



Willits Economic Localization Newsletter

The WELL Bucket

Volume 11, Issue 3

May/June, 2016

Community Events May & Jun 2016

May 3, 5:30-6:30pm – Avenues to Wellness talk “Understanding Dementia Behavior,” at Willits Senior Center, contact 456-9676

May 5, 3-6pm – Farmers Market moves to Bud Snyder Park (every Thursday through Summer & Fall)

May 7 – “Ovine Awareness Day” at Grange School – See page 7

May 7, 12:30 - 4:30 pm – Phoenix Rising gardening class. Email Ron Woolsey: dragon4ron@hotmail.com

May 7, 7pm – Willits On Stage – variety show fundraiser for Food Bank, at Willits High auditorium

May 9, 6:30pm – WELL Coordinating Committee meeting, log cabin at WISC, call Madge 459-1493

May 10, – Measure V debate, 9am on KZYX, & 7pm, Ukiah Civic Center, see page 3

May 10 – Grange School workshop & work party, see page 7

May 11, 2-5pm – Healthy Harvest Cooking Class at Little Lake Grange, see page 6

May 15, 10am-4pm – Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale – see page 8

May 18, 9am-12:30pm – Career Fair at Willits High School Auditorium – see back page

May 18, 7pm – Now & Then Films on Natural Building, at LL Grange – see page 8

May 19, 2-6:30 pm - Main Street “Sneak Preview,” see page 1

May 21-24 – First of “Wall-to-Wall” Natural Building Workshop series, see page 5

May 22, 8-11am – Grange pancake breakfast

May 22, 10am – WHAT Walk and 11am-2pm – Healthy Family Fair, p.8
Continued on back page

Main Street Planning—Sneak Preview May 19

Willits was abuzz April 18-22 with the Main Street Planning Fair. Over 200 area residents participated in the “charette”—learning about options and giving their input to the potential future of Main Street (the entire length within Willits City limits).

A major impetus is the upcoming relinquishment to the City of Main St. north of Highway 20 when the Bypass is completed. Before relinquishment Caltrans is required to bring that stretch up to a “state of good repair.” They have allocated \$3.4 million to this upgrade, for repaving, repair of sidewalks and ADA (disability access) compliance, but this budget does not include any other improvements the City may want. (Caltrans also has additional funds allocated for Sherwood Road intersection realignment and other “child projects.”)

With a planning grant from Caltrans, the City hired consultants who conducted the Planning Fair and will complete their recommendations later this year. The goal is for the first phase of proposals to be coordinated with Caltrans’ work north of Highway 20 in 2017. A second phase will target improvements on the south-

ern segment of Main Street.

The next step in this planning process will be a “Sneak Preview of Main Street,” Thursday, May 19, 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm. This will be held on E. Commercial Street between Main Street and Humboldt Street. From 3-5 pm there will be a free showing of “The Prowler” (a drama produced by the 1939 class of Willits High School, set in historic downtown Willits) at the Noyo Theatre. At 4:00 pm Little Lake Fire Department will navigate proposed changes with their largest fire truck.

Come and experience the “Sneak Preview”: a 3-D, life-sized, scale-model of some of the proposed changes. Temporary traffic calming and place-making treatments like bulb-outs, enhanced crosswalks, bike lanes, landscaping and public art will be tested out on East Commercial Street, giving participants a chance to see what Main Street can become. Designs for the Main Street Corridor will be on display for public comment.

For more info and to give feedback on the final plan, go to www.willitsmainstreetplan.com or call City Hall at 459-4601.

Caltrans & Pesticide Use

Letter to editor by Ellen Drell (slightly edited)

At the April 13th City Council meeting, during Caltrans’ update on the status of the Willits Bypass and the wetland mitigation projects, I asked if herbicides or other pesticides would be used on the mitigation lands in Little Lake Valley (which include about one third of the entire Valley). *The Willits Weekly* reported:

“According to Caltrans, no herbicides have been used in the mitigation process, and no herbicides use (is) planned in the future.” End of story? Not by a long shot.

In a lengthy conversation outside of the Council Chambers with Bypass Project Manager Geoffrey
Continues on page 2

Grist Mill - Friends of Outlet Creek Update

In March an agreement was made between the Mendocino County Air District and Grist Creek Aggregates, owner of the misplaced industrial site along Outlet Creek, to allow the asphalt plant operations at the site to continue for an additional week in order to complete an \$8 million Caltrans contract for a paving project along Highway 101 near Laytonville. This deal came after 10 weeks of out-of-compliance asphalt production last summer and fall which heavily impacted the plant's neighbors.

Now that the paving project is mostly complete the agreement requires operations be halted until recommended corrective measures are put in place and a permit is re-issued by the Air District. However, it's unlikely the plant owners have any intention of continuing operations at the site. Although Grist Creek Aggregates owns the site and was issued the plant's original permit, the asphalt plant equipment is actually owned and operated by two out-of-town companies, Fortuna based Mercer-Fraser and Arizona based FNF. The Caltrans paving contract seems to be the reason these companies set up shop at the site. Now they will likely move on to another site rather than spend the time and money to bring their equipment into compliance.

While neighbors will be very glad to see Mercer-Fraser and FNF gone from our watershed, the threat of future asphalt production or other heavily polluting industrial operations on Outlet Creek remains. If another lucrative contract comes up Grist Creek Aggregates may again try to bring in asphalt producers, and the County Air District may again issue a permit

Caltrans & Pesticide Use *Continued from page 1*

Wright and Mitigation Manager Ragu Thangavelautham, I got the rest of the story.

My reading indicates there is nothing in the mitigation project contracts, nor in the Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Wildlife permits, that prohibits the use of herbicides. These documents not only allow the use of herbicides (and encourage their use to kill blackberries), they actually include a long list of additional pesticides approved for use. The contracts allow the use of rodenticides; insecticides, including some implicated in the death of honey bee colonies; and soil sterilants to kill vegetation around hundreds of thousands of newly planted wetland plants.

Both Mr. Wright and Mr. Thangavelautham admitted that there was no prohibition against the use of these poisons in the Caltrans awarded contracts. The reason herbicides had not been used so far was because the contractor, in this case Hanford, Inc., decided, for their own internal reasons, not to use herbicides. I asked if Bortolussi & Watkins, the contractor awarded the second mitigation contract last year, planned to use herbicides.

without the much needed environmental review. Fast tracking of the project by the Board of Supervisors back in March of 2015 set a dangerous precedent for further industrial development without consideration of the consequences for the neighbors and the watershed.

Two lawsuits filed by Friends of Outlet Creek against the County and the Air District, would require environmental review for new development such as an asphalt plant at this site. Both cases will be heard by the appellate court within the year. A third lawsuit alleging vio-

They didn't know, but as with Hanford, the decision would be up to the contractor. Both agreed that if a contractor chose to use herbicides, pesticides, rodenticides, etc., and went through the routine processes with the Water Board, there was virtually no chance that the public would know in advance if the contractor intended to or had already used herbicides or other poisons.

In other words, Caltrans completely ignored the City and County Resolutions passed last year asking that herbicides not be used on the mitigation lands. Caltrans did nothing to incorporate the spirit or the letter of these resolutions into their contracts. And finally, Caltrans is deliberately giving the City Council and the public a false impression regarding the use of herbicides and other pesticides in our Valley. In my book, that's lying.

The Council members, the Supervisors and the public should not quietly accept lies. It's clearly time for us to "update" Caltrans on the use of these poisons in the Valley, the water, the forage, the soil and the wildlife. We'll inherit the Valley when these politically motivated wetland "enhancements" are finished. It should at least be poison-free.

lations of the federal Clean Water Act has also been filed against Grist Creek Aggregates.

The lawsuits are being funded by neighbors, the larger community and grants. Contributions are still needed! To help support these lawsuits write checks out to WEC with "FOC" in the memo line, and send to: Willits Environmental Center, 630 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490. For more information call Lyn at (707) 621-3214 or visit our website: www.friendsofoutletcreek.com.

Election June 7Th

California's upcoming Presidential Primary Election is June 7. Sample ballots will begin arriving in mailboxes at the end of April and absentee (mail-in) ballots will go out in early May. The last day to register to vote in this election is May 23.

NOTE: If you wish to vote in the Republican Primary, you must be registered for that party. To vote for Democratic, American Independent, or Libertarian candidates, one way is to be registered for that party. However, if you registered as "No Party Preference" but wish to vote in one of those primaries, you can do so at the polling place OR – if you vote by mail - you must specifically request a particular party ballot by May 23rd. Such request must be in writing, with name, address, date-of-birth, and party ballot requested, signed and dated, mailed to Registrar of Voters, 501 Low Gap Rd., Rm. 1020, Ukiah CA 95482. For more info, call the Registrar at 234-6819.

In addition to the Presidential Primaries, the June 7th ballot also includes:

- Candidates for U.S. Senate, House of Representatives and our California Assembly district (wade through the lists for your preferred choices!)
- Supervisors in District 1, 2 and 4 (not our district, since Tom Woodhouse has two more years on his term)
- Three judges
- Republican and Democratic Central Committee members
- Measure V "Dead Standing Trees"
- Measure W "Charter County"
- 15 Commissioners to draft a county charter.

BE SURE TO REGISTER BY MAY 23RD AND VOTE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 7TH! (A new rule: Mail-in ballot must be post-marked by June 7th, and received by June 10th)

Measure V (Killed Trees) Update by Mike Kalantarian

Here in Mendocino County we have the opportunity to pass an important local measure, appearing on the June 7th ballot as follows:

MEASURE V - Public Nuisance Trees: "Shall the people of Mendocino County declare intentionally killed and left standing trees a public nuisance?"

This Measure was written to address the fire hazard that results from the timber industry practice known as "hack and squirt." Millions of trees covering thousands of acres in Mendocino County are poisoned each year and left to die. These standing dead trees represent an extreme fire danger to both residents and firefighters.

Passing Measure V would declare this irresponsible practice

a public nuisance in Mendocino County, and make the perpetrators liable for any resulting damages.

For those interested, there are a couple of upcoming events on this topic, both scheduled on Tuesday, May 10:

1) Beginning at 9am, Dr Marvin Trotter's radio show "Mind, Body Health" on KZYX & Z will spend an hour discussing Measure V.

2) Then, at 7:30pm, the Ukiah Saturday Afternoon Club will be hosting a "Public Forum for Measure V" at the Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Drive, Ukiah. This will be a debate between proponents Ted Williams & Kirk Van Patten and opponents Sarah Billig & George Hollister.

For more information, visit Citizens-ForFireSafeForests.com



Measue W (County Charter) Update by Mary Zellachild

A YES vote for Measure W on the June 7th ballot simply means you are in favor of electing 15 candidates to write a charter for Mendocino County. The names of 17 charter commission candidates are also on the same ballot for you to choose from. The 15 who are elected will write a charter (with community input) that will then be voted on in a subsequent election.

So what's the purpose of a charter for our county?

A Charter, like a Constitution, describes a future.

Rather than continuing the status

quo of a General Law county, a Charter sets the direction for future goals and policies for our county's unique needs.

A charter will give the People a say in how we want to be governed.

I personally believe it's up to us to take an active (and ongoing) role in our governance. Voting for a charter to be written is stating we have that intention.

I have lawn signs, bumper stickers and endorsement forms for Measure W for anyone who would like to help out in the campaign. Contact me at 459-3963; maryzel@willitsonline.com.

Native Voices and Environmental Resistance

Photo by Maria Gilardin



Clockwise L to R: Priscilla Hunter, her son Michael Hunter (Tribal Chair), her daughter Melinda, and Fred Short (AIM), enjoying some humor on Mar. 25.

A historic gathering of Tribes and environmentalists took place on Mar. 25th at the Little Lake Grange at a film showing entitled Native Voices & Environmental Resistance. Two of the films were native voices – telling heart-wrenching stories of what has happened over centuries

and wildlife during construction of the Willits bypass. The lawsuit is pending in federal court, with no trial date set yet.

Although not a party to the lawsuit, the Sherwood Valley Tribe has also gone on record rejecting and strongly denouncing Caltrans' totally unacceptable Programmatic

The event was a benefit for the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Round Valley Indian Tribes' precedent-setting lawsuit against Caltrans. ... seeking justice for the destruction of Pomo cultural and sacred sites, as well as environmental damage to wetlands and wildlife during construction of the Willits bypass.

to America's First Nations, but also hopeful stories of survival and reclaiming their culture and rights.

The event was a benefit for the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Round Valley Indian Tribes' precedent-setting lawsuit against Caltrans. In addition to the films, the large crowd heard from Phil Gregory, attorney for the Tribes, Michael Hunter, chair of the Coyote Valley Tribe, Fred Short, spiritual adviser of California AIM, and others about the lawsuit seeking justice for the destruction of Pomo cultural and sacred sites, as well as environmental damage to wetlands

Agreement (PA). In the face of this united opposition, the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has refused to sign the PA. The Mar. 25th event raised consciousness as well as almost \$3,000 for the lawsuit. This has been doubled by a matching grant from an anonymous donor. Additional donations, also doubled by the generous donor, are still needed. You can donate by Paypal at www.savelittlelakevalley.org, or send donations to Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians (put "Caltrans lawsuit" in memo line), P.O. Box 39, Redwood Valley CA, 95470.

Farmers Market Moves Outdoors

Excerpted from article by Michael Foley

Beginning May 5th, the Willits Farmers Market will be back outdoors at Bud Snyder Park, from 3 to 6pm. As we roll into late Spring, there will be more and more local produce, in addition to other fresh, local and ready-to-eat foods, hand-crafts, live music, and a welcoming atmosphere. Don't forget you can also get your knives and other tools sharpened at the Market.

At the park there will be a Farmers Market Food Court, with all our food vendors gathered around tables for customers to enjoy picnic style (or take home, if you prefer).

Note also that the Farmers Market accepts EBT cards. A grant lets us offer EBT cardholders a match of \$15 in tokens good for fruit and vegetable purchases at the market. This encourages low-income shoppers to take advantage of the nutritious food available and boosts sales for local farmers – a win-win for our local food economy.

For more info, contact Michael, Farmers Market Manager at foley.mw@gmail.com

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Where Does Our Money Go? — Forum Report

WELL and the Willits Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored a forum on April 7th entitled "Where Does Our Money Go? And How Can We Keep More of It Local?" The four panelists and the audience had a lot of interesting information and ideas to contribute!

The four panelists were Alan Falleri, retired Willits Community Development Director; Richard Willoughby, retired president of two local banks; Lisa Epstein, President of Willits Chamber of Commerce; and Greta Kanne, co-owner of The Book Juggler. The discussion was moderated by Emily Rose Smith, Willits native who has recently returned with an MBA focusing on socially responsible business.

Touching on a few highlights, Falleri noted that small, diverse businesses, collectively, produce more jobs and help local economies more than large 'big box' stores. Kanne pointed out that for each dollar spent at a locally-owned business, 52 cents continues to circulate in the local economy, compared to less than half that amount spent at chain stores. Another example: for each \$10 million spent on-line for books, only 14 jobs are created, while the same dollars spent at independent bookstores generate 57 jobs.

Epstein said every decision about buying is a choice: Is it available locally? In Ukiah? Out of Coun-

ty? Or do you go online? She urged people to consider the benefits to the community of buying local.

Willoughby discussed some of the impacts the Bypass will have on our economy. It's estimated that 25-35% of local business income is from through-traffic. The Bypass will particularly hurt motels and gas stations. Currently 40% of Willits' sales tax revenue is from fuel sales. Good signage to draw people into Willits, and not allowing highway commercial at the two interchanges, will be very important.

Many other ideas were shared with lively participation from the audience, including (partial list!):

- Take advantage of C of C's new website to promote businesses
- Write on-line reviews of Willits restaurants & attractions
- Have tours of our local manufacturing businesses
- Keep Willits active in EDFC and Business Alliance for Living Local Economies
- Engage and encourage youth as entrepreneurs
- Restrict 'big box' development
- Create local value-added farm and food processing industries
- Deal with blight of vacant buildings
- Localize energy
- Local currency and lending possibilities

The two biggest take-away messages:

- 1) Buy local whenever feasible!
- 2) Participate in the Main Street Planning Process (see page 1).

Natural Building Workshop Series

Learn to build a complete structure in five comprehensive workshops! WALL to WALL is a workshop series at Ridgewood Ranch in Willits, between May 21 and June 28, 2016.

Renowned builder and author Michael G. Smith and teacher/builder Amanda Fischer will empower students to build any kind of structure using natural, recycled and renewable materials. Each day will include about 3 hours of lectures and slide presentations covering building science, design methodology and 6 hours of hands-on building..

WALL to WALL is suitable for everyone interested in broadening their natural building skill-set; first time builders, experienced professionals, soon-to-be-homesteaders and even children. Participants can learn specific techniques or complete all five courses and gain a comprehensive education in natural building.

Delicious meals will be served, and participants are encouraged to camp on-site at Ridgewood Ranch.

The schedule is as follows:

May 21-24: Earthbag Foundation & Cob

June 4-7: Light Straw/Clay & Cob

June 11-14: Cordwood, Cob & Earthen Floors

June 18-21: Straw Bale & Plasters

June 25-28: Natural Floors, Plasters, Paints & Finishes

Pricing and registration info at: walltowallworkshop.tumblr.com/pricing.

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Community Gardens In Willits

Three active community gardens continue to survive or thrive in the Willits area, and they are always in need of various kinds of support – people who want their own garden bed, volunteers, money, etc.

The Willits Community Garden, located at the north-east corner of the Willits Integrated Service Center (off E. Valley St.) recently celebrated Earth Day by continuing a series of work parties to create a more welcoming space for local residents to grow their own food. The garden's sponsor, the North Coast Opportunities' Gardens Project, is also seeking funding for improvements, including a new fence, tools and other materials to make the garden more efficient. To donate, go to <https://www.generosity.com/community-fundraising/let-s-e-a-t>. For interest in a garden bed or volunteering, please contact Arianna Chiechi at 467-3200 ext. 399 or achiechi@ncoinc.org.

The Brooktrails Community Garden, under the aegis of the Brooktrails Township, is almost fully subscribed – it's one of the few places in Brooktrails with sufficient sun for gardening! There is still one garden bed space available. Contact Freddie at 459-5267 for more information.

The Brookside School Farm continues to grow food and serve as an exciting hands-on teaching opportunity for the school's students. BSF will be back at the Farmers Market in late May or June equipped with a new bike trailer donated by the Grateful Gleaners. Come visit! We'll also be opening a farm stand starting this summer, featuring strawberries, flowers and fresh produce. More details to come. To help and get involved, contact Amanda at 841-0254.

Spring is a great time to get involved and begin growing food to enjoy later in the summer and



Photo by Kate Maxwell, The Willits News.

Willits Community garden members Richard Jeske, Michael Cortez, Susie Dean, and Paul Jacobson.

beyond. Local food is not only fresher and more nutritious, but it also makes our community more self-sufficient. Over the years, WELL

has provided some funding for all three of these gardens (in addition to featuring them on garden tours), but most of the work is volunteers!

Two Healthy Harvest Workshops in May!

Healthy Harvest Workshops are an opportunity to cook together as a community. North Coast Opportunities has scheduled two May classes and are planning some exciting recipes. The first is Wed., May 11, 2-5pm at the Little Lake Grange.

At this workshop, we'll be making the very popular Blackberry Rhubarb jam, a delicious Tomato Onion & Balsamic Conserve, and tender spring onion tops. The rest of the workshop is to be determined based on what amazing produce pops up on the Mendo Lake Food Hub and at the farmers market that week.

The second workshop will be Sun., May 15, 2-5pm at the Plowshares Kitchen, 1346 S. State St. in Ukiah, featuring jam, spring greens, and summer rolls.

If you're interested in attending either workshop (\$20 each), please register by contacting April, at 467-3212 or acuningham@ncoinc.org.

WELL CoCom Summaries

Mar. 14, 2016

The CoCom approved co-sponsoring the Charter County Town Hall at Little Lake Grange April 17. We reviewed the fairly successful WELL membership and ad renewals. We decided to donate \$100 to include WELL on the T-shirts for the WHAT walk, and to table at the health fair that will follow at the Rec Grove Park. We still have DVD's (Peak Oil, etc.) to offer as gifts for new or renewing members at upcoming events.

We discussed details of the Where Our Money Goes Forum on Apr. 7th. We suggested leads for timing and sites for a Water & Energy Efficiency Tour this summer. Holly is hoping to do another bike show; date uncertain. A good idea for a program in the Fall would be a panel of relevant non-profits in Willits and the County, including WELL, NCO, Community Foun., C of C, LL Grange, REDI and others.

The WELL power point was re-

Continued on page 7

Farm School - Name Change And Lots Going On!

by Ruthie & Eva King

In a world where constant change is more reliable than average rainfall, farmers work tirelessly to bring food to our tables every day. The Grange Farm School is cutting edge, adaptive, resilient, and updated, just as the next generation of farmers must be! In order to better represent the type of farming we are promoting and to distinguish ourselves from other "Farm Schools" we are changing our name to The Grange School of Adaptive Agriculture.

Our comprehensive curriculum equips students with foundational skills to grow food responsibly.

Join us at the Grange School for these upcoming workshops:

May 7th - Increase your Ovine Awareness during a full day demonstration-based workshop series led by local experts. They will present the many uses of sheep — shearing

wool, butchering, milking, grazing techniques, fiber arts, and more.

May 10th we have three events:

8 am-noon – Presentation on how certain equipment and tools can benefit your production farm, by Jim Leap, former manager at the 25 acre UC Santa Cruz farm for 20 years. This is a free event with both classroom and hands-on components. Please let the Food Hub know if you want to attend, 707 467 3238.

12pm-5:30pm - Optional work party in the 6 acre vegetable production field with our field manager, Joshua Sternberg. Stop by to help bed prep, transplanting, seeding, and weeding or to just check out what we're doing!

5:30-6pm - History of Agriculture and Domestication workshop led by Michael Foley and Rachel Britten. They will address questions like, how has agriculture shaped the way people have lived and worked over the last 10,000 years? What can indigenous gardeners, peasants, sharecroppers, and American family farmers tell us about how we should be managing the land and feeding ourselves at the end of the Age of Oil?

June 11th – The School is hosting a Skill Share Fair: A DIY Industrial Arts Day. A full day workshop series will be led by experts in their fields training us in essential skills for around the home, garden, garage, and farm. Ever had questions about how electricity works? Internal combustion engines? Plumbing and irrigation? Want to learn techniques for building using carpentry and welding? Stations will be set up with demonstrations throughout the day and opportunities to experiment and learn.

Prices, details, and more will be updated on our website at www.school-of-adaptive-agriculture.org

Efficiency Tour Coming Aug. 20th

Plan ahead for this first-time Water & Energy Efficiency Tour, tentatively planned for Sat. August 20th. As you may know, WELL has hosted farm & garden tours almost every year for the past 11 years. This year we're doing something new: a tour of sites that incorporate water & energy efficiency.

As with the garden tours, we hope this will inspire residents and businesses to look for ways you, too, can save water and energy (which in turn usually saves money, as well as helping the environment).

So far we've identified one rural home, one in-town home, one industrial use, one non-profit commercial building, and one church, all of which have interesting efficiency features to share with us. We plan to rendez-vous in the morning – probably 9:30am – to carpool to some of the locations, while others will be within easy walking distance. We'll then enjoy lunch at a shady spot. The tour may include a slide show of some other exciting energy & water efficiency ideas, and possibly a presentation on how energy audits are done for PACE program financing.

Mark your calendar for Aug. 20th! More details as we get closer. The tour will be free for current WELL members. Also if you know of other locations that should be considered for the tour, please contact Paul at 513-5313 or 4paul@gmail.com.

CoCom Summaries

Continued from page 6

cently presented to a College class. It needs an update and then further outreach efforts.

Apr. 11, 2016

We were pleased with the panel and attendance at the "Where Does Our Money Go?" forum (see article this issue). We will seek continued collaboration with C of C, Revit-ED Committee, and Main St. planning.

Kristin presented year-to-date finances. Everything is going well and on budget. Tim reviewed how CoCom members can be administrators of our website.

Paul reported progress on planning for the Efficiency Tour on Aug. 20. (See article this issue.)

Next CoCom meetings will be May 9th and June 13th.

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Now & Then Films: Natural Building—May 19

The Now and Then Film Series at the Grange presents: Natural Building with Local Materials on May 19th, 7pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School St. in Willits. This specially curated evening of films kicks off the 'WALL to WALL' natural building workshop series in late May and June (see separate article).

The evening will include discussion led by Matt Anderson and Renata Abbade. We will show clips from various sources featuring different aspects of natural building (some examples are from a documentary called 'home movie' and another one called 'alone in the wilderness'). Then Matt will show clips from a documentary that he is currently editing about the history of the natural building movement. There will be clips of some of the grand wizards like SunRay Kelley, Ianto Evans, Robert Laporte and Carol Crews.

Your donation of \$5 to \$10 will help fund this film series. Come at 6:30 to see our Trailers & Short films. As usual, we will serve heirloom organic popcorn with real organic butter and Fair Trade chocolate refreshments.

New Location for Gleaners Plant Sale

The Grateful Gleaners will hold their annual Plant Sale on May 15, 10am–4pm, at a new location. Since Edi Ceccarelli has moved, the Gleaners got the brilliant idea of hosting the popular Plant Sale at their storage garage at 130 Tuttle Lane. The garage is centrally located, just off Humboldt Street, one short block north of the Post Office.

As usual, there will be a wide variety of landscape plants, herbs, fruit bushes and plants and annual flowers and vegetables. The selection of plants includes hard-to-find heritage plants such as sweet violets, bleeding hearts, forget-me-nots, and sweet woodruff, and culinary and medicinal herbs such as valerian, horseradish, comfrey, French sorrel, sage, lavender, and other more common cooking herbs such as parsley, dill, chives, and basil. If all goes as planned, we will have a range of vegetable seedlings to help you start your own abundant, organic backyard garden.

Although the El Nino rains have given us a reprieve this year, we are hoping to help Willitsians move toward more drought-tolerant landscapes. So, not only will we have a range of low-water-use ground



Gleaners Prana and Kimbal Dodge at last year's plant sale.

covers, grasses and landscape plants (many of which deer will not bother!), we will identify these plants with a special label. Some of these plants also serve to attract beneficial insects, bees and butterflies.

Remember that planting water-conserving plants in May and June means that you will have to water them through the summer months for this first season and at the beginning of the second season until they are well-established. Your water savings will be in the years to come.

Free handouts will be available to help you set priorities in your vegetable garden and to learn water reduction strategies.

Join us on Sunday, May 15, from 10am until 4pm at 130 Tuttle Lane! For more information about the Plant Sale or to sign up to become a Gleaner, call Karen at 459-2101.

Walk For Wellness and Health Fair, May 22 by Jed Diamond

The 20th WHAT walk for wellness and health will kick off at 10am on Sunday, May 22, 2016, at J.D. Redhouse Mercantile in Willits. Registration will begin at 9:30am, and free commemorative T-shirts will be given to the first 200 who register. The walk is free for all: men, women, children, well-behaved pets on leashes, and bicycle riders. The walk takes place rain or shine.

The walk will end at Recreation Grove where walkers can join in the festivities of the Healthy Family

Fair from 11am-2pm. There will be tasty food samples, games, health screening, prizes, and more.

The Willits Healthy Action Team (WHAT) was formed by Jed Diamond and Dr. Kristin Bradford, and the first walk took place on February 3, 2008. There are now large community walks twice a year in May and in October. Local merchants have been generous in their support, including donating the money for this walk's t-shirts. Young people from the local high

school and middle-school have also helped by being "cheer leaders" for the walkers. The Willits Harrah Senior Center has been available to pick up walkers who get tired. Many other volunteers help make the walk one of the premier events in Willits.

We are now seeking someone to take over the leadership. There's not a lot of time spent organizing. We get the most fun for the least amount of work. For more information or to help in planning future walks, contact Jed Diamond, 354 0758.

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Community Calendar

Continued from page 1

May 23, – Last day to register to vote, see page 3

June 4-7, June 11-14, June 18-21, and **June 25-28**—Wall to Wall Natural Building Workshops, see page 5

June 7, 7am-8pm – Election day

June 7, 5:30-6:30 – Qi Gong, with Ross Lake, L.Ac. at Willits Senior Center, contact 456-9676

June 11, – Grange School Skill Share Fair, see page 7

June 13, – WELL Coordinating Committee meeting

June 16, 6-8:30pm – 1st Healthier Living Workshop, registration required, 456-9676

June 16, 7pm – Now & Then Film at LL Grange, TBA

June 23, 5-9pm – Willits Hometown Celebration

June 26, 8-11am – Grange breakfast

Career Fair – May 18

The Willits High School Career Fair is coming May 18, 2016—co-sponsored by Willits High School, Mendocino County Office of Education and the Willits Chamber of Commerce. The fair will be held Wednesday, May 18, from 9am to 12:30pm, at the Steve Short Gymnasium on the Willits High School campus. (A luncheon for participating businesses, will follow from 12:30 to 2pm.)

Local employers are invited to participate in this first annual Career Fair. Deadline for signing up for booth space is Friday, May 6. Please call the Willits Chamber of Commerce by phone 459-7910 or email info@willits.org for participant details, questions and to sign up.

WELL Coordinating Committee 2016

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Willits Economic Localization

WELL is a 501(c)3 non-profit, membership organization.

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