



Willits Economic Localization Newsletter

The WELL Bucket

Volume 13, Issue 3

May/June, 2018

Community Events

May & June 2018

May 3, 8-9:30 a.m., Seminar on small business economy by Mark Wilson, consultant, sponsored by City, Chamber of Commerce, and EDFC, at Willits Community Center. Free, open to all public.

May 5, 6 p.m., Cinco de Mayo dance, LL Grange, see page 4

May 6, 2-5 p.m., Candidates Forum at LL Grange, see 'June Ballot' page 7

May 6, 7 Composting Workshop, see page 8

May 9, 5:30 p.m., City Council special meeting on goal-setting (regular agenda at 6:30), see page 2

May 10, 6:30 p.m., Screening of "Wilder than Wild" – documentary film about the disastrous fires of October 2017 - at the Ukiah Library, 105 N. Main St., Ukiah

May 11, 4-7 p.m., interviews about experiences of the Redwood Fire Complex fire at the Ukiah Library (also on May 10 from 1-6 p.m. at a private location). If you are interested in being interviewed, please register at www.storycenter.org/mendocino-fire-stories-may2018 or call 463-4490

May 12, 7 p.m., Cycling Around the World (slide show of two adventurers), at the Willits Hub. \$10 (1/2 to benefit the Hub). Info: 459-2643

May 14 6:30 p.m., WELL CoCom at Willits Hub

May 15, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Disaster Planning at the Ukiah Conference Center, see page 4

May 16, 7 p.m., Eco-friendly Intentional Community discussion at Willits Hub, contact Janae Stephens 456-7035

May 17, 2:30-5 p.m., "Access to Capital" program of EDFC at Grace Hudson Museum, see page 7

May 17, 5-7 p.m., Open Studio re: Women's Health at LL Grange #4, see page 8

Continues on page 2

TOUR OF LITTLE LAKE MITIGATION LANDS

Saturday, June 9

Come experience the beauty, flora and fauna of Little Lake Valley's Mitigation Lands and find out what's being done to protect them! Tour led by Marisela de Santa Ana - biologist and part of the RCD team working on restoring and protecting the mitigation lands

- 9:15 a.m. : Meet at the Willits Hub (coffee & tea provided; drop off potluck lunch items).
- 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. : Van and carpool on the guided tour.
- 12:30—1:45 p.m. : Potluck lunch and Native American history and wildlife talks at the Willits Hub.

As part of the Bypass project, Caltrans bought up 2,000 acres of our valley to mitigate wetland loss and other environmental damage. Some acreage is in managed grazing and some is being enhanced (e.g. native plantings) and permanently protected for habitat under the management of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (RCD).

Added Special Guests:

- **Javier Silva** - environmental consultant to Sherwood Rancheria and other Northern California tribes
- **Victoria Patterson** - historian and curator of the Woven World exhibit at the County Museum
- **Hillary Renick** - JD of Sherwood Rancheria
- **Kate Marianchild** – author of "Secrets of the Oak Woodlands"

This WELL-sponsored event is free, but donations and/or becoming a member of WELL is encouraged.

Please RSVP to mstrong@willitsonline.com by June 7 to help us plan. Also remember to bring water and shade hat on the tour.

Community Events May & June 2018

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May 18, 7 p.m., film: "A River's Last Chance," at LL Grange, see page 6

May 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mendocino Wildlife Assoc. training at the Hub, see page 4

May 20, 10 a.m., Creek Monitoring training at Willits Hub, see page 9

May 22 – last day to Register to Vote

May 26, 9:30-noon, Creek Monitoring Project at Willits Hub, see page 9

May 27, 8-11 a.m., Pancake Breakfast at LL Grange

May 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 37th Annual Willits Car & Bike Show at Recreation Grove Park

June 2, 1-5 p.m., Multi-cultural celebration: dance, singing & tortilla-making workshops, food, at LL Grange, fund-raiser (by donation) for Nuestra Alianza de Willits. For info contact Don at 459-9347.

June 5 – Election Day: VOTE!!

June 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Avenues to Wellness program TBA at Center for the Arts

June 6, 8:15 a.m., North County Women in Business features Heather Gurewitz on building the local economy (program of Chamber of Commerce), at Willits Center for the Arts. Guests welcome. Contact info@willits.org

June 9, 9:15 a.m., WELL-sponsored Tour of Mitigation Lands, potluck & program, meet at the Hub, see page 1

June 9, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Women's Empowerment Summit, and 7-10 p.m. Entertainment program, at LL Grange, see page 8

June 11, 6:30 p.m., WELL CoCom at Willits Hub

June 22, 5-9 p.m., Hometown Celebration, downtown

June 24, 8-11 a.m., Pancake Breakfast at LL Grange

ONGOING

Thursdays, 3-5:30 p.m., Farmers Market – NOW LOCATED (beginning May 10th) AT PARKING LOT NEXT TO MAIN STREET MUSIC!

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Willits City Council at City Hall, 111 E. Commercial St.

2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Local Food Pledge meeting at LL Grange, see page 3

CITY OF WILLITS NEWS

by Mayor Madge Strong, Apr. 30, 2018

Major activities are underway in the City of Willits, including Caltrans work on Main Street and Sherwood Road, a new ordinance on vacant commercial properties, a proposed excise tax on commercial cannabis activities, ADA compliance, and addressing mobile home park issues. On top of all that, the City will be setting priorities and developing its FY 2018-19 budget in May & June.

Caltrans Work: Construction on Main Street sidewalks began April 23 and will continue (hop-scotching from the Highway 20 intersection to the High School) through summer and fall. Sidewalks will be rebuilt for ADA compliance and with conduits for utilities, future broadband and irrigation. This will not include but will allow for bulb-outs or other features the City may undertake later.

Starting in May, work will also begin on excavating for the Sherwood Road intersection realignment. Caltrans and the contractor for both projects, Granite Construction, are committed to minimizing the impacts as much as possible. For example, Main Street work will begin at 5 a.m. to end at 2 p.m. and will avoid traffic diversions during special events. Most Sherwood Road work will be done at night.

Priority-Setting & Budget: New City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra noted that the last priority-setting was done in 2015; an update is needed to guide the annual budget and longer-term capital improvement program (CIP). A 'fast-track' priority review for the public and City Council is set for May 9, 5:30 p.m. Work on the budget also depended on a just-completed audit and closing the books from 2016-17.

Vacant Commercial Use Ordinance: This proposed ordinance will require properties that remain vacant an extended time to register with the City, have a local person responsible for maintenance, and be inspected periodically to avoid fire

or health hazards or illegal occupancy. The goal is to encourage owners to have their property 'tenant-ready' and protect the City's interest in filling vacancies. The City Council and Revit-ED Committee have reviewed and refined the draft, and a final proposal will be heard by the Council on May 9th.

Proposed Cannabis Excise Tax: City Council approved putting a measure on the November ballot allowing for an excise tax on commercial cannabis activities in the City based primarily on gross sales. Note that medical cannabis sales are not subject to sales tax. This measure, benefiting the City's general fund, would require a 50% plus one approval (although a State measure on the ballot, proposed by the soda industry, might change that to a 2/3 vote requirement).

Mobile Home Park Issues: An Ad Hoc committee was slated to meet with tenants and park owner & manager in late March but tenants chose to delay. If there is no resolution, City Council may review its options in June. Note that any City rent stabilization ordinance would not apply to tenants who already signed long-term leases.

ADA Compliance: The City, along with more than a half-dozen local businesses, has been sued under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) for not meeting accessibility requirements. The City has already spent over \$100,000 on parking, doorways, and ramp improvements and has budgeted another \$100,000 for an ADA restroom. Nonetheless, a lawsuit claiming damages is pending.

Revit-ED and Visit Willits: The City's Revitalization-Economic Development (Revit-ED) Committee helped draft the commercial vacancy ordinance (noted above) and also continues plans for a civic billboard along the Bypass.

Continued on page 10.

Good News: Willits Local Food Group

by Paul Jacobson

The local food group has continued developing since the last newsletter, discussing and implementing ways to access and support locally grown food. The group recently recognized two separate parts of its mission: a local food pledge and a local buyers club. Both aspects are aimed at fostering locally grown organic produce for our own personal health benefits, as well as supporting our local economy and community through buying locally. The importance of this local orientation became more apparent during the Redwood complex fires when Highway 101 closure isolated Willits. Gas stations and grocery stores were nearly empty in only two days.

Bulk Purchasing: Our food group has heard presentations from the NCO-sponsored Mendocino Food Hub which has developed for several years. Through its online 'hub' and distribution, it allows restaurants and other wholesale buyers to access the currently available produce from area farmers. The Willits Food Group is considered a local wholesale buyer so we now have access to everything available on the Food Hub website. The buying power of the group has already allowed us to bulk purchase locally produced organic olive oil, organic walnuts, Grange Grains rice and beans, organic honey, Green Uprising greens, and also locally produced eggs - all at wholesale prices.

CSA's: In addition to these bulk purchases, the group has become more aware of the significance of local CSA's. Community Sourced Agriculture has traditionally supported farmers through sharing the cost and risk of farming by pre-paying for a full season of produce. The CSA remains the most efficient method for supporting local agriculture. We are for-

tunate to have several CSA's available to us, including:

- **Live Power Farm** of Covelo which has successfully operated for 30 years. They utilize strict biodynamic principles, including using non-fossil fueled equipment (live power), for their organic produce. Live Power (www.livepower.org) delivers May 8 - November 27th. Cost is approximately \$27 per week. Pick-up: Tuesdays on Redwood Ave. Willits. 1/2 shares available & payment options.
- **Farmer's Kitchen** is fairly new, with a model that sources from several organic farmers throughout our region, rather than just one farm. This has the potential advantage



Farmer's Market
Moves to Main St. starting May 10
 Photo: Lara Eventide

of sourcing produce from the cooler region of the coast when our central valleys may become too hot for certain cool-weather crops. Farmer's Kitchen (www.farmerskitchen.net) plans Willits deliveries Tuesdays (site TBA) from June 12 - October 30th + one November & one December. Cost is approximately \$29 per week. 1/2 shares available & payment options.

- **Covelo Organics** is another supplier of organic produce through the CSA model. Covelo Organics (www.coveloorganics.com) delivers June 13 - November 7th. Cost is approximately \$29 per week, with a separate charge for Willits home delivery (\$8 per delivery) unless we set up a pick-up site. Payment options available.

You can research and evaluate the differences of each through visiting their various websites.

The Willits Buying Club and Local Food Group meet at the Willits LL Grange on the 2nd and 4th Mondays for potluck and meeting at 6:30 p.m. Those interested are welcome. For more information contact localfoodpledge@gmail.com.

GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE:

Willits Community Garden

474 E. Valley Street (behind the Sheriff's Substation, north-east corner of WISC complex).
 Call Tina Tyler-O'Shea, 456-3827

Brooktrails Community Garden

(on Birch Street). Call Freddie Long, 459-5267

Fiesta Cinco De Mayo - May 5

Come dance - vamos a bailar – at this benefit for Little Lake Grange. It will feature Humboldt County’s irresistible Latin Peppers playing high energy salsa from Tito Puente to Eddie Palmeri. Opening for them will be local women’s drum group Mystic Sol with their infectious Afro-Cuban rhythms.

Doors open at 5:30 for tacos and Latin fare prepared by Zocalo, Churro’s and coffee provided by local roasters, and a no-host bar with cerveza and margaritas. There will be dance coaching at 6 and the music starts at 6:30.

Tickets available at Dig Music, JD Redhouse, and Eventbrite online. A Cosmic Pickle Production.



Disaster Planning – May 15

All are invited to attend this year’s Disaster Planning Workshop on May 15, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Ukiah Conference Center, hosted by Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency & Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services. If you plan to attend, please register at www.mendoafn2018.eventbrite.com. Contact Brian Kloviski of HHS, klovskib@mendocinocounty.org or 463-7841 for more info.

There is also a new Redwood Fire Survivor Resource and Recovery Center at the Conference Center, Reisling Room, with drop-in office hours Mon-Thurs, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., or call for an appointment, 621-8817.

Mendocino Wildlife Training – May 19

Greetings Wildlife Lovers! The MWA is having a WILD-LIFE First Responder’s training May 19th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Hub, 630 S. Main St., Willits. \$20 donation. Learn all about the protocol to save a life, answer the hotline, and habitat conservation techniques.

Also! All funds go to support our first ever Fawn Rescue, here in Willits! Come see what we’re all about! Call Traci for questions, 707-357-5693 or www.mendowildlide.com

Wildlife needs you!!

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“Rearing Monarchs” inspires habitat planting in Willits

“There’s good news and there’s bad news,” said Chris Ineich, as he showed spectacular photos of monarchs flitting about his young daughter’s head in their beautiful pollinator garden in Potter Valley. He continued with graphs and charts showing staggering recent declines in monarch populations across much of their north and Central American range.

The good news, we learned through this WELL-sponsored “Rearing Monarchs” presentation, is that we can make a difference by planting wildlife habitat gardens in our towns and neighborhoods. In fact, urban areas now often have better pollinator populations than rural agricultural areas. That’s because so much land is now growing Roundup-ready crops, sprayed with glyphosate and/or neonicotinoid, a long lasting systemic insecticide, and no longer leaving essential weeds or wild lands for pollinator habitat. This war on insects is not only devastating pollinators and butterflies but is having impacts higher up the food chain on animals, like birds and fish, whose diets



rely heavily on insects. That’s the bad news.

Chris suggests planting three foot wide patches of mid to late summer bloomers like narrow leaved milkweed, tall verbena, zinnias, and Mexican sunflower. This gives pollinators a large enough foraging area to make it worth their visit and also provides flowers later in summer at a key time when nectar plants are in short supply in the wild.

Narrow leaved milkweed, an easy-to-grow locally native plant, is the host plant for the monarch caterpillar. It may take several years for monarchs to find your patch of milkweed but in the meantime the plants will provide a great nectary for native bees and other insects.

Phil Cool of Ukiah will be bringing his milkweed starts to the Willits Farmer’s Market as soon as they’re big enough to plant out. People left “Rearing Monarchs” inspired, informed, with milkweed starts in hand, ready to plant pollinator habitat in Willits. Perhaps there is hope.

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Now and Then Films Presents: A River's Last Chance

May 18, 7 p.m. at LL Grange

With Eel River & salmonoids panel to follow the film.

The Eel River in Northern California is arguably the best opportunity for wild salmon recovery on the entire west coast. The river and salmon have weathered decades of over-fishing, abusive logging, catastrophic floods, droughts and a dam that diverts water and blocks fish passage. Today, the Eel's recovering wild salmon compete for water with the region's lucrative wine and underground cannabis economies. This film shows we can live symbiotically with our watersheds and encourage both a river's recovery and economic future.

Your Donation of \$5 to \$20 or more will be used to support our film series & Willits area herbalists. As usual, we'll be serving heirloom organic popcorn with real organic butter.

CO-COM SUMMARIES

March 12, 2018

We heard reports on WELL's Entrepreneurs' forum, the Museum's 'Main Street - Then, Now & Future' forum, NCO's Healthy Mendocino summit, and a growing Local Food Pledge group. We discussed ideas for 'Coloring our Town,' including kids' projects for painting, planting perennials, colorful banners, sculptures, etc.

We planned our April 15 Monarch butterfly event; also mentioned upcoming seed swaps and 'Juliette of the Herbs' film at the Grange, and near-future summer tour of mitigation lands (see article this issue).

We improved the format of our web site; may need to cull useless stuff or expand our capacity. We still need to update content on topics tabs. We are also following up on membership renewals and plan tabling at upcoming events.

Claudia Wenning presented information on a Women's Empowerment Summit planned for June 9 that can be a model for destination events in Willits. We agree to co-sponsor this event.

April 9, 2018

We finalized plans for the Monarch event (see article this issue). Note that Paul, Lyn & Madge were re-elected to CoCom. A subcommittee will work on format and questions for the April 19 Supervisor candidates forum (see article this issue).

Paul reported on the Local Food Pledge group (see article this issue).

Madge reported on City issues, including Caltrans upcom-

ing work on Main Street and Sherwood Road intersection, an Ad Hoc committee on mobile home parks, ADA compliance, possible position on single payer healthcare, and possible ordinance on herbicide use (see article this issue).

We discussed possibility of WELL being the lessee for the Hub building, protocol for use of the Hub, and potential fund raising to cover rent and insurance issues. More information is needed before a decision.

More ideas are being generated for 'colorizing Willits' - some by WELL, other individuals, Art Center, and the Visit Willits Tourism Board. Keep lines of communication open, but not necessary to centralize it all. See article this issue.

We further discussed improving the website, posting on Facebook, and membership renewal followup.

We also chose a date and some ideas for our Mitigation Lands tour. See article this issue.

WELL Coordinating Committee 2018

Paul Jacobson, 459-1418, 4paul@gmail.com

Tim Rice, 456-1146, tim@multitalents.net

Laura Toomey Rowland, 354-3410,

lauratoomey@comcast.net

Madge Strong, 459-1493, mstrong@willitsonline.com

Lyn Talkovsky, 621-3215, lyn@twinberry.net

There are currently two vacant seats. If interested, come to a meeting or call Madge at 459-1493.

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EDFC NEWS

'Access to Capital' May 17

The Economic Development & Financing Corporation (EDFC) is a non-profit serving Mendocino and Lake Counties, funded by a combination of federal loans, grants and local government support.

Heather Gurewitz became Director in February and is seeking to revamp the organization and re-energize its support to local entrepreneurs. One result is an "Access to Capital" program on May 17, 2:30—5 p.m., at the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah. (Tickets \$10 in advance or \$20 at the door; scholarships available.) This will have important information on how to apply for business loans of from \$10,000 up to \$250,000 through EDFC.

EDFC's volunteer board of 19 members - representing local governments, business, and finance - meets 2nd Thursdays at 2pm at their office, 175 E. Church St., Ukiah. For more information, call EDFC at 234-5705 or visit online at www.edfc.org.

Wool Mill Update: In April the board heard an update from Matthew Gilbert of Mendocino Wool & Fiber Company. They've experienced several unfortunate delays due to faulty equipment and building code issues. They are still moving ahead – some products are even available – but an open house and full operation are not yet scheduled. Go to www.facebook.com/MendoWool for more info.

June Ballot – Candidates & Measures

You're probably already aware of the eight candidates running for the Board of Supervisors District #3 seat. On April 19 WELL and the Willits Environmental Center co-sponsored a lively, well-attended forum with the candidates answering 14 different questions.

Another forum is scheduled for May 6 at the Grange. From 2—3 p.m. will focus on the two other contested County races: County Clerk Recorder, and the Superintendent of Schools. From 3—5 p.m. will be questions for the District #3 candidates. This is sponsored by the Little Lake Grange, Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (MWPC) and American Association of University Women's (AAUW) local branch. A video will be taped by Willits Public Access TV Channel 3 and available online at Vimeo and YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WillitsCommunityTV> and <https://vimeo.com/user12621308>. Contact 972-7070 for further information.

Also on the June ballot are five County-wide measures and five Statewide propositions. If you're registered, you should have already received both the State and County booklets detailing those items. More info on local races and measures can also be found at: <https://www.mendocino-county.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections>

Vote-by-mail and Absentee ballots will be mailed out May 7.

REGISTER TO VOTE BY MAY 21st! VOTE ON OR BY JUNE 5TH!

Healthy Mendocino Project Update

by Laura Rowland

On March 8, more than 70 people from all areas of the county attended the Healthy Mendocino Summit, with the theme "Working Together for Healthier Communities." Action Teams from around the county gave updates on their progress and were able to meet with other regional teams, facilitated by Thais Mazur, Healthy Mendocino Project Manager. The Action Teams are formed around key areas of Family Wellness, Childhood Trauma, Housing, Mental Health and Poverty. This summit was the first time the regional groups met with each other and they were all enthusiastic to share about key topics in their communities. Willits community members talked about the need to form one or more Action Teams in our area.

Michelle Rich, chair of the Healthy Mendocino Steer-

ing Committee, described how Healthy Mendocino works collaboratively with the county, hospitals, NCO and other agencies on a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Michelle ended her talk with these questions: How do we tell our community health story? How do we become resilient, healthy and happy? How do we work together for a vibrant community in the future?

Shelly Mascari, Community Wellness Director at St. Helena Hospital in Lake County, inspired people on how to work effectively, embracing the unique skills and perspectives each member brings to the team.

To find out more visit the website at www.healthymendocino.org or email Patrice at healthymendocino@ncoinc.org.

Composting To Heal Soil & Climate

May 6-7 – by Bill Taylor

“*The Right Compost Can Heal the Soil and Our Climate*” is the theme of workshops and talk May 6-7 in Willits, Redwood Valley, and Ukiah.

The Johnson-Su No-Turn Composting Bioreactor makes a fungal dominant compost which is superior to windrow/turned compost in fostering soil life, hence plant growth and carbon sequestration in soil. Dr. David Johnson, a molecular biologist at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, will demonstrate the simple and cost effective composting technology he and his wife developed.

Soil carbon increases resulting from field application of this compost, along with the adoption of a biologically enhanced agriculture management approach, have far exceeded the soil carbon sequestration results the Marin Carbon Project generated while using only 400 to 500 lbs. per acre (or even just a pound per acre when used as a seed inoculant), instead of tens of tons per acre.

The following is a link to Dr. Johnson’s video talk on the benefits: www.regenerationinternational.org/bioreactor

Now there is an opportunity to have face-to-face interactions with the creators, Dr. David Johnson and his wife, Hui-Chun Su. There will be three hands-on sessions where you can learn how to build and fill the composter, a presen-

tation on results obtained with it and fascinating microbiological information on how and why it works, with ample time for questions and answers. Each site has different materials and conditions so coming to more than one will add to your learning.

Schedule:

Sunday, May 6, 9:00 a.m. — noon, Bioreactor building workshop, School of Adaptive Agriculture, Ridgewood Ranch, Willits, potluck lunch;

1:00—2:15 p.m., Floodgate Farm on Heart Mountain, Redwood Valley - Bioreactor building workshop and a look at a previously built reactor;

2:30—5:30 p.m., Floodgate Farm.

Monday, May 7, all at Mendocino College Agriculture Department, 1000 Hensley Creek Rd., Ukiah.

1:00-2:00 p.m., Microscope examination of finished and partly finished compost; bring yours to estimate fungal to bacterial ratios; 2:00-5:00 p.m. Bioreactor building workshop;

6:00—7:30 p.m. Presentation, questions and answers.

For more information contact Bill Taylor and Jaye Alison Moscariello, 707-272-1688 or edibleland@earthlink.net.

Women’s Empowerment Summit, June 9

On Saturday, June 9th at the Little Lake Grange in Willits, Quantum Level Consulting will host the 1st Annual Northern California Women’s Empowerment Summit. This event will provide support, inspiration, and collaboration for women to explore entrepreneurial, social, and communal opportunities with each other - counteracting depression and frustration and transforming these into encouragement and empowerment. Come gather to experience the magic of group consciousness. Men are also welcome to join in.

Speakers locally and from around the world via the web will share insights in a stream of engaging activities and presentations, from a grand opening at 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., with a long lunch with healthy local food (from 1-2:30 p.m.) to allow time for personal connections and networking. An evening program from 7-10 p.m. will feature local female artists, live music, free dance and expression in a

relaxed atmosphere.

“The vision is to hold the event annually, creating a new experience of community and helping to define Little Lake Valley as an event destination,” says event founder Claudia Wenning. Long-term, she envisions a Little Lake Valley

Convention Center adjacent to a future Little Lake Valley Academy

All inclusive tickets will be available by presale online for \$65 and at the door for \$75; evening only is \$15. A portion of the proceeds will go to the local non-profit Caring Kitchen. For information visit: <https://www.fb.com/NorCalEmpowered> or email Claudia@ClaudiaWenning.com. Tickets at nocalwomensummit/eventbrite.com or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/northern-california-womens-empowerment-summit-tickets-43624845086>

Cultivate Wellness Studio presents
OPEN STUDIO
WOMEN'S HEALTH
Guest Speaker: Midwife Monika Rosika
Bring your health questions to this free event!
Complimentary tea will be served.
Thursday
May 17th, 2018
5 PM - 7 PM
Little Lake Grange,
Willits, Room 4
Your hosts:
Michelle Cummins, LAc, Claudia Wenning, ND
Free event, reserve your seat - Tel 707 254 3111
www.cultivateacupuncture.com
www.claudiewenning.com

Creek Monitoring • May 20 and May 26 & Eel River Outings

The Eel River Recovery Project and Friends of Outlet Creek began gathering baseline temperature data in 2017 to better understand steelhead and coho salmon summer rearing habitat in our watershed and the creek's ecological condition.

This year we begin Sunday, **May 20th, 10 a.m.** with a training on how to calibrate water temperature probes and how to analyze temperature data with ERRP Managing Director Pat Higgins.

Probes will also be placed later in the day, if time allows.

On **Saturday May 26th, 9:30 — noon**, we'll briefly review last year's monitoring efforts, then head out to several stretches of creeks in Willits to place temperature probes, document canopy cover and watch for steelhead fingerlings and yearlings.

Please join us for either of these days! Both are held at the Willits Hub, 630 S. Main Street. We'll also be placing temperature gauges in more northerly stretches of Outlet Creek in subsequent weeks throughout June.

For more information, or if your property has a stretch of creek you'd like monitored, call Lyn at 621-3214.

Salmon Trend Results: While our local monitoring

contingent is only in its second year, Pat Higgins of the Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) has been assessing the Eel



Volunteers on last year's creek monitoring project

watershed much longer. Looking at the Chinook trends over the past six years, Pat says: "There are signs of resilience but also stress. Runs have been above 10,000 fish and are in no immediate risk of extinction. However, some sub-basins within the Eel River watershed are showing signs of ecological stress and poor Chinook

productivity." A great deal of detailed information is available. Go to www.eelriverrecovery.org or call 707 223-7200 if you have questions or want to get involved.

More Field Trips: The ERRP remains a co-tenant at the Willits Environmental Hub, and we have a number of activities coming up including exciting field trips, where the Willits Goes Wild van starts out from the Hub (usually Saturday morning) and we visit destinations like the Angelo Reserve and Elder Creek, the Red Mountain Wilderness, the upper Eel at Hearst and the Potter Valley Project. Call Robin Leler at 459-0155 for more information and/or check the ERRP website or Facebook page.

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City of Willits News

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Meanwhile, the new 13-member Visit Willits Tourism Board, an independent organization representing the Chamber of Commerce, tourist businesses and others, is pursuing many projects to enhance tourists as well as residents attractions in town. Contact Saprina at srodriguez@cityofwillits.org for more info or to get involved on projects and their meeting times.

Mental Health Facility: Under Measure B, enacted by County voters in late 2016, funding is now available to provide a mental health facility in the county. The Measure B Advisory Committee and Board of Supervisors appear to favor revamping old Howard Hospital for this purpose. The City has requested that we and the public be included in considering the type and extent of such use while it's still in the planning stage.

In the wings are the Housing Element and General Plan updates. Hiring a new associate planner (probable in early May) should help address a permit back-log and enable progress on these needed projects.

City Council meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, with a public comment period near the beginning of the agenda at 6:30. Suggestions and concerns are always welcome! Also feel free to contact me at 459-1493 or mstrong@cityofwillits.org.

WHAT IS WELL?

Willits Economic Localization is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, membership organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Our Vision: An enduring local economy that provides health and security for our community.

Our Mission: To foster the creation of a local, sustainable economy in the Willits area by helping residents to learn valuable skills and take action, and by partnering with other organizations to share knowledge and support projects that build a thriving community

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