be painted different colors if close to a school.

In a report from Public Works Director Rod Wilburn, the city said all intersections and crosswalks are evaluated individually at the time of striping.

In Willits, these evaluations and recommendations are done by a professional like a civil engineer or a traffic engineer, the city stated.

Unmarked crosswalks were explored by the grand jury, too.

The grand jury argued that if even one crosswalk at an intersection is designated by markings, then all possible ways to cross that intersection should be painted and marked.

The city says at any given intersection, primarily at “T” intersections, there can be physical improvements like driveways, fire hydrants and utility poles that make a safe pedestrian crossing impossible.

The jury recommends crosswalks should be made as visible as possible to drivers, and be marked – as resources become available – by centerline signage to indicate the presence of crosswalks.

The city decided until there is a regulatory requirement, it will not implement the centerline signage recommendation.

There is not enough data available, the city said, to support a program geared towards providing all crosswalks with centerline signage.

The rest of **Marine** | From Page 12

Mendocino Coast resident Rachel Binah, who has been active in the ocean protection movement for the past quarter century, said she approves of the expansion.

“The ocean is a unifying force,” Binah said. “It connects us all. Even those who want to exploit the ocean are in favor of protecting it. So let’s get on with it.”

Douros said NOAA has reopened the nominating process for new marine sanctuaries, and outlined the requirement any proposed sanctuary must meet if it is to stand a chance of winning approval.

Supervisor John McCowen (2nd District) encouraged coastal supervisors Dan Hamburg (5th District) and Dan Gjerde (4th District) to submit a proposal to put a good part of Mendocino County coast into another sanctuary.

“I look forward to a future agenda item on a proposed sanctuary being brought forward to this body by supervisors Gjerde and Hamburg,” McCowen said.

The estimated cost of the new building is \$500,000 to \$600,000. The Society has already spent about \$75,000 on plans and permits. It has received small donations of money from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and from the Community Foundation. Now it is time to ask the greater community to step up and

The rest of **Lunches** | From Page 3

and lunch meat and make some sandwiches, get some chips and fruit, and give lunches to people?”

After Pearl went back to college, Posner started calling churches and organizations in Willits and the synagogue in Redwood Valley, “and we started the Brown Bag Lunch Program.” Posner left town in 2002, and the program moved into other hands.

Now back in Willits, Posner said: “I was at the park the other day, and it felt so wonderful and familiar, standing there with the volunteers, and seeing how excited and energized they were by doing this good work, this ‘mitzvah’ [a good deed]: it touches us and everyone around us.”

The Brown Bag Lunch Program serves an average of 30 lunches a day on Saturdays. The lunches are given out on the south side of the park; during rain or windy weather, the distribution point is under the eaves of City Hall, across Commercial Street.

At St. John Church, lunch preparations were well organized, with volunteers Don O’Reilly, Tami Rempel, Geraldine Armond, Duane Davis, Vicki Ham, and

Such a program would be costly, the city said, and require staff resources to install, monitor and maintain.

Councilman Larry Stranske stated at a recent city council meeting that he was worried about the timing of lights at Main Street and Commercial Street.

Cars can cut in front of pedestrians stepping into crosswalks at the busy downtown Willits intersection.

“Does anyone ever check it? If you are on Commercial Street, you wait twice as long as people coming down Highway 101,” Stranske said.

He asked Public Works Director Rod Wilburn to look into traffic light timing at the intersection.

Mendocino County and Department of Transportation Director Howard Dashiell handled the county’s response to the report.

The county says an assumption made by the grand jury that pedestrians assume a crosswalk is safe is not true.

“Pedestrians have a right to be there, and if pedestrians have to cross the road without a “marked cross walk,” pedestrians must yield to vehicles. If there is a marked crosswalk then vehicles must yield to pedestrians,” reads a portion of Dashiell’s reply.

A basic part of the grand jury process is for entities featured in its reports to respond in writing to the jury’s recommendations.

On the county website, the grand jury is described as “a citizen organization established by California law to review and investigate government of a county and its cities.”

The current batch of reports from the grand jury included, for example, investigations into county libraries, schools in Anderson Valley and privatization of county mental health services.

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

be developed that require approval from the joint powers authority before any new wells are drilled or increased pumping of water occurs,” Orenstein wrote in his report earlier this month.

Orenstein points to plummeting water levels in the state’s Central Valley aquifers and a statement from Gov. Jerry Brown in which the governor said this was probably the worst drought since records were kept.

“I am not sure that I want to wait until the state decides to tell us how to deal with water,” Orenstein said.

In a council talk about Orenstein’s idea, Public Works Director Rod Wilburn said California Department of Water Resources has guidelines for a groundwater management plan.

“It is to establish some regulatory

The rest of **Library** | From Page 12

pages that are cracking and bindings that are wearing away. Due to a shortage of space, some of the documents are stacked on top of each other in a less than optimum way.

The Historical Society plans to construct a new and separate 3500-square-foot building on the plot of its present space that would serve as a research library and archival space. The new building, which would be fire-safe and temperature-controlled, would also have space to train volunteers in important archival work. Construction of a new building would free up space in the present building, where volunteers have already digitally scanned 38,000 photos and are in the process of cataloguing 50,000 more.

The library of the MCHS is open to the public on Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 4 pm. To find out more, call 462-6969 or visit the website at [mchs.pacificstates.com](http://mchs.pacificstates.com).

authority over what happens to groundwater resources in this area,” Wilburn said.

Orenstein believes if the drought continues for much longer, the search for California water could come to the valley.

“It’s vital, therefore,” Orenstein wrote, “for steps to be taken to assure that the water in the Little Lake Valley aquifer is protected for the exclusive use of those who live in and around it, and who rely on it.”

Willits’ water supply is two reservoirs southeast of town. In early 2014 the city set in motion an emergency water treatment plant project to provide more water.

The project aimed to link one city well named the Park Well and another city-owned well, the Elias Well, to a water treatment plant built near the sewer plant.

support an undertaking that preserves the memories of Mendocino County’s residents with the care they deserve.

For \$275 donors can “purchase” one square foot of the new archival building for the Held-Poage Home and Library. For \$2,450, they can donate a full square yard of the room of their choice. A gift can be in the form of a purchase of a square foot, a square yard, or even an entire room, a memorial donation, or a designated gift for a friend or family member. No donation is too small or too large. Donors will be permanently listed on the Donor’s Wall regardless of the size. In addition, anyone can join the Historical Society for \$20 a year and receive a subscription to the Mendocino Historical Journal, which is brimming with stories, photos, and anecdotes on a variety of Mendocino County issues.

The library of the MCHS is open to the public on Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 4 pm. To find out more, call 462-6969 or visit the website at [mchs.pacificstates.com](http://mchs.pacificstates.com).

another anonymous helper quickly filling the bags.

Rempel, the coordinator at St. John for the program, said many of the lunch providers get at least some supplies from the Willits Community Services Food Bank, although St. John has “our own funding, a little private funding to back us up,” she said.

One group at St. John is in charge of shopping for lunch makings; another group actually puts together the bag lunches; and a third set of volunteers mans the distribution point at the park. “One group doesn’t have to do it all,” Rempel said.

“The Brown Bag Lunch Program is a very important part of our community’s emergency food program,” said Jim Marill of Willits Community Services. The Brown Bag Lunch Program can always use more organized groups to help out by taking part in the rotation or individuals who can be on call if needed. Call Marill at WCS at 459-3333 to find out more.



# Chicken Dinners “fly” off the grill

at Senior Center’s Friday night drive-thru fundraiser event

Many Willits residents enjoyed a grilled chicken dinner with rice pilaf, cole slaw, rolls and brownie Friday night, thanks to a Harrah Senior Center fundraiser. About 60 customers drove in at the front of the Senior Center and picked up a packed bag for an easy weekend dinner for two. Volunteers bought dinner, too.

The funds are going towards purchasing a new truck for the Meals on Wheels program, essential to homebound residents, for nutritious meals and a bit of company, too.

The seasoned chicken was grilled outside on the

beautiful new Lions Club BBQ trailer – more on the new grill, made by volunteers and materials donors right here in Willits, coming later.

“To-go’s are fun,” Allyn Nonneman, director of the center, smiled. “This is the third time we’ve done one, but this is the first year the Lions Club helped.”

“We’re really appreciative of Old Mission Pizza, too,” she said, showing off the ticket stub for the dinner, which gives purchasers \$3 off a pizza, as well as \$5 off a Senior Center Thrift Store purchase.

The center has so far raised \$15,500 towards a truck, anchored by a \$5,000 donation, and including almost \$2,400 the center raised at a silent auction at the recent Not Just Cowboy Poetry event at Emandal.

It also includes five \$100 bills slipped anonymously – separately – into the thrift store’s donation jar.

Senior Center volunteers helping with the dinner included Sue Sawyers, Dorothy Roediger, Virginia Jorge, Megan Howlett-Prescott, and Michel Frey.

– Jennifer Poole



At top, left: Megan Howlett-Prescott, Virginia Jorge, and Michel Frey, volunteers at the drive-thru table, stand with center coordinator Mariya Siddons. At top, right: John Smoot: a happy customer!

Above from left: Lions Club members grilled the chicken this year; Ernie Burton with his very attentive canine friends; Ian Fitzpatrick: another happy customer!

At left: Senior Center director Allyn Nonneman, flanked by volunteers Sue Sawyers, left, and Dorothy Roediger.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Above: Protesters along the west side of Highway 101 north of Willits Tuesday morning with a “Coyote Valley” banner.

Below: Protesters on the east side of the highway, with bypass construction in the background, call for protecting Pomo cultural sites.

Photos by Cynthia Raiser Jeavons

American Indian Movement banner stopped trucks from dumping fill at the ash grove, near an area where Native American cultural artifacts have been discovered, a Tuesday press release from a coalition of groups opposing the Willits bypass stated.

“Native participants, from Coyote Valley, Sherwood Valley, Potter Valley and the American Indian Movement entered the construction site with the AIM flag, banners and drums for prayers and direct action in conjunction with local environmental activists,” the press release said.

Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie said Tuesday was the last day contractors had planned to move fill for the season, due to the threat of rain. “Next week at the northern interchange,” Frisbie said, “the focus will be on preparing the site for the winter to prevent erosion issues.”

A smaller group of protesters came to the site Wednesday morning, as well.

No arrests were made either day. Protesters say several CHP officers were present but “did not tell protesters they were trespassing and did not ask them to leave,” according to a Wednesday press release from the coalition.

Caltrans Frisbie told Willits Weekly on Wednesday: “I was told that the order to leave was given yesterday morning, but CHIP did not enforce it. They did not feel they had enough officers on hand yet.”

Priscilla Hunter, tribal representative for the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, said the tribe requested government to government consultations with the Army Corps of Engineers in June, about protection of archeological sites during bypass construction, but to date has received no response.

“Caltrans placated the interests of local ranchers by giving them permanent grazing rights on the mitigation lands and built the viaduct over the railroad track to preserve it, but yet they don’t listen to the Indians’ concerns for protection of our ancestors’ culture or to our call for downsizing the northern interchange to avoid a large village site,” Hunter said.

Frisbie said Caltrans has “identified some minor changes to the interchange,” and given the Army Corps their preliminary ideas. One of the commitments Caltrans made to the Army Corps, in negotiations to reinstate the bypass project’s 404 permit which had been suspended by the Army Corps in June, was to “complete a current evaluation of the project design to determine if permanent fill on the bypass project can be reduced.” Caltrans must formally complete that evaluation by October 1.

Frisbie also confirmed earlier word that “traffic on the bypass” would be delayed until summer 2017. “We were still holding out hope that we could move enough soil, before the rains,” he said, “but we are now saying, yes, this road is delayed another year. The little bit of soil that was hauled yesterday morning, that will be the last soil hauled this season from the Mendocino Forest Products site.”



the city was going to have to take on the responsibility for taking care of bridges, streets and stoplights on what is now Highway 101, but will soon become Main Street, and the responsibility of the City of Willits after Caltrans relinquishes it. “I want to help the council and the staff prepare for this,” Stranske said.

Stranske also said he was concerned about water. “We have aging infrastructure. So we need to consider the things we need to do before relinquishment, which is when the state is going to turn over the highway from the northern boundary of Willits to Highway 20.”

The City of Willits is planning to lay new water and sewer pipes from Commercial Street northward to the Willits High School swimming pool.

Supervisory candidate Tom Woodhouse praised Stranske for having been the driving force behind convincing the city council to take on that project.

Orenstein has been on the city council for two, non-consecutive, four-year terms. He touted his achievements, adding he was the driving force behind the city installing solar panels near its water plant. While the project generated energy for the city, it has not worked out financially as well as Orenstein and other members of the city council originally hoped.

Orenstein said he has also been a driving force behind a second solar project now under consideration that would install about an acre of solar panels at various locations throughout Willits. Orenstein claimed if the project comes to fruition, Willits will save about \$115,000 a year for 20 years, and about \$250,000 a year when the loan is paid off. In a separate phone conversation, Orenstein emphasized these numbers are preliminary and could change.

He said the city needs to work with the county to draw up an accurate map of where good water is in Little Lake Valley. “We have to map the aquifer,” Orenstein said. “Some of the water out there is contaminated with arsenic and other stuff. Some of it is clean and pure. We have to map where the good water is, and measure the capacity: how much of it is out there and what the recharge rate is. Then, I think it would be a good idea to connect all the wells to create a system, so when your well goes dry, the water can be shared and you would still have water.”

Leler, whose name rhymes with “stellar,” told the audience she came to Willits in 1982 as a member of the team that brought Ecology Action’s gardening project from Palo Alto to Willits. In addition to working for 20 years for Ecology Action (1972 to 1992), Leler also worked as a teacher and tutor for area public schools for the past 22 years.

Leler stressed her concern about water, especially about how the city’s water system is being run, pointing out a spring 2013 incident when readings of the city’s processed water contained excess levels of various forms of carcinogenic haloacetic acids.

Asked later about her concern, Leler said these carcinogens are created when the algal blooms in the city’s reservoirs are not treated in a timely manner. Late treatment can result in high levels of the compounds being created as a “disinfectant byproduct.”

Leler has looked into this matter and has concluded that the city of Willits has not done all that it should to protect residents’ drinking water.

“The water treatment staff has not, for 32 years, done all that it should to ensure that we have clean, safe drinking water,” Leler said.

She also said she favors legalizing marijuana. “I think it should be legalized. I think half the problem is that it is illegal.

“In this county, when I moved here, the big industry was timber. We undercut our own resource – we overcut our own resource – we sank economically in a boom-and-bust cycle that we didn’t get much benefit from,” she said. “I don’t want to see us do the same thing with cannabis.

“I actually believe a day will come when we can advertise our county as a center,” she said. “We have a lot of expertise here in medicinal strains of marijuana. Let’s capitalize on it.”

Orenstein advocated a wait-and-see approach to pot legalization. “Colorado and Washington have been dealing with legalized marijuana for a little less than a year,” he noted. “And I think it’s very important for us to sit and watch and see what’s happening there.

“I’ve been watching the reports that are coming out of those states to see what the issues are. And, they’re working it out. They may, indeed, work it out. But I would rather have them figure it out, so that we can get a fixed plan.”

Orenstein added Colorado tax revenues from marijuana sales are far lower than first estimated. That, he said, was thought to be partly because people don’t like paying taxes, and partly because, if they do pay taxes, they would be violating their 5th Amendment rights, which protect citizens against self-incrimination.

“Because, remember, even if a state declares it legal, it’s still illegal federally,” he said.

Stranske said he opposed both marijuana growing and legalization.

“When you teach for 35 years, and you see these kids come in, year after year, and you get to know them and to care what happens to them, and you watch them destroy their lives, no. I just want you to know where I’m coming from on this,” he said.

Brooktrails resident Ginger Pohlsen asked each candidate what book they had read last. Orenstein said that he reads a book a week, most of them mysteries, and that he couldn’t remember the title of the last one. “Is that important?” he asked.

Leler said that her last book was “A Hundred Years of Solitude” by Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Madrigal said that had just finished reading “Knocking on Heaven’s Door: A Better Way to Face Death.” Woodhouse said that he had recently read “The Watchman’s Rattle,” which is about how societies collapse. “They are focusing on these little side issues, and then something big, like population or water – the same things that we are facing – come along and puts an end to their civilization.”

Stranske said that he reads only two or three books a year. “To tell you the truth, I don’t have time. I read the agenda for the city council, every two weeks, and that’s a book in itself,” he said.

## Bypass progress report

Caltrans gave a written report to the Willits City Council Wednesday evening, about progress on the bypass. According to the report:

Bypass contractors will wind down the second construction season of the Willits bypass with about 48 percent of work completed.

At the north end of the bypass, at the site of the northern interchange and the railroad crossing, recent work included erosion control at the railroad bridge abutments, relocating utilities and moving fill from the mill site.

Three large concrete pours have occurred at the viaduct. The viaduct is best seen from near Shuster’s office (on East Valley Road) or the old Coleman property (on Commercial Street).

More concrete pours are needed before false work can be removed, and completion of that portion this year depends on the weather.

Excavated slopes on the southern end of the project have been blanketed in rock. Contractors are working on the construction of a crossover detour for northbound freeway traffic

Haehl Creek realignment and fish passage improvement work is started and will be completed by the end of September 2014.

Haehl Creek bridges foundations are complete and abutments are also. Work on Haehl Creek structures will resume next June 2015.

A northbound onramp bridge is complete, except for concrete barrier rails. Pond relocation at Rutledge property is complete as is a Baechtel Creek retaining wall.

East Hill Road drivers should note that a closure for East Hill Road, originally planned for this Friday, September 26, has been rescheduled to next Wednesday, October 1, due to the rainy weather.

Additional reporting on this story was done by Zack Cinek.

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