

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Last-minute call

To the Editor:

The Sober Grad Party – starting tonight (Thursday, June 13) at 9 am through 4 am Friday morning – is getting ready to go!! However, we still need chaperones after midnight.

We have the prizes; we have the deejay; we have the games; we have the pizza and all the rest of the food; we have the sodas and water and specialty drinks. But we still need help after midnight.

Come have fun with the Class of 2013! If you're a parent, a grandparent, an aunt or uncle, a neighbor, or a former grad back in town, come party with the Class of 2013! You can deal Blackjack or Texas Hold 'Em; you can help with the games or the food; you can shoot baskets; you can hang out by an exit and watch the fun. After midnight we're going to have fun! Come join us.

Email me (willitssobergrad@gmail.com) or call me at 707-489-8377, and let me know how you want to help.

Joyce Waters, Sober Grad Committee, Willits

Attorney in a tree

To the Editor:

I – who likes to be called "White Owl" because of the bird's exquisite beauty, fierce strength and deep ancient wisdom – am sitting, living, 70 feet up in the protective arms of this grandfather oak, because I love Willits.

I have lived in seven cities, a couple of jungles and the tropics. I have traveled through over 30 countries, and I have no doubt that Mendocino County is just about the best that California offers. The people and the natural beauty of Willits is what makes it so uniquely special. I am so saddened by the monstrosity of a huge unnecessary highway cutting across the sweet green of this valley.

Everyone wants to see reduced congestion in Willits. I, too, am sick of the bottleneck at the Hwy 101 and Hwy 20 intersection. But I am furious that Caltrans sold the bypass by lying and saying that all of Willits is bottlenecked. Simply not true. There is rarely traffic coming up or down the grade, and no traffic through Brown's Corner, or south of Willits. And I have been perched for four days over the north end of Willits watching the traffic flow freely through Highway 101.

I ran our County Courthouse Self-Help Center for five years and drove almost monthly from Ukiah to Fort Bragg (and monthly from Ukiah to Willits before the Willits Courthouse was shut down due to budget cuts), in order to offer free legal services to the community. I, too, have sat through that bottleneck at the Highway 20 intersection, and I would love to see it get fixed.

Fortunately, it can be fixed, without all the cost, time, waste and environmental destruction that the bypass brings. Simply re-stripping the approach to the Highway 101/Highway 20 intersection and connecting Baechtel Road/ Railway Avenue to Commercial Street could ease a substantial amount of traffic congestion.

My position as the Self-Help Center attorney at our courthouse was terminated due to lack of funds. I also held a state contract representing parents through Child Protective Services dependency hearings and saw innumerable service cutbacks from mental health to AODP (Alcohol and Other Drug Programs) to foster care benefits severely affecting families in our county.

And yet we have at least \$350 million to build a useless freeway? Who is this highway really benefiting? Caltrans and their contractors?

The bypass is estimated to reduce only 20 to 30 percent of Willits traffic. And that reduction will all be out-of-towners with money to spend in the cute local shops of Willits. It is estimated that 14 to 26 Willits businesses (out of 118) will fail due to the bypass (think Cloverdale, folks!). Local traffic, including delivery trucks and Caltrans construction

vehicles, will still use Main Street because no off-ramps to the bypass exist for either Highway 20 or Brooktrails.

And all this at what cost to our environment? I am perched 70 feet up, crying at the sight of Caltrans "wicking" machines draining our wetlands. Draining our wetlands!! Who in this day and age thinks this a good idea? Have you not heard of water wars? Have you envisioned a world without sufficient water? Have you not heard all of the concern about drought and global warming?

If a bypass still needs to be built, why can't we build it over the existing railroad corridor at a fraction of the cost and without any demolition? This Caltrans money-making project will be the largest Army Corps of Engineers-permitted wetland destruction in Northern California in 50 years.

Caltrans construction will pollute our environment adding at least 95,000 tons of CO2 per year. Caltrans lied saying that, once built, the bypass will begin reducing emissions – at best it would take 70-80 years to realize any savings.

I am an attorney now living in a tree because I love Willits. I love the creeks, and the salmon runs, and the sound of the birds and the frogs, the colors of the valley at dusk, and the farmers and the cowboys and the rodeo. I am devastated at the loss of natural beauty that this bypass will wreck.

I, for one, do not trust Caltrans. I trust my community. I trust my neighbors and friends. I trust the folks of Save Our Little Lake Valley, and the Environmental Policy Information Center (EPIC) and the Willits Environmental Center. I am inspired by the dedication and commitment so many people continue to make to this important effort.

Caltrans may have started construction, but they can be stopped at any step along the way. The bypass is a four- to five-year project, costing at least \$350 million, and there will be many ways to halt the destruction. A federal court in Washington, DC just ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency does have oversight over Army Corps of Engineers 404 permits.

So, we need to push the EPA and push Senator Barbara Boxer to use that oversight to terminate Caltrans' permit, due to all the violations. The federal lawsuit against Caltrans will be heard on June 21 in San Francisco Federal Court. I, for one, will be there, and you're welcome to be also! In the meantime, I will be here sitting in this tree....

"White Owl"

Editor's Note: "White Owl" is one of several people sharing a tree-sit being carried out by Little Lake Valley Defenders and Earth First! since May 3, in an oak tree surrounded by a grove of ash trees north of Willits.

A sign of community

To the Editor:

It takes a community to save a sign. In fact, it takes a community to do just about anything that makes a positive difference. And Mendocino County, in general, and Willits, in this specific example, have community "written all over" them.

In this case, last Friday evening, the task was to get the iconic Willits Rexall neon sign from its perch in front of the erstwhile Willits Rexall Store to the Mendocino County Museum.

We had received word a few days earlier that owners Dave and Dana Lovitt, who have caringly and competently managed the pharmacy on which many in town rely, wanted to give the sign to the museum, to join what is turning out, sign by sign, to be a fascinating, albeit heavy, collection.

Throwing down a challenge like that in front of intrepid museum staff person Janet Rayner is like holding an easel in front of an artist. Engaging her design-build skills, and those of her trusty partner, Jeff Crawford, she fashioned a harness for the sign for transport. She figured out time frames with the Pacific Neon Company guys who had a mega-extension truck and were responsible for blow-torching the sign from its moorings.

But a solution for getting the sign in harness from Point A

to Point B was proving elusive – until Janet walked into Bob Doty's office at Mendo Mill and asked for help.

Mendo Mill is just down the street from the museum, and it has been our go-to place for the myriad projects that accompany exhibit development. It turns out that, in addition to stocking nails, plywood, door handles and clear plastic, Mendo Mill also stocks heart.

Which explains why on an incredibly hot Friday evening, for three hours, Bob and his crew of Robert Southwick and Jason Chesser were part of the community rescuing the Willits Rexall sign, while Michael Streeter waited at the Mendo Mill yard with the forklift.

Thank you, to Dave and Dana Lovitt, for being wonderful business people in the spirit of Local First, and for sharing their business history with everyone through the museum; to Ricardo Grajeda and Junior from Pacific Neon Company for expertly freeing the Willits Rexall sign in temperatures reminiscent of their Sacramento base and helping to harness the sign and move it to Mendo Mill's flatbed truck, as well as being willing and gracious about working with local folks; to Bob Doty, Robert Southwick, Jason Chesser, and Michael Streeter of Mendo Mill for patiently waiting their turn and then, with skill and finesse, transporting the sign from flatbed truck to forklift to dolly to its spot at the museum.

Thank you also to: Janet Rayner, museum staff, and Jeff Crawford, museum volunteer, for creativity and craft and persistence, under heat and pressure; to the people, passersby and drivers who waved, stopped to take pictures, expressed their support for rescuing the sign for the museum, and didn't run us over when we "halted traffic" while the flatbed truck pulled onto Main Street; and to Willits and Mendocino County for being the kind of places where people rally together when something good needs to happen, despite their differences.

The sign is now safely stowed in museum storage as we try to figure out how to display a countywide sign collection that has outgrown the display space in the museum's Main Gallery. Every sign represents a local business, a local history, and a community that has not only a past, but also a future. I wonder if we could create a "sign garden" at the museum? It would take planning and time and money, but we know what our community can do!

Alison Glassey, Director
Mendocino County Museum, Willits

50 years ago

To the Editor:

Here is The Willits News, January 30, 1963, "Valley Route for Willits Bypass." This story reports the route they proposed, and how much it would cost back then.

Doug Brown, Willits

Editor's note: The part of the story about the bypass reads:

And in the not too distant future, it was further made known, by Sam Helwer, District engineer for the State Division of Highways, this 75-year-old city will be bypassed on the east by a spanking new freeway.

Mr. Helwer attended the meeting to let the Council know that the Division had approved the 'C' or Valley Route for the \$12,000,000 project, and to ascertain if further public hearings would be necessary, in regard to the selection. There will be hearings in regard to interchanges, on and off ramps, etc., he stated. The council saw no reason for further hearings on the route. Helwer also said bids for the work on the Miracle Mile would be advertised late in April, and that work would start early in summer.



Aldan Dale McKinnon & dad Brice



Christian & Rickey Ramirez & grandpa Jorge



Kim Chin & dad Art Chin



Caelie & dad Chris Wilkes



Casey & Velle Rogers & dad Dr. Glenn Rogers



Pat Hart & daughter Sierra



Steve Thrift & daughters Devon & Charlee



Jim King & son Tim



Sean Ward & son Camdyn



Jacob Standley & father Kent



Jennifer Hill & dad John Moore



Rachel Belvin & dad Richard Roper



Hannah Rich & dad Jerry



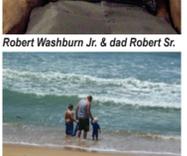
Grampa Greg Schindler, Malakai Schindler holding his daughter, Evia and his newborn son, Orion



Dick Graham & son Michael



Robert Washburn Jr. & dad Robert Sr.



Keith Kendrick & sons Spencer & Maddax



Ree Slocom & dad John



Rico McCoy with sons Connor & Collin



John Moore & sons Kevin & Christopher



Gary, Hunter & Macy - Happy Father's Day!



Sean Ward & son Camdyn



Christian & Rickey Ramirez, with "poppop" Rick Evans



Kathryn Stergold & dad Chris Kasprzak



Mark Owens & daughter Lillian Rae



Chris Lamprich with Charley, Brody & Rowdy



Doug Goss & sons Tim, Bo and Eric



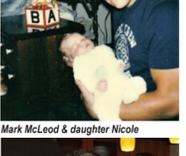
Marcus Kelley & daughter Taylor



Cat Lee & dad Rich Erwerth



Billy Potter & Jeb, Torley & Amarah



Mark McLeod & daughter Nicole



Jon Stergold with Emily & Jed



Sean Ward & daughter Trinity



John Moore & sons Kevin & Christopher



Leif Couevas & son Kenyon



Rich Harris & daughter Kara Garman



Joshua Potter with Courtney & Cecily



Brice McKinnon & daughter Sierra Destiny



Mavis Tripp's father, Harry Muhhauser



Christopher Moore & daughter Maureen



Sage Basler & son Connor



Eric Hunter & son Hunter



Martin Duran & kids Tito, Stephanie & Steven



Clint Stansberry & daughter Patricia



Adam Lawrence & daughter Madison



Adrian Fisher & sons Ethan, Grant & Declan



Zach LeClair & son Carter



Robert Walker & daughter Heather



Mike Tobin with Melissa & Michelle



Jason Logan & daughter Tinley



Emma & Lillah Garman wish their dad death a Happy Father's Day



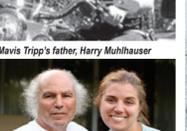
Happy fathers day Mike "dada" Fossen!! Love, Grady "Monster" Fossen



Brittany Nicole (Ables) Kelley & dad Michael Ables



Eugene Potter & Jeremiah, Kendahl & Joctiva



Albert Bartolomei on the beach, 1961 Happy Father's Day - We love & miss you



Niko Steffen and his pride and Joy Arlo



Greg Dunbar with sons Eric & Josh



William Potter Jr. & April Lamprich



Shelley Dorbin & his almost-here daughter



Dall Hughes and daughter Alison



Erik Kristiansen & daughter Kall Joy



Mike Tobin with Melissa & Michelle



Dad Israel & sons Rickey & Christian Ramirez



Paul Hosford & sons Andrew and Tim



Rick Todd and his family



Marcus Kelley & daughter Jordan



Brittany Nicole (Ables) Kelley & dad Michael Ables



Eugene Potter & Jeremiah, Kendahl & Joctiva



Albert Bartolomei on the beach, 1961 Happy Father's Day - We love & miss you



Gabe Ward with sons Jody and Sean

Father's Day Fun

Celebrating all the fathers in our lives



Shelley Dorbin & his almost-here daughter



Dall Hughes and daughter Alison



Erik Kristiansen & daughter Kall Joy



Mike Tobin with Melissa & Michelle



Dad Israel & sons Rickey & Christian Ramirez



Paul Hosford & sons Andrew and Tim



Rick Todd and his family



Marcus Kelley & daughter Jordan



Brittany Nicole (Ables) Kelley & dad Michael Ables



Eugene Potter & Jeremiah, Kendahl & Joctiva



Albert Bartolomei on the beach, 1961 Happy Father's Day - We love & miss you

The Rules: LETTERS

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

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author

COLUMN | Trending



Circe and the Island of Sirens

For those of you who might think that Greek mythology is tangential to life in the here and now of high-tech America, think again. Even here in the idyllically remote environs of Mendocino County, and Willits in particular, where so many of us might feel like we have carved out a not-for-wide-broadcast lifestyle, enter the world of telecommunications with its iPads, iPhones, tablets, laptops and cell phones. Even land lines are not exempt from what has been revealed over the last couple of weeks: Big Brother is not only watching; he's listening.

In a face to face conversation with someone, we can edit and delete as we go. There are no trails to follow, no verifiable proof of who said what to whom and why. Email technology is a rather benign enticement into putting our thoughts into words that became indelible characters.

With emails, we could edit and delete as we wrote, thus ensuring that what we wanted to say was couched in the right words and in the right way before we sent our message off into cyberspace. Circe had already begun her song, and shiploads of eager "sailors" were quickly seduced with the landscape of instant communications. "IT" had arrived.

For those wanting a refresher footnote on who Circe was, she was the mythological temptress who recruited men to become her porcine slaves by offering up mesmerizing songs that would cause unwary sailors to either crash their ships on the rocks surrounding her island, or become part of her slave herd. The Circe of Greek mythology may have been exactly that: a myth, but the new Circe is alive and well both here in the United States and worldwide.

In droves we have embraced social media, tweeted ourselves into indelible birdsong, texted our thoughts into real-time text, and offered ourselves up to those smart enough to listen in. Those smart folks are the government, and Obama has made it clear that "we are not alone."

The President's most recent visit with the president of China was an interesting (in the Chinese sense of the word) meeting of two minds who share one common belief: Information is the bedrock of power and control. China has long known how to "monitor" its vast population.

How else could it exercise such comprehensive control? Government in China, despite its perceived singular leadership, is largely decentralized; it is the military which oversees real governance. The key is information monitoring. Wal-Mart was and is a lovely smokescreen; the real connection is information surveillance.

We in America are being held in Circe's thrall; and like the hapless sailors heading toward those deadly rocks, we seem helpless to stop our course. Or can we?

All of our words – spoken, tweeted or texted – are no longer ours alone. The only remedy is to self-monitor and to become vigilantly aware that Big Brother is not only listening – he has redefined what he has the right to listen to. Is there an upside to all of this?

Yes. Spend more time with people face to face. Facebook doesn't count, unless you're talking about pictures easily sent through their network. The same holds true for Instagrams, tweets and texts.

Pick up your phone, but know that you are not alone. Those of us old enough to remember party lines understand exactly what that means. For those under 50, there was a time as recent as the 1950s where private lines were not nearly as common as party lines – which meant that anyone on your party line could listen to your conversations. In a way, we've gone back in time; but now the motivation is just a little more insidious. Back in those old days, it was just about idle gossip.

Today, it's about being potentially targeted as a security risk.

We have become a nation of wireless addicts. There is no rehab or 12-step program to fix that addiction, and we don't need one. WE control our fingers on the button. Nancy Ellis-Bell is a former professor and current literary agent/author who has lived in Willits for the past 20 years. Aside from her passion for the sharing of ideas, she is also addicted to parrots, koi and a garden that just won't stop growing.

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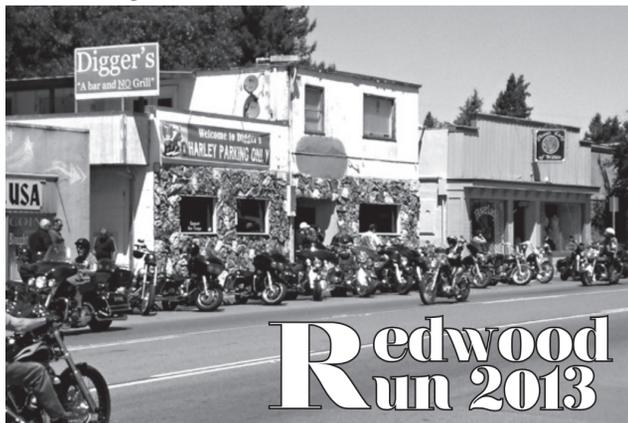
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Left: Bikes on their way to the run lined the streets of Willits over the weekend, with several frequenting bars including Digger's where they could display their bikes out front

Below left: A woman tries to stay on a mechanical bull

Below right: Four Willitsians who enjoyed the 2013 run: Joel and Janice Sylvia, Kim Chin and Rich Venturi

Bottom: The Kiwanis of the Redwoods sign welcomes event attendees

Photos by Rich Venturi

Redwood Run 2013



The Aftermath

Rich Venturi
Contributing Writer

I've returned from Redwood Run 2013 and have survived another year unscathed! And apparently so did the majority of the bikers in attendance. According to the California Highway Patrol there were only three reported accidents over the three-day period involving motorcycles: one categorized as a major injury accident with a listed broken leg and the other two were minor injuries. No fatalities! I also spoke with a representative at the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and was advised there were no reported incidents that required their attention. So, in those regards, 2013 was a very successful run.

The Run officially started at 6 am on Friday. In a scene reminiscent of the Oklahoma Land Rush, folks were lined up very early in the morning waiting for the signal that the gates are open. For those of you that have never been in "The Pit," the area where the actual run is held, flat spots and shade are a premium, and it's first-come, first-served. The members of the Kiwanis Club and their many volunteers handled it all very well. The ticket/will call tent was well-staffed, and the folks handling check-in were awesome. And the beginning of The Run did not disappoint. As I left the ticket tent, my first vision was a naked biker and his naked lady passenger riding by. Let the games begin!

At 10 am, the music fired up with Royalush. Charlie Brechtel hit the stage at 5 pm, and Jackl rocked The Run

starting at 9 pm. The music wrapped up about 3:30 Saturday morning.

Saturday morning brought Lowfill to the stage at 8 am, a bit early for some late night/early morning partiers – ugh! Music continued until 3 pm, when the stage was rearranged for the wet T-shirt contest. It takes a lot of work to prepare the stage for such an event, especially with all the high-priced audio equipment for the bands on the same stage. Plus there is the auction – actually several auctions. The first auction is for the official "water pourer" position. This is the lucky high bidder who will actually pour the water on the contestants – up close and personal! High bid this year was \$160. Obviously a sign of the current economy. In past years I have seen hundreds of dollars bid for such a privilege. Then the bidding opens for the "up front" seating at the front edge of the stage. Bidding was a little light, with seats starting at \$100 and finally selling for about \$30. The two stage sweeping positions – sweeping up the ice cubes along with the water – went for about \$100 apiece. Total earned for charity from the contest was about \$750. All told the contest was a big success, and the rightful contestant won – nuff said!

The heat on Saturday was almost unbearable. At one point my phone registered about 110 degrees. A lot of water was being downed along with the beer. I have to admit, with the heat, everyone was well-behaved and seemed to be having a good time. I give

a lot of credit to the volunteers working security. Three main groups – the Modified Motorcycle Association, the Messengers Motorcycle Club and the Christian Motorcycle Association – were responsible for security and making sure everyone stayed safe. Their presence was evident but not intrusive.

A delicious steak dinner was available for \$15 Friday and Saturday nights. Proceeds benefited the Garberville Volunteer Fire Department. The food vendors were serving great sandwiches, pizza and to my delight, Krispy Kreme donuts.

On Saturday, we took a ride up to French's Camp just over the Mendocino/Humboldt county line. The Patriot Gas Station is the site for many bikers to get gas and take a break from The Pit. There are generally a number of vendors that set up in the parking lot, and the mini mart is always stocked with cold beverages. The parking lot is always full of bikes. But to my dismay there were only two vendors at French's Camp: the always present "knife guy" and a small booth selling unofficial Redwood Run shirts. There were very few bikes in the parking lot.

Saturday night The Pit was rockin' once again with Brian Howe/Bad Company hitting the stage at 9 pm and The Fryed Brothers – who always give a great

Read the rest of
Redwood Run
Over on Page 11



WELL held its first annual Bike Show & Parade on June 8. Despite the very hot day, we had a great turnout and lots of fun. There were over 30 bikes in the show, and about 50 people gathered in the pleasant shade at Bud Snider Park, while the Little Lake fire station had a family-centered open house across the street.

The "Best in Show" prize winner was David Drell for an electric-assisted bike with a large utility trailer. The judges deemed it "the bike of the future."

Carrissa Chineff won for "Best Family Bike" (with two little ones in tow); "Best Beater Bike" was won by Pam Brown, who literally had duct tape holding part of her bike together.

"Best Road Bike" was Alan Grossman's Itavega which was clearly built for speed and style with its handcrafted leather Brooks seat. Ginger Larson won "Best Utility Bike," because her little red number could fold up for easy storage in the trunk of a car.

Devin Heiken had two bikes entered and won for "Best Kids Bike" for his "Black Beauty" BMX. Melinda Clark covered her bike in leis and ribbons and won "Best Art

Bike" narrowly beating Marta Alfonso who festooned her ride with wildflowers.

"Best Lower-Rider Bike" went to Wayne Colby for his 1978 "Grey Ghost" vintage Schwinn. Colby had four amazing bikes entered in the show. As a member of the Shifters Car Club, he knows how to fix up a ride. He clarified that his bikes should probably be in the kids' bike class because they were made for children back in the 1960s and 1970s. Next year the categories may be revised. The crowd was glad that Colby was willing to share his bicycles for the day.

WELL would like to thank the businesses that donated gift certificates for the prizes: Mariposa Market, the Bike Station, Sanhedrin Nursery, and J.D. Redhouse. We also thank our three judges, John Wagenet, Peter Norris and Bonnie Madrigal. They said it was really hard to choose between the many excellent bikes!

At the end of the show, about 20 bicyclists joined the 3-mile parade on the back streets of town. The whole event demonstrated that riding bikes is not only healthy for the bike rider, but healthy for the planet (no fossil fuels) and for our town (quiet, and no wear-and-tear on streets). Many participants urged that the city develop more bike-safe routes in and around town.



At top: Entrants in the show pose for a group photo. Above left & right: Entrants get signed in for first annual show. Center: Mayor Holly Madrigal poses with her bike, an Electra named "Woody." See more images at <http://photographpress.zenfolio.com/bikeshow>

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographpress.com

Books for the BGMS Girls



Elizabeth Sinofsky, Maria de los Angeles Munguia, Julie Cook, Librarian Beth, and Vicki Ham pose with students Melody Leon and Trinity Watts by the new books

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographpress.com

A book dedication ceremony on Tuesday, June 4 celebrated a collection of women's studies books Soroptimists International of Willits have presented to the library at Baechtel Grove Middle School.

Soroptimists Vicki Ham (president), Elizabeth Sinofsky (vice president) and Julie Cook joined Baechtel Grove Principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia and Librarian Beth for the dedication.

A plaque reading "Women Studies gifted by Soroptimist Willits" was put on the shelf containing the collection of books.

Read the rest of
BGMS Books
Over on Page 11



La Vida Charter School CLASS OF 2013

2013 graduates from La Vida Charter School (left to right): senior Celeste Delgado, eighth-graders Jessica Coatney and Isiah Davis; and seniors Kirstie Harmon and Morgan Lawler. Not pictured: eighth-graders Zoe More and Rose Raiser Jeavons.

Tasia Hooks
WHS CLASS OF 2013

Congratulations, Tasia Hooks, of WHS Class of 2013. You made it! We're proud of you and the young adult you have become. Love you most! <3 Mom & Theron.

Austin Gibson
WHS CLASS OF 2013

Congratulations, grandson Austin Gibson, on your graduation from Willits High School next week! All your families, here and in Oklahoma, are very proud of you for this achievement!

Alexis Byers
CLASS OF 2013

My adored Alexis, congratulations on your graduation! I want you to know how proud I am to see the determined, responsible and compassionate young woman you have become. You are the sweetest, kindest, most respectful, loving and caring girl anyone could only dream of having as a daughter. We are all so proud of you, and cherish you as our most precious gift ever! Love, Mom, Erik, Alex, Dad, Grandma and John.

Newbie
HUNTER HIPES

Hunter Lee Hipes was born on May 7, 2013, at 3:58 am to Gary Hipes and Monica Doro, at 7 pounds, 4.5 ounces, and 19 inches long. Welcomed by his loving family including big sister Julia Hipes; grandparents Terry and Deborah Hipes, Marilyn and Ed Brown, Steve Doro and Debbie Bossa; aunts and uncles Maresa and Keith Kendrick, Rick and Hope Hipes, Curtis Hipes and Matt Brown; and cousins Spencer and Maddax. And last, but not least, little doggy Macy.

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Furry Friends

Hoping for a home

Photo by Ari Steffen

Sparky

Sparky is a very friendly mature cat, with a black-and-white tuxedo and a winning personality. He is outgoing and very affectionate with people and would be a great addition to a family. Unfortunately for Sparky, black-and-white cats are the least-often adopted, and spend the most time living in shelters. Can you help Sparky beat the odds?

Sparky is available for adoption from the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive, in Redwood Valley. The Humane Society is open Wednesday through Friday, from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Info: 707-485-0123 or www.mendohumanesociety.com.

m•pho•tog•ra•phress

[uh-tog-ruh-friss]

noun: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

707-972-7047
maureengetsmail@gmail.com

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Thursday, June 13

Stories from the Campaign to Stop the Willits Bypass: 7pm at Ukiah United Methodist Church, 470 North Pine Street. With Ellen Drell, Amanda "Warbler" Senseman, Will Parrish and screening of "How Caltrans Sold the Willits Bypass."

Shanachie Pub: E.T. Jazz, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, featuring Lincoln Andrews and a variety of jazz musicians. Local and traveling "jazzies" are encouraged to bring their instruments for a night of improvised genre spanning jazz music. 8 pm. No cover.

Sober Grad party: 9:30 pm at Willits Community Center until 5 am Friday. All high school graduates in Willits are invited to attend. Volunteers are also needed for one two-hour shift or more, including with set-up, decoration and clean-up. To volunteer - **CHAPERONES ARE STILL NEEDED:** call Joyce (489-8377) or Linda (459-6201) or email willitssobergrad@gmail.com.

Friday, June 14

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

Zumba Black Light Glow Party: Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane. 8 to 10 pm. Dance party fundraiser for the Studio Joy's new air conditioning. \$10 at the door. "Dress to Impress - White Glows the Best." Info: 707-354-3636.

"Fun Dumpster" Comedy Show: Joe Fontenot, owner of Spokane Underground Comedy, on tour for his new CD, "Fun Dumpster," tonight and Saturday at the Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street. Doors open 8:30 pm; show at 9 pm. Also performing, comedy headliners Jonas Barnes, Jay Hollingsworth and "DC" The Comedian. Tickets, \$20, available at The Bistro, 33 E. Commercial, and Headroom, 215 S. Main. For

dinner before the show: The Bistro, 459-2233 or Caminiti's at The Lodge, 456-1596. Visit <http://joefontenot.com>.

Shanachie Pub: Granddaddy Purp and TGA Seeds presents Mendo Dope. 9 pm. \$5. Mendo Dope features brothers Daniel and Bryan Eatmon, aka "Old E" and "Bleezy." Visit www.reverbnation.com/mendodope

WHS 2003 Reunion Weekend: Open invitation to the bar crawl Friday evening with specials at local bars for the event.

WHS Graduation ceremony: Tonight at 6:30 pm

Saturday, June 15

Walking Tour of Ridgewood Ranch: Home of Seabiscuit. 9:30 to noon. Docent led tours \$20; children under 11 free. Tours are twice a month through October. Info/reservations: 459-5992; seabiscuit@instawave.net, or www.seabiscuiteritage.org/tourschedule.php.

Tour of Ecology Action Research Garden: 10 am to noon. \$10. A brief introduction to GROW BIOINTENSIVE® sustainable mini-farming, including a tour of the research Mini-Farm garden in Willits. Info/pre-registration: www.growbiointensive.org/events_main.html# or 459-0150.

Dog License Amnesty & Rabies Clinic: All dogs over 4 months of age are required by Mendocino County to have a current rabies vaccine and have a dog license. Get your dog legal at today's 1-day dog license amnesty program at the county's Ukiah Shelter at 298 Plant Road. License fee: \$25 for altered dogs; \$55 for non-altered dogs. Rabies clinic (for dogs and cats) 10 am to 2 pm; \$6. Micro-chipping: \$10. Info: 463-4427.

"Exploring Schizophrenia": 2 to 4 pm, at the Willits Library. One of a series of free classes, "Shedding Light on Mental Illness," taught by Sonya Nesch, author of "Advocating for Someone with a Mental Illness." Saturday, June 22 is: "The Choice of a Lifetime: Returning From the Brink of Suicide." The class format is a one-hour video of people with the illness talking about their experience, followed by a discussion and a useful handout of information and resources. Info: 937-3339.

"Fun Dumpster" Comedy Show: Joe Fontenot, owner of Spokane Underground Comedy. See Friday, June 14 for details.

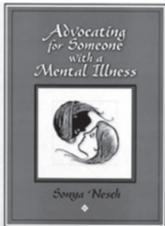
WHS 2003 Reunion Weekend: Potluck lunch at Rec Grove starting around 1 pm. Music, food and fun for the kids. Planners also hope to coordinate a football game. That night, the alum will have the opportunity to make dinner plans with their close friends and catch up at local restaurants if desired.

Sunday, June 16 - FATHER'S DAY

Relay For Life Benefit Parking Lot Sale: starting at 9 am at Gavel Down Sales, 1611 South Main Street. Donate an item: 459-1300; all proceeds go to benefit Willits' 2nd annual Relay For Life event, set for July 27 & 28 at the Rec Grove. To get involved in the local Relay For Life (which just announced its 31st team, from Howard Memorial Hospital), check out the "Relay For Life of Willits, Ca" Facebook page or register at http://main.acevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=49170

Walking Tour of Ridgewood Ranch: Home of Seabiscuit. 9:30 to noon. Docent led tours \$20; children under 11 free. First tour of the season; tours continue twice a month through October. Info/reservations: 459-5992; seabiscuit@instawave.net, or www.seabiscuiteritage.org/tourschedule.php.

Meet & Greet for Farmers / Gardeners: at Emandal Farm, 2 to 8 pm, with camping available. Meet the interns at Emandal. Young people working on local food farms or for environmental education organizations are especially encouraged, but experienced farmers and those who want to learn more are invited, too, with hopes of future gatherings. A short tour of Emandal, a dip in the Eel River, and Kashaya's brick oven pizza, with potluck salads and beverages. No dogs. Emandal is located at



Reading is Soooooo Delicious!

10 miles west

activities for families, children, teens and adults, on Thursday mornings and other days. Today, participants will be using the "Play with Your Food" book to create art from fruits and veggies. Stop by the Library to pick up the schedule for all activities through August 15. Also, a "Giving is a Treat" program, in collaboration with the Willits Food Bank, which forgives library fines up to \$2 per canned food item donated. Info: 459-5908

Friday, June 21

"Soar": 27th annual Dance Recital by Cloud 9 Dance Studio, featuring the students of Kathleen Ferri-Taylor, Jenny Montes and Lillian Evind. 7 pm at Willits High School's Allen Garcia Memorial Auditorium. Tickets (at the door): \$8; students under 21 & seniors, \$5.

Sunday, June 23

Willits Frontier Days Opening Day Events: Horse Show, 8 am; Sweetheart Judging, 10 am; Gymkhana, after the Horse Show. All at the Jack Sharp Arena at the Rodeo Grounds, 400 block of East Commercial Street. All free to attend.

"Copenhagen": a staged reading at the Willits Community Theatre; see Wednesday, June 19 for details.

Fight'n for a Cure Fundraiser Dinner: at Loose Caboose Cafe, 10 Wood Street, to raise funds for Relay For Life. Hosted by Lisa Epstein's State Farm Insurance Relay For Life team, the "City Girls." Dinner will be served by the infamous Hula Boys dressed in full Hawaiian costume (Jay Epstein, State Farm Insurance in Ukiah; Tom Woodhouse, Creekside Realty; Alan Falleri, former Community Development Director for the City of Willits; and Ron Moorehead, president of the Willits Chamber of Commerce). Featuring roasted pork with apricot pineapple sauce, marinated string beans, rice pilaf and salad. \$25. Two seatings: 4:30 and 6:30 pm. Reservations required soon (by June 14 preferred); last year's dinner (featuring tights and tutus) was sold-out. Call 459-7910.



2013 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS
 STAY UP TO DATE:
www.willitsfrontierdays.com
 and find us on Facebook

| SUNDAY, JUNE 23 | |
|---|--|
| HORSE SHOW | 6/23 8 a.m. Jack Sharp Arena Free to Attend |
| SWEETHEART JUDGING | 6/23 10 a.m. Jack Sharp Arena Free to Attend |
| GYMKHANA | 6/23 Following Horse Show Jack Sharp Arena Free to Attend |
| THURSDAY, JUNE 27 | |
| HOMETOWN CELEBRATION | 6/27 5 to 9 p.m. Main Street - Downtown Willits Free to Attend |
| FRIDAY, JUNE 28 | |
| TRUCK PULLS | 6/28 6 - 9 p.m. Jack Sharp Arena Adult: \$13, Child: \$5 |
| STREET DANCE | 6/28 Following Truck Pulls Rodeo Grounds Free to Attend |
| SATURDAY, JUNE 29 | |
| CARNIVAL | 6/29 Opens at 4 p.m. Rodeo Grounds |
| SUNDAY, JUNE 30 | |
| LIONS COWBOY BREAKFAST | 6/30 7 - 11 a.m. Rec Grove Park Adult: \$8, Child: \$5 |
| CUTEST LITTLE COWBOY & COWGIRL | 6/30 10 a.m. Rodeo Grounds Free to Attend |
| NATIONAL ANTHEM CONTEST | 6/30 Noon Rodeo Grounds Free to Attend |
| JUNIOR RODEO | 6/30 4 p.m. Jack Sharp Arena Adult: \$5, Child: Free |
| SWEETHEART CROWNED | |
| WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 | |
| WATER FIGHT | 7/3 5:30 p.m. Humboldt & Commercial Streets Free to Attend |
| CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO | 7/3 7 p.m. Jack Sharp Arena Box: \$15, Adult: \$12, Child: \$5 Local Team Roping Following CCPRA rodeos |
| WESTERN DANCE | Dance: 7/3 Following Rodeo Rodeo Grounds Free to Attend |
| THURSDAY, JULY 4 | |
| HORSESHOE CONTEST | 7/4 9 a.m. Rec Grove Park |
| PARADE | 7/4 11 a.m. Main Street - Downtown Willits Free to Attend |
| BARBECUE | 7/4 Noon Rec Grove Park Adult: \$15, Child/Senior: \$8, Family Pack(2 Adults & 2 Children): \$40 |
| BLACK BART GUNFIGHTERS | 7/4 3 p.m. Rec Grove Park Free to Attend |
| CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO | 7/4 4 p.m. Jack Sharp Arena Box: \$15, Adult: \$12, Child: \$5 Local Team Roping Following CCPRA rodeos |

Ongoing Events:

Farmers Market at City Park: Every Thursday from 3 to 6 pm. Summer vegetables, including tomatoes, zucchini, and more from area farmers plus live music, garden starts, flowers, crafts, baked goods, dinner and other edibles.

Water Aerobics at Willits City Pool: June schedule: Classes at 11 am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and at 6:15 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Pool located at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Info: Shawna at 459-7125 (message phone) or 459-5778 (pool phone).

"Throwing the Bones": June exhibition at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Recent paintings by artist-painter Peter Onstad. Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday, 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 pm. Through June 30.

Save the Date:

Willits Hometown Celebration, June 27, downtown
 Willits Frontier Days Week, June 28 through July 4
 John Singer and Kurahashi Yodo in Shakuhachi Concert, June 30, Willits Community Theatre

Last of the Graduation ceremonies for local schools

Brookside Elementary School
 Kindergarten: June 13 at 10:45 am in own classrooms

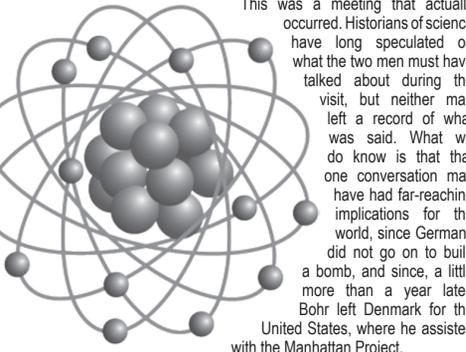
Willits Elementary Charter School
 5th Grade: June 13 at 5:30 pm at Rec Grove

Willits High School
 12th Grade: June 13 at 6:30 pm at Maize Field

"Copenhagen" comes to Willits

When one looks at the Second World War, one of the most amazing miracles of that time is that Germany did not develop an atomic bomb. Germany was certainly capable of doing so. It had for decades, if not for centuries, been at the forefront of the "march of science," and many of the founding fathers of 20th century theoretical physics, men such as Einstein, Planck, Heisenberg and Schrödinger, had done their greatest work either in Germany or in the German-speaking neighboring countries of Austria and Switzerland. Yet Germany did not develop the bomb.

In his play "Copenhagen," Michael Frayn explores a possible reason for that miraculous failure. In the play, physicist Werner Heisenberg, the author of the Uncertainty Principle and the golden boy of quantum theory's founding generation, goes to Copenhagen to pay a visit to his friend and mentor, physicist Neils Bohr, the father of the Copenhagen Interpretation of quantum theory. At the time of the play, 1941, Germany had occupied most of Western Europe, including Denmark, and was poised to invade both England and Russia. Bohr was under surveillance and Heisenberg was director of Germany's Department of Atomic Research.



This is the subject of "Copenhagen," Michael Frayn's much-lauded 1998 play. In keeping with the subject matter and the characters, Frayn actually stretches the boundaries of dramatic writing, since in a way he employs the Uncertainty Principle in crafting his play. He offers three different scenarios and leaves it to the audience to select what "really" happened.

The Willits Community Theatre offers "Copenhagen" to audiences as a reading. Directed by Mitchell Robertson, and with performances by Paul Lambert (Bohr), Damian Sebouhian (Heisenberg) and Mary Burns (Mrs. Bohr), the show will be performed twice, once on Wednesday June 19 at 7 pm and once on Sunday June 23 at 2 pm. Admission is \$5, and tickets will be available at the door.



Father's Day Show at Shanachie Pub

Yogoman Burning Band plays a special Father's Day show at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, starting at 7 pm. \$10 at the door. Food by Jara's Mexican Restaurant available on the patio starting 6 pm. "Instant funmakers" Yogoman Burning Band is "one of the great dance bands you've never heard of," says the Ventura County Reporter. "Yogoman is an absolute knockout. Imagine Yogi Bear and Yogi Berra on the dance floor. On fire." Visit <http://www.yogomanburningband.com>

Pre-sale tickets for Frontier Days Carnival

Pre-sale tickets for Johnston Amusements Carnival are available in advance at Lo Bucks only, in the Evergreen Shopping Center, through June 26.

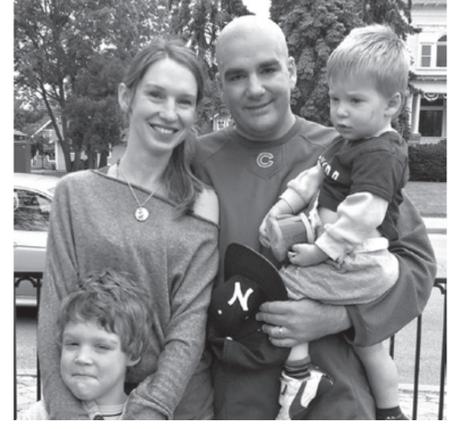
\$20 pre-sale ticket can be redeemed for 1 all-day wrist-band, good for that day only, with unlimited rides, a \$5 savings off the normal price of \$25.

Carnival opens June 29 at 4 pm and closes the evening of July 4. Questions? Contact Willits Frontier Days at 459-6330.



Hula boys: Jay Epstein, Tom Woodhouse, Alan Falleri and Ron Moorhead
 Photo from Willits Chamber of Commerce

New principal for Willits High School



New Willits High School Principal Jeffrey Ritchley, with his wife, Yuliya, and their children: Luka, who will be in second grade next year, and Nikolai, now 3 years old. "This photo was taken in Chicago two years ago," Ritchley said, "and is one of our favorite photos."

The Willits Unified School District has hired Jeffrey A. Ritchley, currently principal of Needles High School in San Bernardino County, to be principal of Willits High School. Ritchley will start his new position July 1.

Ritchley, who has a doctorate degree in Educational Administration from Bethel University in Minnesota, was principal of the Needles Middle School and the Educational Learning Center, in addition to administering the high school.

"I started my career as an adapted physical education teacher in Minnesota," Ritchley told Willits Weekly. (Adapted physical education, according to the APE national standards board, is "physical education which has been adapted or modified, so that it is as appropriate for the person with a disability as it is for a person without a disability.")

Ritchley majored in physical education and health education as an undergraduate.

Ritchley then moved to Coleville, in Mono County, to become an assistant principal, and after two years became principal in Needles in the Mojave Desert. "Earlier in my life, I spent eight years in the United States Marine Corps," Ritchley said.

Ritchley is married to Yuliya Ritchley, an English teacher, the couple has two children: Luka, who will be in second grade next year, and Nikolai, who is 3 years old.

"My family and I are very excited to move to Willits," Ritchley said, "to serve the students of the Willits Unified School District. My educational philosophy is that everyone has the ability to learn, and it is our job as educators to find the pathways to student success."

Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

In the Stars...

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

You could be feeling under the weather this week, Aries. Even if your to-do list is a mile long, you need to take some time to recuperate before getting back to business.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Life experience is your advantage, Taurus. When your company is looking to fill a position, they will most likely hire from within. Make the most of this opportunity.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21

Gemini, just when things seem hopeless, a small ray of light shines through and you find a solution to your problem. Scorpio has some wise words, so listen up.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Cancer, once you think you have all of the answers, something pops up to make you reassess a situation. It could take a few days for you to find the answer you're looking for.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Leo, you may have fun in the sun on your mind, but others are urging you to buckle down and focus on some tasks that need to be wrapped up before you leave.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

There are some changes coming at work, Virgo. You just don't know if they will be to your advantage or be something that could tilt you off your axis.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

Libra, you have much to learn, but you cannot cram it all into one week. There is no crash course on life. Make the most of a getaway opportunity.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

You can't seem to focus on one thing for very long this week, Scorpio. You might have to spend a few days clearing your mind before you can refocus on the tasks at hand.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

Sagittarius, you are not one to let an obstacle block you from your goal. Rethink your strategy and you will soon find yourself back on the path to success.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

Capricorn, changes at home are in work, Virgo. You just don't know if they will be to your advantage or be something that could tilt you off your axis.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

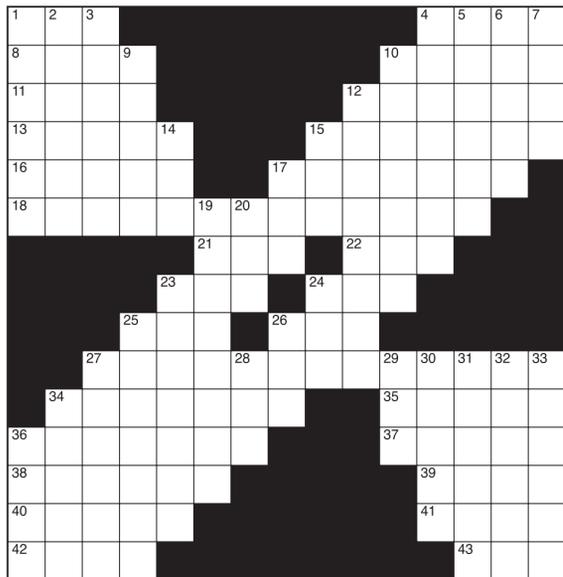
Aquarius, vacation plans may have been elusive until now, but you finally have the funds and the time to take the trip you desire. Your traveling partner is still up in the air.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces, a new season inspires you to make changes and reconsider old relationships. Call it a late spring cleaning of your life.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Chicago time
- And hearty
- In a murderous frenzy (var. sp.)
- Substance that imparts a hue
- Italian's capital
- Oral flavors
- The Pitt Family artist, Wm.
- Most buffoonish
- A group of 8
- Overlords
- Camera artists
- Resinlike substance in shellac
- Fundamentally important
- Fishing implement
- Hamilton's bill
- An adult female hog
- Emergency broadcast network

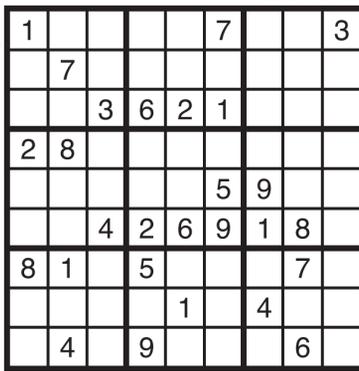
- Transcending national boundaries
- Applied by spreading
- Lower in esteem
- Entered the noneating larval stage
- Nears
- Woke up
- Selfs
- Parts
- Dry: esp. of vegetation
- Knot in a tree
- River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

- Drive-in server
- Kiss
- Red fruit eaten as a vegetable
- Foot and legwear
- Changes
- Wind deposited silt
- Formerly (archaic)
- Gold fineness measure
- Military snack bar
- Capital of Uzbekistan
- Old Tokyo
- Heat in a microwave
- A waterproof raincoat
- Stared sullenly
- Slang for cool
- Revolves
- Don't know when yet
- Sports shoe
- Opposite of beginning
- Chevy sedan model
- Communist nickname
- 007's Flemming
- Drama awards
- Badgered
- Towards land
- Leaseholder
- Capital of Gyeonggi-do
- Yellowstone or Central



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!

DAIRY WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

ZUMBA GLOW PARTY
Studio Joy is turning out the lights for a
Zumba Black Light Glow Party!
Friday, June 14TH • 8-10 p.m.
\$10 at the door • Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane, Willits
Dress to Impress ~ White Glows the Best
Proceeds go to our awesomely cool and much-needed new air conditioning.
Questions? Call Megan at 707-354-3636

PONDEROSA & SUN REALTY
Tony Sorace, Land & Ranch Broker, Certified Financial Planner
635 S. Main St. Willits, CA 95490
707-459-5108 • 707-489-3763

Estate Sale - Beautiful custom home located on over an acre near Willits. Large kitchen with Corian countertops. Tile floors. Formal living room with wet bar. Office off Master Bedroom. Patio, large deck. Nicely landscaped.....**\$295,000**

Pine Mountain - 20 gorgeous acres with towering redwoods. Custom 3 bdrm/2 bath home and cozy western style cabin. Large shop. Exc. well, power, phone, etc.....**\$550,000**

Dos Rios - Former resort next to Eel River. Beautiful 3 bdrm home, caretaker residence, many cabins, gardens, orchard, mini golf course. Excellent water supply, power, phone. All of this on 15 acres.....**\$375,000**

www.pondsun.com • tonysorace@pacific.net

Classifieds & More

Acupuncture/Healing

CULTIVATE COMMUNITY Acupuncture and Wellness Studio offers Acupuncture, herbal medicine, massage, cupping, gua sha, healing technologies and more! Sliding scale. 291 School St., #4, "in the Grange." Call Michelle: 707-972-1601.

Alterations

Nice Jeans! Need them hemmed? Call, text, or e-mail Genevieve at 707.841.8230 or hautemama22@gmail.com Other small alterations available.

Blueberry Plants

Huge blueberry plants for your garden, covered with berries. \$45 each, or five plants for \$200. 707-274-9196.

Consignments Accepted

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

Eckankar

Join us for a Community HU Song Tuesday, June 25, at 6 pm at the Willits Library meeting room, 390 E. Commercial Street. HU is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and find inner peace. Families and all faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

The Fruit Group

Bulk boxes of pesticide-free fruit
Apricots - 25lb box \$23
Peaches/Nectarines/Pears - 24lb box \$23
Tomatoes - 23lb box \$N/A
Willits: Brenda/459-9335, Ukiah: JoAnn/485-7591
Potter&Redwood Valley: Deanna/391-7336
Laytonville: Heather/984-7430, Lakeport: Linda/279-8840, Ft. Bragg: Karen/937-4664, Covelo&Brooktrails: Linda/459-6698

Movement and Wellness

Lisa Mace @ Studio 'M', Movement & Wellness Educator. 354-3717. Train your brain/Train your body with us for your stronger life. Enjoyable & luxurious exercise for any body, any age, any limitation. Private lessons & affordable group sessions in Willits. Please visit us at www.lisamacewillits.com. COMING! Mid-June 2013, visit our beautiful newly-renovated studio @ 1250 Blosser Lane!

TELL OUR ADVERTISERS YOU SAW IT IN WILLITS WEEKLY!

The rest of
Fire
From Page 1

Thomen said, "and preheated the interior." Firefighters were on scene until 3:23 pm, mopping up and investigating.

The team included deputy chief Thomen and Little Lake fire captain Ned McKinnon, with two engines and one ladder truck from Little Lake. "We had one engine from Brooktrails mutual aid and two engines from CalFire mutual aid," Thomen said, with a total of 23 firefighters. "The firefighters did an excellent job containing the fire to that structure, and not allowing the fire to spread."

The team investigating the cause of the fire did take the early morning lightning storm into account, and checked out one questionable spot on the roof with the ladder truck, but it was determined the fire was not caused by a lightning strike.

The investigation into exactly what started the fire will be continued by the insurance company, Thomen said. With no loss of life or injuries, "once we determine where the fire started and that it was accidental, with no foul play, that's where we stop."

Old Cars Wanted

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

Pinball Machines

PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

Plants for Sale

Table Grape Plants, locally grown, delicious, and suited to our climate. Over 25 varieties, \$10 each. Also Tree Collard Plants, fantastic perennial greens for our region, \$5 each. Richard, 459-5926

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space rent starts at \$390 per month and includes water & garbage. Central location near Safeway in downtown Willits. Contact Manager in space #9 or call Dan (707) 462-7383.

SUBSCRIBE TO WILLITS WEEKLY!

Send your name, mailing address, phone and email, with a check, to P.O. Box 1698, Willits CA 95490 or send to willitsweekly@gmail.com, and we will bill you. Subscriptions are \$40 for 6 months and \$75 for a year. You can also subscribe using a credit card using our PayPal account at www.willitsweekly.com.

Volunteers Needed

Harrah Center is looking for people, any age, with a heart for service. We can use all skills and coordinate for your free time. Call us 707-459-6826 or come in 1501 Baechtel Rd, Willits

Zumba Fitness - Studio Joy

THE Place for Zumba Fitness in Willits! 1262 Blosser Lane, 841-7499. See our full schedule at www.studiojoywillits.com. We have Zumba for Every Body. Offering Zumba, Zumba Gold and Zumba Toning. Coming soon: ZumbaTomics.

Eckankar

HAVE YOU HAD a spiritual experience? You are invited to participate in an ongoing, spiritual discussion Tuesday, June 25, at 6:30 pm at the Willits Library meeting room, 390 E. Commercial Street. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.



Above: A bull rider escapes the horns. Below: Rachel Belvin makes her sweetheart run
Photos by Natalie Mayo

Laytonville Rodeo & Sweetheart Contest last weekend

The annual Laytonville Rodeo was held last weekend, and three big winners were named from the two-day event.

The All-Around cowgirl was 12-year-old Laytonvillian Hailey Finnegan; the All-Around cowboy was Billy Holland; and the 2013 Laytonville Sweetheart was Rachel Belvin of Willits.

Belvin contributed \$6,000 of the \$17,500 total tickets sold and cinched the Sweetheart title. Three runners-up for the title included Madi Rae Pierce, Natya Cauckwell and Kymberlee Nelson.

Cat about Town

Who Cares?

(Part 3) Can we, should we, be doing more?

Editor's Note: This is part 3 of a story focusing on Bill, a homeless man in Willits. This series will finish with a look at the "Handouts Are Not Helping" campaign by the Willits Chamber of Commerce and the Willits Police Department, urging residents to donate to Willits Community Services/Food Bank and Willits Daily Bread instead of giving spare change to panhandlers.

Cat Lee
Reporter
cat@willitsweekly.com

"I don't believe she wanted to hit me. I'm not mad at her at all. I forgive her," Bill said of the "pretty girl" who reportedly

ran over him last December.

"I don't think it was her fault," he said. "There was nothing she could have done different. It was just as much my fault. I was somewhere I probably shouldn't have been."

"I saw her face right before she hit me. She was scared. She was not happy about what was happening."

"You know how I know?" he asked me. "Because I know people."

Bill said the girl's left front tire got him in the left leg "left front, then rear." As soon as he could, he recalled, he stood up and people came to help him.

The next thing he knew, there was an ambulance, and he remembered saying to the paramedics as they lifted him onto the gurney: "Hey, I love you guys. Please don't drop me."

"We don't drop our guys," one of the paramedics assured him, and that is the last thing Bill remembered until he woke up in the hospital. "Next thing I knew, it was a couple of months later," Bill said, and he had no idea where he was. "I didn't even know I was in the hospital."

"Man, what's goin' on? I didn't ask, just tried to put two-and-two together. I thought I was in an insane asylum," he said.

When I interviewed Bill in April, he still was unable to put any weight on his leg. He was scooting around town in a wheelchair. When I asked if he was getting any physical therapy or followup care, replied all he was getting was a prescription of pain pills every week.

Recently, I've seen him on crutches, but it looked to me like he still couldn't put full weight on his leg.

To the best of Bill's memory, he spent about a month in Howard Hospital before being transferred to a facility in Woodland, where he was placed in a nursing and rehabilitation program for another month.

He said he really enjoyed his stay in Woodland: "The food was great. We had a lot of chicken - big pieces, with a different kind of sauce every time."

I never could get him to tell me how he got back to Willits. Did someone just drive him back and drop him on his favorite corner?

What I do know is it did not take long for his appearance and behavior to deteriorate from the clean and shaved "barely recognizable Bill" we saw in March into the more recognizable Bill, who was arrested last month on suspicion of sexual battery after grabbing the butt of a 16-year-old girl. He pled out to misdemeanor battery.

From my past experiences with him and with some of our other local "street people," I know they are much more pleasant to deal with when they get some time off of the streets. Bill used to periodically get a motel room for a night or two. He shared stories back then about how he would get some food and a couple of beers, and take really long baths, enjoying the simple pleasures most of us can have any day.

After some "time off," Bill would be cleaner, and his behavior less offensive. Those were the times I enjoyed hearing stories about his childhood.

Bill shared many tales of his family life, and about moving to Mexico for six months when his parents split up. He would ask about me, my business, and how my kids and family were doing. His memories of his own past, as well as our past conversations, would be very clear during these times. His manner of speech was much more lucid, his demeanor calmer and gentler.

Unless he and our other homeless population get a room, or someone gives them a place to stay (a barn or a garage sometimes becomes available), a stint in jail or a stay at the hospital is the only time many of them are not on our streets or under our bridges, or wherever they may be sleeping.

Dirty old man or not (literally or figuratively), public nuisance or danger to the community or not, Bill and the other familiar street people are part of our community, a fact of life we all deal with daily in our town.

Is there something more we should or could be doing? Will Willits ever have a shelter? Is a "wet" shelter feasible, for those who are addicts or habitual alcohol and substance users? Can we make their place in our community more comfortable and more civilized somehow for the benefit of us all?

What do you think?

Community News

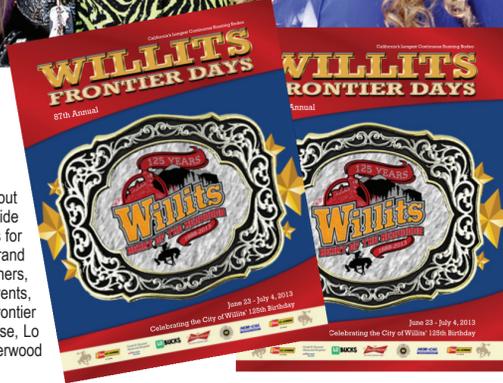
Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



The sweetheart contestants make their grand entry run during the Horsemen's events earlier this month. Above: Lijia Lamkin rides First Class Encounter. Below: Casey Persico rides Blu

Right: Casey Persico and Lijia Lamkin pose with 2012 Sweetheart Rachel Belvin - who also just won the 2013 Laytonville Sweetheart title!

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com



Time for Tickets

WFD Sweethearts gear up for Fourth of July events

Though it may feel like Willits Frontier Days and the annual Fourth of July celebration is still a long ways away, truth is, the first event is next weekend! Both candidates for the 2013 title, Lijia Lamkin and Casey Persico, are out on the town, selling tickets to events until 5 pm on June 28.

Ticket sales account for 40 percent of the overall score, and both are eagerly selling. Lamkin and Persico urge anyone interested to contact them directly for tickets: Lamkin at 707-972-6793 or llijialamkin@yahoo.com and Persico at 707-354-3996.

Annual program event books are also out on the streets already and not only provide the community with the schedule of events for this year, but also showcase this year's Grand Marshal, Top Hand and Heritage Award winners, but also inform all about the rodeo events, musicians, history and more of Willits Frontier Days. Books are available at J.D. Redhouse, Lo Bucks, Willits Power, Les Schwab and Sherwood Valley Rancheria Casino.

Stay up to date with all things Willits Frontier Days at www.WillitsFrontierDays.com.



Several LLLFD firefighters in front of the firehouse during Saturday's open house
Photo by Maureen Moore

HOT, HOT, HOT!

A hot time at the Firefighters Open House

For a (record?) hot Saturday, the 87th annual Little Lake Firefighters' Association's Fundraiser & Open House did pretty well last weekend. "It was hot," said Deputy Fire Chief John Thomen, "and I think that may have slowed some of the folks down from

coming out, but we made some ticket sales, people enjoyed the hot dog meal deal, and we had people milling around checking out the equipment."

People went back and forth between the WELL bicycle show in

the park and the fire station, and then gave blood, too, Thomen said.

The bloodmobile from Blood

Read the rest of **HOT, HOT, HOT!**
Over on Page 11



Award Winners

Soroptimist International of Willits awards two grads with \$1,000 checks

Jane Ellen McCabe and Divora Stern, scholarship committee, present winners Adriana Borjon and Marisa Ramirez with \$1,000 checks

Photo by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

Help the Skunk Train Get Up and Running Again

"The Skunk Train is facing a crisis, and so is our city and county if the train stops running!"
—Lynn Kennelly, director, Willits Chamber of Commerce

A collapsed tunnel a few miles east of Fort Bragg has stopped the Skunk Train in its tracks. With equipment stranded west of the tunnel, trains aren't running out of Willits either. The Skunk Train has started a "Save Our Skunk" crowd-funding campaign on the GoFundMe website to help raise the \$300,000 needed to clear the tunnel.

Visit www.gofundme.com/SaveOurSkunk to learn more about the crisis and to donate. Any level of donation is welcome.

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Times for 5/31-6/13

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Daily: 2:20, 5:25, 8:30
Sat-Sun: 11:15, 2:20, 5:25, 8:30

FAST & FURIOUS 6
(PG-13)
Runs: 1 hr. 10 min
Daily: 3:15, 6:00, 8:45
Sat-Sun: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45

THE INTERNSHIP
(PG-13)
Runs: 1 hr. 59 min
Daily: 3:45, 6:20, 9:00
Sat-Sun: 1:00, 3:45, 6:20, 9:00

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Any second-week 2D film is only \$5

Suzy's Avocado & Corn Salad

- Salad:**
- 16 oz frozen corn, thawed
 - 1 red or green bell pepper, chopped
 - 1 small onion, chopped
 - 1 - 2 small cans sliced black olives
 - 4 ripe avocados, chopped

Dressing:

- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/3 cup oil
- 3 tbs white vinegar
- 1 tsp dry oregano
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp salt & pepper

Directions:

Combine corn, pepper, onion and olives in a bowl. In separate bowl, combine all dressing ingredients and then toss together with corn mixture. Refrigerate overnight. Just before serving, add chopped avocado and serve with chips.

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by Mike A'Dair

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—Greg Ellis Canberry, Australia

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COLUMN | Driplines



Drip 101: The Basics of a Drip Irrigation System

Many people think that drip irrigation is difficult to understand and install. I hope to make it seem simple and doable for everyone. Let's start from the faucet, with the basic parts of a drip system.

Jerry Jordan
Columnist

A filter is always recommended, whether you are a city or country dweller. Particulates in water can plug a drip system, and the filter will catch them before there is a problem. A pressure regulator will be a necessity for anyone on city water or using a pressurized well system. If your water pressure is higher than 30 PSI, a pressure regulator will do exactly as its name implies: regulate water pressure so that it is optimal for a drip system.

Back flow preventers are usually required for city water users and, in newer homes, are often pre-installed. If in doubt, contact your local water department. Because drip systems are almost silent when running, I also recommend a timer (either battery or wind-up) to ensure that the water shuts off. Otherwise, it's too easy to forget that the water is running, and you end up wasting a lot.

Once these parts are in place you will most likely use mainline tubing to carry the water to your garden beds. Using 1/2 inch mainline tubing is fine for those with smaller yards/gardens, and 3/4 inch mainline tubing is a better choice for larger gardens or those who are using low-pressure gravity water systems. If your garden has long rows (more than 20 feet), drip tape is a good option. For those gardening in raised beds or shorter rows, 1/4 inch soaker dripline works well. With individual plants you can have separate emitters that will release anywhere from 1/4 gallon to 6 gallons per hour (GPH), but the most common flows are 1/2 and 1 GPH. Sprayers are ideal for ground covers or masses of plants that appreciate overhead watering.

At DripWorks we have many educational/planning tools on our website: www.dripworks.com. We also have a variety of kits that make it even easier to set up your system. Join my wife, Cheryl, and I on our Facebook page called "Driplines: Adventures with Drip Irrigation," if you are interested in drip irrigation, water-wise gardening, water catchment and water conservation.

You can contact us c/o Willits Weekly with questions or ideas at: willitsweekly@gmail.com.

Jerry Jordan has been working with drip irrigation for 30 years. He is a founding owner of DripWorks in Willits.



WCS Grad John Brundage

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

John Murphy, Katlin Porritt, Victoria Potter, Tyler Rudy, Reiley Sischo-Herbert, Ian Sophie and Sierra Southwick.

John Kirchiro and Marsha Behnke emceed the event, presenting the graduates and awarding the diplomas. Seven students also prepared speeches and delivered them to the crowd including Erick, Potter, Dunlap, Brundage, Madison, Murphy, Moog and Gamble.

A reception and refreshments followed the ceremony.

The rest of **HOT, HOT, HOT!** | From Page 10

Centers of the Pacific did so well that they actually had to start turning people away. "That's pretty awesome," Thomen said.

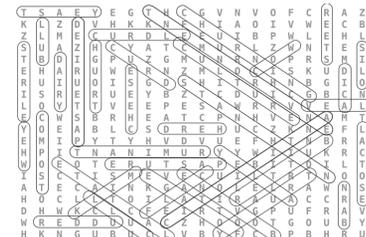
Winners of the raffle at the fire station were: Dick Hobson & Gayle Holz won the big flat screen TV supplied by the Willits Outlet store; Alexis Rutherford and Rueben Nieto each won a \$500 gift certificate donated by Sparetime Supply; Sharla Swinney won 25 gallons of propane donated by Pro-Flame of Willits; Tom & Shirley Schott won the BBQ donated by Coast Hardware; George Dudley won the Stihl 170 chainsaw donated by Willits Power Equipment; M. Babcock won the \$200 gift card for the San Francisco Giants and the \$50 gasoline card; and Steve Lundie and Bruce Andich each won an oil change donated by Auto Mart Auto Repair.

The rest of **BGMS Books** | From Page 5

Baechtel Grove Middle School is honored that the women of the Soroptimist Willits Chapter have chosen us to help expand the knowledge of our young girls about the possibilities in life," said Principal Mangia. "This collection of women's studies books will be made available in a prominent place in our library to encourage girls to read them and become inspired by the lives of other women. We want to thank the Soroptimists for their efforts to build a stronger Willits community by providing inspiring reading material for our students."

"We are very pleased to be able to work with Baechtel Grove Middle School on this important project," said

Puzzle Answers From Page 8



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

towards its goal of \$300,000, the Skunk's fundraising efforts continue to gather more money for the railroad.

In the 20th day of its Internet crowd-funding drive, the Skunk Train has received more \$47,000 through the goodwill of Skunk Train supporters.

San Diego-based gofundme.com states on its website that medical, educational, volunteerism, personal emergencies and concerns relating to sports and teams are its most common money-raising groups.

In Fort Bragg, Mendocino County's official tourism marketing firm, Visit Mendocino, is enjoying the appearance of Mendo's vineyard scene on the cover of Wine Spectator magazine.

Visit Mendocino's Scott Schneider said he is hopeful people will step up and the train will continue.

Schneider said the Skunk can persuade people to visit northern Mendocino County rather than other areas in the state.

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

to sell homes or refinance loans without first paying off liens from PACE loans," said Pinches, reading from the article.

Pinches also pointed out that Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae (affectionate monikers for two federal housing loan agencies) have decided not to loan to homeowners who have taken out PACE loans.

Supervisor Carre Brown asked Stacey Lawson of Ygrene where the money for the loans came from. Lawson said Ygrene had "lined up more than \$100 million in revolving lines of credit with national banking partners." When Brown asked who those national banking partners were, Lawson explained Ygrene had signed a non-disclosure agreement with the banks.

Ukiah City Councilwoman Maryanne Landis urged supervisors to support the idea. She said overall "the benefits outweigh the liabilities of this project. It would reduce greenhouse gases, put

For families, the train can be a big attraction and a reason for tourists to seek local room and board after a long train ride.

"I think it is very important to tourism. It helps to extend people's stays," Schneider said.

Those looking to help can adopt a mile of track, name a bridge or - for \$100,000 - have one of the line's two tunnels named after themselves for the next 20 years.

That's My Tunnel: gofundme.com/saveourskunk

Vote daily: virtualltourist.com/8thwonder



contractors to work, increase property values, and demonstrates a willingness on the part of the people who will be running this operation to work with local banks."

However, Scott Yandell, CEO of the Savings Bank of Mendocino County, advised against it. "I have a strong opinion the Federal Housing Authority will have the same opinion on this program they have had on other PACE programs," he said.

"The Fannie Mae general counsel told us if there is an intervening loan, they would make us buy this loan back before they would lend on the property. My personal experience with Fannie Mae is they will aggressively protect their lien rights. It's not good standard market loaning," Yandell said.

"They're willing to offer a 95 percent loan," he noted. "This is over-leveraging which, let us remember, is what caused the financial debacle in the first place."

New plaque and books at BGMS

Soroptimist President Ham. "The school has always been about improving and expanding the lives of its students through education."

Ham said that when the Soroptimist members discovered the school was in serious need of books and had no books that focused on women, the chapter felt "we had found an ideal way to work with the school."

"Our culture is not very supportive of women or letting them see the full measure of what life has to offer them," Ham said. "Less than 2 percent of written history is about women. On the other hand, mass media is focused on girls and offers images that are not authentic and oftentimes demeaning. These are messages the girls are receiving and creating their reality around."



Ham said the Soroptimists feel that "more girls will be able to dream bigger" if they have access to books about positive role models for women. "And the girls will also realize their community cares about them," Ham said, "and that they can realize their dreams. We hope other community organizations will work with the schools to convey the values of the community of Willits to our children."

The rest of **Redwood Run** | From Page 4

performance - bringing it all home until the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Sunday morning, the roar of bikes split the air, and probably a few hangers, as the attendees began breaking camp and heading home.

Unfortunately I believe all of The Run was showing signs of today's economy. The number of vendors was down, and a Kiwanis spokesperson told me they sold between 2,000 and 2,500 tickets. This is a far cry from days of old when attendance was about 5,000 bikers. This low attendance was also evident in downtown Willits

on Friday, when there were very few bikes parked on Main Street in front of the local refreshment businesses. I'm sure many long-time Willits residents remember the days when South Main Street was lined with bikes from East Valley to Commercial Street; both sides of the street, bike to bike.

In speaking with a number of the attendees and vendors at The Run, the consensus was the same. The Run became smaller in 2011 after losing the lease for the Riverview Ranch property, and with the rumors of the 2012 Run being cancelled (it wasn't), and the move to a new and

completely different location in Cooks Valley. Many folks felt The Run is going through some growing pains, and folks are just watching to see how things turn out. Everyone was very happy for the return to the Riverview Ranch property.

In my opinion the Kiwanis are doing a great job, and hats off to them for putting on such a large event. Congratulations to Kiwanis President Danielle, the members of the Kiwanis of the Redwoods and all the volunteers that make The Run such a smooth, fun time. See you next year!

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Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Saving Our History



Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

The removal and preservation of the historic Rexall Pharmacy signage was a bittersweet sight last Friday. The sign is now safe at the Mendocino County Museum.

See Alison Glassey's letter to the editor on Page 2 for more info.

Above: Ricardo Grajeda of Pacific Neon Company smiles by the sign

Left top: The sign as it stood prior to removal

Left center: Former owner Dave Lovitt watches the removal progress

Left bottom: Ricardo Grajeda and Junior work on safely taking down the Rexall sign

Right: Alison Glassey, Jeff Crawford and Janet Rayner from the museum were there to supervise and assist with relocating the sign



Mini Grads

Room to Bloom Preschool graduates 16 students from preschool into kindergarten next year.

Congratulations to all the graduates!



Room to Bloom Preschool class of 2013

Photo courtesy Room to Bloom

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