

EST. 2013

Donations Accepted Edition No. 59 **Thursday, June 19, 2014**

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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Read the rest of **Bypass** |
Over on Page 11

Jennifer Poole
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Read the rest of
Results |
Over on Page 11

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Read the rest of **Cuts** |
Over on Page 11



(and learning to swim!)

At left: Mariah Levine smiles before jumping into the pool and Hailey Sleeper's arms.

Below: Alissa Randrup Swinney paddles back to the steps with the help of instructor Gabee Permenter



Top row, from left: Devina Cash helps a young swimmer. Lifeguard Hailey Sleeper holds Hailee Mann, while chatting with fellow swimmer Leibel Firks and mom Andrea Firks. Richie Rolfe works with Hannah on her kicks.

Above: Lifeguard Hailey Sleeper and swimmer Hailee Mann.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Zack Cinek
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Mike A'Dair

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Mike A'Dair

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Budget |
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Grand Jury |
Over on Page 10

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Decline of morale in WUSD

To the Editor:

I can no longer remain silent concerning the rapid decline of morale in the Willits Unified School District. In my opinion, this low morale lies at the feet of the district office and the school board.

The following items will illustrate my growing concerns.

The loss of two very fine counselors at Willits High School was very damaging for the staff and students.

Another unfortunate decision has been the moving of the third grade from Blosser Lane Elementary School to Brookside, and now moving them back to Blosser Lane. This action has caused an increased workload in both schools and stress on students and parents. In my opinion, a more complete study should have been made.

Now, the district administration and the school board has decided to replace the media center librarian with a classified person and someone from MCOE. This decision is tragic.

When Willits High School decided to upgrade the library, we built a new beautiful building to house our new media center. Mrs. Erma Conant, our professionally credentialed librarian, myself and Vice Principal Ernie Carlson collaborated with staff input to write a proposal for a grant to create a Title I Phase II media center.

The entire high school staff was involved during the entire process. Erma and I visited many new media centers in Northern California to get ideas and see how they were operating. After our visitations, we both felt our plans were far better in making our media center more student-friendly.

The Willits High School media center became an outstanding learning center for students and teachers to work together on classroom projects. The media center became not only a learning center, it became a center where students and staff felt welcomed. Many schools throughout the state came to visit and admire our media center and, as principal, I was more than pleased to conduct tours and introduce Mrs. Conant, our outstanding librarian, who would proudly show our visitors all the features of this great learning center. It has now drastically changed.

I have served on 13 WASC committees, both as a visiting committee member and as the chairperson for 10 of the visiting teams. Of these 13 school visits, I never experienced any school receiving a notice of potential loss of their accreditation. The visiting committee must have been very concerned as they studied Willits High School.

Low morale of many if not all teachers at Willits High can have a very serious effect on the quality of the classroom environment, which in turn affects the quality of learning in said classrooms. The current superintendent seems to shun input from staff and concerned parents, as well as friends of our schools.

Over the years I have been retired, I never second-guessed school personnel. As I mentioned in my opening statement, I have remained silent, but after spending almost a third of my life working in Willits Unified, I had to speak up.

I served as an administrator in the Willits school district and as a principal at Willits High School for 19 years, and as principal at Blosser Lane for seven years.

I would hope the school board would take a hard look at the health of this fine school district. It is a very hard road to come back from the damage low staff morale can cause.

Willits is a wonderful community and deserves an outstanding school district.

Charles Davison, Willits High School principal (retired) and Blosser Lane principal (retired)

Heroes

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago I saw something so beautiful that it literally brought tears to my eyes: a great local school teacher at work. Recently, Janice Haschak, a teacher at Blosser Lane Elementary in Willits, attended a seminar I taught at Willits Community Theatre about directing for the small theater. Mrs. Haschak invited me to see a play she had written for her students to perform called "California, My Golden State."

I wasn't sure what to expect, but Mrs. Haschak's passion for her students piqued my interest, and I went to the show. I don't know that I have much to teach Janice, but she and her inspired students sure taught me a few things. To begin with, I learned that you don't have to be an "adult" to teach. These wonderful kids were so inspiring and energetic that I was pulled into their performances, and I learned things about a state that I have lived in for most of my adult life, that I never knew.

We have some marvelous, gifted teachers in Willits. We have many great young people, sponges to learn whatever they can experience. Inspiring teachers and parents who care about and support their children are the keys to bright futures.

I've been privileged to know quite a number of our fine local teachers and counselors over the years. Many of them are friends that I love and respect. When you see a school teacher or school counselor, let them know how much you appreciate what they do. It's a job for heroes.

Bill Barksdale, Willits

Warning

To the Editor:

I would like to advise Mendocino County people that "Redwood Police Activity League" is not a recognized Police Activities League and does not have a chief of police or other law enforcement agency association. It is not located in Mendocino

County. The telemarketer Neal Enterprises, of Santa Rosa, has been recently released/replaced by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Youth Activities League as a fundraising source, and may be using our donation list.

Redwood PAL, to the best of my knowledge, is a youth football team from Sonoma County. More can be verified at the California Police Activities League website, www.calpal.org, or the Attorney General's non-profit reporting website. Give if you wish, but please be informed.

Michael Tobin, president, Mendocino County SAL (Sheriff's Activities League)

What is "fracking"?

To the Editor:

What the heck is fracking?

Here are some websites I found to try and start educating myself on the issue of "fracking" here in California, a term we will no doubt be hearing more and more about.

If you are as undereducated as I am on this subject, I thought you might want to read what I've found and pass it along. My belief is that it is incredibly important to read all sides of an issue, so that we can have intelligent debates with others who see fracking as safe, well-regulated, a potential for good investment, bringing jobs to the U.S. and so on and so forth vs. seeing fracking as a process that is now being developed as our oil supplies dwindle in a way that is not as safe as we would like to believe, and bringing along with it potentially very damaging possibilities, including compromising our water, our air and our health.

I decided to start with Exxon's website to find out why fracking is considered a "good thing." I started looking into questions I had after reading Exxon's site where we can find a link to: "Debunking GasLand" (the anti-fracking movie.)

"GasLand" and "GasLand Part II" are available on Netflix. I haven't seen these films yet, but am definitely going to rent them and take a look. www.gaslandthemovie.com/about-the-film.

What Exxon says: <http://www.exxonmobilperspectives.com/2011/06/17/facts-hydraulic-fracturing-process>.

Scroll down to the quotations by "America's top regulators," and it makes you think everyone's watching out for our best interests, but I'm not so sure: <http://bseec.org/content/about-fracturing-process-barnett-shale>.

Then I researched some good links for "anti-fracking" info: the Community Rights Network of Mendocino County (CRNMC): <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Community-Rights-Network-of-Mendocino-County/682810521781217>.

They are here in our neck of the woods, and you can read the current petition trying to get this issue on the ballot in November.

For those who have concerns about this ordinance putting frogs, wildlife, and trees above humans, that's not my take on

its focus. I could sue on behalf of a frog right now if I wanted to. Instead I take this ordinance to mean it is specifically worded so that it is community-based in an attempt to have the community ("us") calling the shots, not politicians or regulators calling the shots on behalf of what they think is good for us – giving and taking as they see fit.

If Exxon wants to tear up my neighbor's land next door and "frack" that property, I believe the potential damage won't stop at our fence. This ordinance gives us a chance to deal with this, gives citizens back some power (where I personally believe it belongs), and gives us an incentive for pulling together and discussing our differences and fears and concerns.

Global Exchange: www.globalexchange.org/communityrights/campaigns/fracking.

Californians Against Fracking:

www.californiansagainstfracking.org.

To close, I will leave you with these thoughts: when we start to see letters to the editor in local newspapers by folks who are on one side of the issue or the other – fearful, contrary, putting forth hesitations, even sometimes giving incorrect information – please try to listen and respond with as much patience and respect as possible. We can learn from each other.

That's how we can move forward here and get more educated as a community, so don't be afraid to go to a city council meeting or a town hall meeting if you see it advertised in the paper. You don't have to get up and talk if you don't want to, and your being there counts for something.

Perhaps I'm naive, but it's hard to believe that all people (supporters of healthy kids and healthy home property values; peace-lovers and conservatives alike) wouldn't want to tell the government "Hell no! you can't come into our county and tell us what we need without asking us; you don't get to bring in big drilling and potential toxins to our land and water supply without our input." (I've read that up to 5 percent of the drilling casings used fail on first attempt: <http://frackingofamerica.com>.) Isn't this a no-brainer? I hope so.

Once we as a community get more educated on what "fracking" really is and what the potential dangers (until proven otherwise) are that accompany it, I'm sure we will see how sick and ironic it is that Rex Tillerson, CEO of Exxon, sued to keep fracking (that very process he purports to be benign and safe) out of his own back yard. Wow!

Read this if you want an eyeful: www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/21/exxon-ceo-rex-tillerson-lawsuit_n_4833185.html.

My intuition and my research thus far tells me that our quality of life is about to be further compromised if we don't pay attention. As I said, I'm still gathering information. Good luck with your own research!

Kate Black, Willits

m•pho•tog•ra•phress

[fuh-tog-ruh-friss]

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



707-972-7047

maureengetsmail@gmail.com



Willits Frontier Days board members attending the reading of their proclamation at the Willits City Council meeting last week. From left: Harold Potter, Kelly Figg-Hoblyn, Dean Verdort, Racheal Verdort, Stacy Gregory, Al Robinson, Jeff Cook, Tylor Yador and Deana Rutledge. Kneeling: Marcy Barry, Karen Cavanaugh and Tracy LeGris.

Let it Begin!

It's officially time for Willits Frontier Days: the lamppost silhouettes are up, the proclamation has been read, and this weekend, the events start! Sunday, June 22 will feature the Hometown Celebration, Cutest Little Cowboy and Cowgirl contest, the National Anthem contest, and the Sweetheart horsemanship judging. Next week, more events are planned, including the Hometown Celebration on Thursday and Truck Pulls on Friday. Check www.WillitsFrontierDays.com for a complete schedule of events, entry forms and up-to-date information. Sweetheart contestants are able to sell tickets until 4 pm on Friday, June 24. The 2014 contestants include: **Haley Schuck**, 485-4043, haleyschuck@willitsunified.com; **Emily Leishman**, 354-0262; and **Calayan Knight**, 841-6343, calayansweetheartcontestant.14@gmail.com.

Photos by Maureen Moore



HORSE SHOW: Equestrians show their skills riding English and Western as well as in hand for showmanship. **GYMKHANA:** Riders run barrels and weave poles in this fast-paced event.

6/22 | Hometown: 8 am, Gymkhana: to follow | Jack Tharp Arena | Free to Attend

CUTEST LITTLE COWBOY AND COWGIRL: Youngsters compete with an interview and a stick race for the title.

6/22 | 10 am | Rodeo Grounds | Free to Attend

SWEETHEART JUDGING: Contestants ride a horsemanship pattern, complete their Queen run, and answer questions about rodeo, horses and tack, and more. Poise and personality is at 2 pm at the Veterans Hall.

6/22 | 10 am | Jack Tharp Arena | Free to Attend

NATIONAL ANTHEM CONTEST: Singers perform the famous song for a chance to sing it for the crowds at the parade and rodeos.

6/22 | Noon | Rodeo Grounds | Free to Attend



The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Puzzle Page & More

In The Stars

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

People seem to be going out of their way to be nice to you, Aries. While you may suspect they have ulterior motives, their kindness really is nothing more than good will.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, approach your workload with an optimistic attitude this week. You can expect your efforts to produce positive results that don't go unnoticed.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

It is an uphill battle to focus on chores this week, Gemini. You would rather be out having fun, but putting off chores now will only lead to more work down the road.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, although you are capable of keeping up appearances this week, you will be lost in your own thoughts. Personal issues prove to be a distraction.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, serve as a diplomat this week, placing yourself in the middle of conflict because you want to help. Keep a level head and don't get swept into the argument.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, your ability to focus is very strong, but this week you cannot seem to get your mind to cooperate. You may have a million things to think about.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

You are tempted to join the party this week, even though you know it is probably a better idea to decline. But the prospect of socializing and having a good time is too tempting.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you often feel uncomfortable when you have too many loose ends. It may take quite a while this week to wrap up all of your obligations before you can relax.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, the more you ponder the decisions you have to make, the more you struggle to determine a positive outcome. Give yourself some breathing room.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Career issues must be dealt with, Capricorn. You may have been running through various options, and if you have reached a decision, then go with your gut instincts.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, although everyone around you seems to be stressing out, for some reason you are able to breeze through your days without a worry in the world.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Your intuition is telling you to proceed with caution, Pisces. Watch where you step, but don't let caution take over your life.

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

Crossword Puzzle

		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9
10	11								12		
13									14		
15									16		
17									18		
19			20						21		
22				23	24	25	26		27		
28									29		
				34			35				
				36					37		
				38					39		
44									41	42	43
48							49				
50							51				

CLUES ACROSS

- Missouri River tributary
- Orange-brown African antelope
- Access steps
- Scottish word for gutter
- Oiled whetstone
- Tranquility
- Indian rat snake genus
- Competent
- Premier ___ Wine
- Carbamide
- Belongs to "2001" computer
- Campaign commission
- Lives without oxygen
- Blue Hen school
- Herb-grinding tools
- "Fast Five" star's initials
- Does not pay debts
- Word element meaning life
- Town of 1993 Texas siege
- Prohibitions
- Cardboard box (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- Pale (archaic)
- ___ Marie Presley
- Bachelor of ___
- Deuce
- Light brown color
- Vision organ
- Australian bear
- A single occurrence
- Stinging insect
- High voice
- About title
- Medieval fiddle
- Hillside (Soot.)
- Yemen capital
- Plural of 40 across
- Cloths showing needlework skills
- Settled a debt
- Cause annoyance in
- Million gallons per day (abbr.)
- Parson
- Marched in a procession
- People of Southeast Asia
- Hoopoe bird genus
- Unit of a tennis match
- Steep-sided valleys
- China's largest ghost town
- Undergraduate degree
- Finish
- 1st state
- South by west
- Tea wagon
- Lactaid enzyme
- British prep school
- Blatted
- Woven pigtail
- Boast
- Saliva
- Countertenor
- Close by
- Beats per minute
- Tiny drink
- Macaws
- Married woman



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!

Sudoku

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

COLUMN | Relationship Ins and Outs

Your Relationship Questions

Editor's Note: Doris Weir is opening up her column to answer your relationship questions anonymously. Please send your questions to doriswier@incatec.net. Make them as specific as possible. We will never publish names and will keep your information confidential. Your questions may be about any type of relationship, including those with partners, parents, children, friends or co-workers.

Dear Doris:

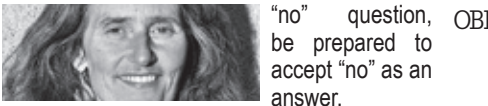
My question is about the need for clear and honest closure, when that time has come. How can I ask for – and receive – that? with appreciation, M.

Dear M.:

Thank you for having the courage to send me an important relationship question. You are the first to take me up on my offer to the community for the submission of their most "burning relationship questions."

I assume you are sensing that a significant relationship of yours is ending. You would like to experience honest closure with the person involved, but you're not sure how to achieve that.

First, you will have to ask for a clear and honest end to the relationship and whether he or she is open to it. Since this is a "yes" or



"no" question, be prepared to accept "no" as an answer.

If the answer is "no," you will have to find your own closure. Often, when important relationship desires are not being fulfilled, we have to tap into our own resources and those around us. Ceremonies and rituals are powerful tools not only for celebrations but also for times of transition and grief. They are a creative and healing outlet for our emotions, and they help us move forward. They can be simple and short. I recommend that you create a ritual or ceremony to bring closure to the relationship. Creating or finding an object that represents the relationship and including it in your ceremony or ritual can be helpful.

If the answer is "yes," you may want to look into ending the relationship with a professional at your side. If you decide to find closure without a third person involved, I recommend the two of you together create an ending ritual or ceremony as a way to acknowledge all the good things about your relationship and what was difficult and challenging. As before, I recommend that you find an object or create one that represents your relationship and include it in your ceremony or ritual.

In any case, allow your friends and family to support you in this process, especially when you experience overwhelming feelings. Do not hesitate to reach out to them.

Warmly,
Doris

Doris Weir is a certified relationship and life coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples, families, and professionals. In addition she offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution and deepening your intimacy and connection in your partnership. For more information on the process call 707-456-9246. www.embraceconflicts.com and www.facebook.com/doriswier

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2014 Hometown Celebration

Thursday, June 26

Willits' wonderful Hometown Celebration is coming up soon, set for next Thursday, June 26, from 5 to 9 pm. Once again, downtown businesses will stay open late, luring in passers-by with samples and special deals. Musicians and dancers will perform in the parking lots, the Willits Chamber of Commerce's Local First will operate its fabulous prize wheel, and kids will enjoy a bounce house, dunk tank, and the Boy Scouts monkey bridge. Organizations and other businesses will set up shop at booths and tables, offering giveaways, raffle tickets, and demonstrations of their products and services.

Food booths include Marie Laure Crepes, Midnight Moon Delish (with their hotdogs, roasted almonds and tasty drinks) and Rio's Fish & Chips. It's Time restaurant will offer samples of vegetarian sushi.

Scoops Frozen Yogurt – the host of the prize wheel this year – is offering barbecue and introducing their Double Rainbow ice cream. The Les Schwab booth will be offering the Reed ladies' cupcakes at their booth: winners of the "Best Tasting Cupcake" award at the Cupcake Wars event earlier this year. A new Girl Scout and Brownie Troop, mentored by Ann Maglinte and Barbara Willens, will be selling sno cones made with natural syrups.

Scoops will also be the home of Creative Snapshots Photobooth, which will be giving away free souvenir Hometown Celebration photos. Brooktrails Fire Chief Daryl Schoeppner will be showing off his arson dog, Ashes, at Scoops, as well. Cat's Meow will have a "pick your discount" opportunity to get 10 to 40 percent off one item, or a quick scan of their ad's QR code with a smart phone will get a guaranteed percent discount.

The Little Lake Fire Department is holding an Ice Cream Social at the Firehouse, giving away free ice cream to anybody under 16. Fire Association president Kevin Reedy invites the public to "meet the volunteers and see the community's firehouse and equipment." Colorful fire department T-shirts will be for sale.

Yokum's Body Shop will bring Jeff Yokum's courtesy car downtown, a 2014 Ford Focus, along with flyers for their car wash and detailing package, and T-shirts to give away.

Live music and dance, coordinated by Jacqueline Morninglight of Cat's Meow, will be offered in several locations, in the Hathaway parking lot, in front of Roadhouse Music, in the alley between It's Time and the Noyo Theatre, in the Food Court in the City Parking Lot, and on East Mendocino between Ardella's and Willits Online. Performers include Schindig, Funkacillin, the Dorian May Jazz Trio (with local guests sitting in), the New Blu Trio, the Gypsy



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Willits Weekly | June 19, 2014 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 5

Thursday, June 19

Hemp Fest: Now and Then Film Series presents "Hemp Festival & Double Feature Night," to celebrate Hemp History Month, Thursday, June 19 at the Little Lake Grange, 219 School Street. "We will be tasting hemp foods, displaying hemp products and learning about our new future of growing hemp in California, as the laws are changing quickly. Hemp dealers, foods and artists are welcome to display and sell. Call 459-6362 for more info." Double feature of hemp films: documentary "Hemp and the Rule of Law" ("this one-hour documentary traces hemp's legendary past in U.S. agriculture and chronicles the heated debate to return the crop to American farmers") at 7 pm and "Emperor of Hemp" ("tells the tale of cult folk hero Jack Herer, author of the hempster Bible "The Emperor Wears No Clothes") at 8:30 pm. Suggested donation of \$5 to \$10. Organic popcorn and chocolate, refreshments for sale by the Grange. Info: 459-6362.

Shanachie Pub: Steven Bates, 6 pm, and Flashbulb Fires, indie haze-pop. 9 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, June 20

"See How They Run": English comedy in three acts by Philip King, will open tonight, at the Willits Community Theatre. Directed by WCT veteran Joe Dowling, this fun farce is set in 1943 in the living room of lead character Penelope Toop, a former actress and now wife of the local vicar, the Rev. Lionel Toop. With Gretchen Anderson as Penelope Toop, and Steve Marston, Kevin Clay, Lee Stipe, Kevin Moore, Mary Burns, Tara Logan and Jason Edgington. June 20 through July 6, at the WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub). Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and Sunday matinees (June 29 and July 6) at 2 pm for \$10. There will be no performance on Friday, July 4. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com/event/profile/709960; or

phone the WCT office at 707-459-0895 for credit card orders. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

Saturday, June 21

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 (recommended): 459-5992: seabiscuit@instawave.net, or www.seabiscuitheritage.org/tourschedule.php.

Willits Airport: "When Pigs Fly-In": The public is invited to see aircraft from throughout Northern California and enjoy fresh local food on Saturday, June 21, when the Willits Airport hosts "When Pigs Fly-In." The event, from 11 am to 1 pm, features burritos, tacos, enchiladas and other authentic Mexican food catered by Taqueria Ramirez, including the "Orville Burrito." Enter your stuffed pig in the Best Pig Contest. Souvenir T-shirts will be available: "I Pigg'd Out ... at When Pigs Fly-In!" Info: visit WhenPigsFlyIn.com.

AAUW's End of the Year Luncheon: from 11 am to 1:30 pm, at the home and garden of Emmy Good. American Association of University Women program will include: Scholarship recipients, Tech Trek girls, welcoming guests & installation of new officers. Lunch provided by Emmy Good. (Gluten free, vegetarian & sugar free selections: RSVP) Folks are welcome to see daughter Keena Good's metal sculpture studio, walk Bill Good's gently graded paths through 30 acres of Redwoods, Fir, Tan Oak and Madrone, and view the amazing artwork in the Goods' home. Carpool at 10:45 am from 245 Redwood. RSVP: 459-4444.

"Woven Worlds: Native Peoples of Mendocino County": opening reception today, for the Mendocino County Museum's newest exhibit, celebrating the Native American heritage of Mendocino County. The free reception, from 1 to 4 pm, will feature dancers, samples of traditional foods, and an opportunity to experience the exhibit and meet the designers. "This is the first new permanent exhibit remodel at the Mendocino County Museum in many years and represents the coming together of historical research, community outreach, creative design, and fabrication. What started as a simple project has evolved into one of our largest exhibits, with a wide variety of displays and uses of technology to share information." 400 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendocinomuseum.org and 459-2736.

Pine Mountain Firewise event: hosted by the Pine Mountain Firewise-Fire Safe Council. Raffle for a cord of firewood:

tickets \$4 each or \$20 for six. Proceeds go toward helping the Pine Mountain community become firewise and fire-safe. Info or to buy tickets: call Angie Herman, 459-3265.

"See How They Run": See Friday, June 20 listing for details.

"Get Your Funk On": a tribute to Motown featuring live dance music by "The Bay Area's Dance Kings," Afrofunk Experience and jazz/hip hop trio from San Francisco, The Broun Fellinis. Food and drinks by Zocalo Catering (starts at 5:30 pm). Drink Me Cooler. Frey Vineyards and Lagunitas Brewing Company. A benefit for the Little Lake Grange Farm School. 7 pm. \$15; \$25 couple; \$10 with student ID; kids 12 & under free (and welcome). Advance tickets at J.D. Redhouse. See article elsewhere on Calendar page about Zocalo Catering.

Sunday, June 22

Willits Frontier Days Kickoff Events: Horse Show, 8 am: Equestrians show their skills riding English and Western as well as in hand for showmanship. Gymkhana (to follow Horse Show): Riders run barrels and weave poles in this fast-paced event. Jack Sharp Arena. Free.

Cutest Little Cowboy and Cowgirl, 10 am: Youngsters compete with an interview and a stick race for the title. Rodeo Grounds. Free.

Sweetheart Judging, 10 am: Contestants ride a horsemanship pattern, complete their Queen run, and answer questions about rodeo, horses and tack, and more. Jack Sharp Arena. Free. Poise and personality is at 2 pm at the Veterans Hall.

National Anthem Contest, noon: Singers perform the famous song for a chance to sing it for the crowds at the parade and rodeos. Rodeo Grounds. Free.

Grange Pancake Breakfast: The monthly breakfast (every fourth Sunday) at the Little Lake Grange is Sunday, June 22, from 8 am to 11 am. Choose Sourdough Wholegrain or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$7; \$6 seniors; \$4 under 10. Extra sides of organic fruit in season or Amish maple syrup, \$1. The Grange Youth will be fundraising with a table of yummy baked goods. 291 School Street (two blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of 101).

Afrofunk Experience



2nd Annual Paella @ Adam's Fundraiser: Willits Rotary Club's Relay for Life team will be holding their 2nd annual Paella Feed fundraiser on Sunday, June 22 from 3 to 5:30 pm at Adam's Restaurant, 50 South Main Street. Chef Adam will cook up his famous paella (lots of seafood and rice), and there will be a live auction: in the newly remodeled back courtyard at Adam's. Only 50 tickets, \$25 each, are available. Advance tickets only. For tickets or info, call: Jerry Myer at 472-2940. The 3rd annual Relay for Life Willits will be held July 26 and 27 from 10 am Saturday to 10 am Sunday in Recreation Grove Park.

Monday, June 23

Shanachie Pub: Portland trio Three for Silver. 6 pm. No cover. Visit www.facebook.com/ThreeForSilver. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Tuesday, June 24

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movie: "How to Train Your Dragon 2," "The Fault in Our Stars," and "Neighbors." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Thursday, June 26

Haehl Creek Trail Work Party: Major effort today, Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28. "Pack a

lunch, grab a bottle of water, get out your crustiest shoes, throw a rake or shovel in the back of your car or pickup, and join the work parties. Contact Mike Aplet at 459-6413; mike.aplet@gmail.com for details. See article on page 14 for more details.

7th annual Hometown Celebration 2014: "Celebrating Our Independents," from 5 to 9 pm, all over downtown Willits. Local

effort today, Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28. "Pack a



businesses and downtown restaurants stay open late, offering deals, samples, goodies and special activities. Live music: Funkacilian, Dorian May Trio, with local musicians sitting in, the New Blu Trio (Anita Blu, Nancy New and Don Fiers); the Willits Community Drum Circle, and more. Dance performance by Kathleen Ferri-Taylor's young students at Cloud 9 studio. Food vendors include: Delish Willits with specialty hotdogs, roasted almonds and hibiscus tea; Marie Laure's sweet crepes; Rio's Fish & Chips and snow cones with natural fruit syrups by the new Girl Scout & Brownie Troop #10457. Crafts booths, business tables, the Willits Chamber of Commerce's famous prize wheel, and more. Info at the chamber: 459-7910. See article on page 5 for details.

Community Hu Song: In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, June 26, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. HU (pronounced "hue") is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475

"See How They Run": See Friday, June 20 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Jazz Night, 8 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, June 27

19th Annual Kate Wolf Music Festival: Singer Joan Baez is the Saturday night headliner at the 19th annual Kate Wolf Music Festival this year, June 27, 28 and 29, at the Black Oak Ranch in Laytonville. "A wonderful place to relax and enjoy a great weekend with friends, family and lovers of fabulous music." The list of performers also includes Indigo Girls, Playing for Change, Los Lobos, Garth Hudson (organist for The Band), Darlene Love, Jackie Green, BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet, Tom Paxton, Poor Man's Whiskey, and many more. Kid Zone includes activities all three days, including arts & crafts, workshops, a hay bale slide, and music, including train songs by Willits' Greg Schindel. For more info, to buy tickets, and to listen to music by the performers, visit: www.katewolfmusicfestival.com.

"See How They Run": See Friday, June 20 listing for details.

Joan Baez



Truck Pulls: 6 pm at the Jack Sharp Arena. \$13, \$5 children. Come see locals and professionals try for a full pull. Tickets at the gate or available from WFD Sweetheart candidates.

Street Dance: Live music by Double Standyrd, Mendocino County Blues/Southern Rock band, to follow Truck Pulls. At the Rodeo Grounds. Free to attend. 21+ over for inside the gate, with family-friendly area outside.

Shanachie Pub: Darius Lux, 9 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, June 28

19th Annual Kate Wolf Music Festival: at Black Oak Ranch in Laytonville. See Friday, June 27 listing for details.

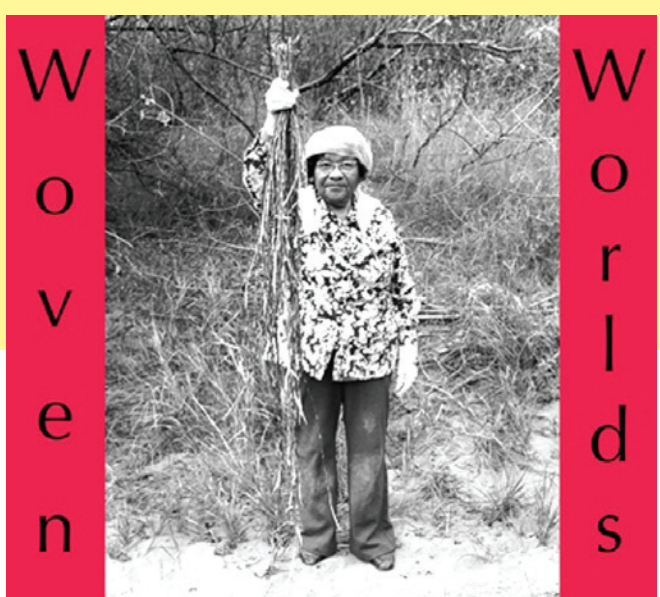
"See How They Run": See Friday, June 20 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Savannah Flamenco, 8 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, June 29

19th Annual Kate Wolf Music Festival: at Black Oak Ranch in Laytonville. See Friday, June 27 listing for details.

"See How They Run": Sunday matinee at 3 pm. See Friday, June 20 listing for details.



'Woven Worlds' illuminates past, present of

Mendocino County Native Americans

On Saturday, June 21, the Mendocino County Museum will welcome all to an opening reception for "Woven Worlds," a new permanent exhibit celebrating the Native American heritage of Mendocino County. The free reception, from 1 to 4 pm, will feature opening blessings, dancers, samples of traditionally inspired foods and an opportunity to experience the exhibit and meet the exhibit's designers.

The exhibit has an interactive focus that features many hands-on activities, including a wheel depicting seasonal foods and shelter that can be turned to show the life-sustaining tasks and migrations Native Americans engaged in at different times of the year, and a map of Mendocino County's tribal homelands that lights up to show where tribes originally lived and where modern day rancherias and reservations are.

A language station houses an iPad with a specially designed app that allows visitors to listen to words in Central and Northern Pomo, Yuki and Nomlaki. At sculptural kiosks, visitors can play clapsticks, try using a pump drill, learn basket-weaving techniques, find out how archaeologists date findings and play the Native American game of Staves.

Curated by ethnohistorian Dr. Victoria Patterson with the support of design team Kiersten Hanna Frey, Addison Moore and Janet Rayner, Woven Worlds is the culmination of more than 40 years of research and advocacy by Patterson, who has collaborated to help tribes document and preserve their cultures and languages and has published two books on the Round Valley and Russian River Pomo tribes.

The Mendocino County Museum is located at 400 East Commercial Street. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-2736 or visit www.MendocinoMuseum.org.

Kinetic Carnivale, August 8 & 10 Volunteers needed

Kinetic Carnivale 2014 is coming up, and volunteers are needed. "We always need help with setup, construction and breakdown," Carnivale coordinator Lara Eventide. Volunteer application forms are available at www.kineticcarnivale.com. "Do you want to be on the Kinetic Carnivale 4th of July parade float? Dress up in summer steampunk, and boogie with electro swing beats on a 48-foot drop deck truck. We are especially looking for a steampunk "Betsy Ross" to be 'sewing' on the truck." Check out the "Kinetic Carnivale Volunteers" page on Facebook for more information.

Ongoing Events

Willits Farmers Market: Summer market at City Park, every Thursday from 3 to 6 pm. Greens, onions, strawberries, and other spring produce, garden starts, local meats and fish, dinner, crafts, live music, and more.

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

Life Changes: Discussion and support group with Linda Posner, Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtcl Road.

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

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

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Beginner's classes in basic and mainstream square dance, Monday nights at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6:45 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Info: 459-9526.

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

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Just For Fun Choir: directed and accompanied by Nancy New. Meets Mondays at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtcl Road, from 1 to 2:30 pm. Accepting new members of all ages and abilities. Info: call Nancy New at 459-1276.

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

'See How They Run' opens at WCT Friday

"See How They Run," an English comedy in three acts by Philip King, opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, June 20. Directed by WCT veteran Joe Dowling, this classic farce is set in 1947 in a small English town where Lionel Toop, a mild-mannered vicar, is married to Penelope, a vivacious and outgoing former actress.

The action takes place in the Toop living room, with four doors for lots of coming and going. The complications quickly turn swift and the situations hilarious as the characters engage in a series of mistaken identities. The scandal kicks off when Clive, an American GI and former acting pal of Penelope's, drops by while Lionel is out. Clive puts on Lionel's religious vestments so that local people will be less suspicious.

The real trouble starts when Miss Skillin, a cranky neighbor who loathes and disapproves of Penelope, shows up and touches liquor for the first time. Add in the Russian spy, who escapes from a nearby guard house and finds his way into the mix while being sought by local police. Then into the living room comes Penelope's uncle, the Bishop of Lax, and Arthur Humphrey, a local parson, and the action becomes so wild and crazy that audiences may be left exhausted from laughing.

Actress Gretchen Anderson returns to the WCT stage after a brief absence to play Penelope Toop. Other members of the cast include Steve Marston, Kevin Clay, Lee Stipe, Kevin Moore, Mary Burns, Tara Logan and Jason Edgington.

Performances of "See How They Run" will run from June 20 through July 6 on Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Friday and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and two Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10. There will be no performance on Friday, July 4. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com/event/profile/709960; or phone the WCT office at 459-0895 for credit card orders.

— Steve Hellman, for WCT

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THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

(PG13) 2 hrs 6 mins

Fri-Sun: 12:00, 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15pm

NEIGHBORS

(R) 1 hr 37 mins

Fri-Sun: 11:45am, 2:00, 4:15, 6:30 & 8:45pm
Mon-Thurs: 2:00, 4:15, 6:30 & 8:45pm

Movie Times for 6/20 thru 6/26

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

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Summer Solstice Pet Adoption Day

Celebrate the Summer Solstice this Saturday, June 21, by bringing love into your home with a new dog or a cat adopted from the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County. Realtor Bill Barksdale will again be offering this Pet Adoption Day in Willits in the parking lot of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, at 1460 South Main Street (just north of McDonalds), from 11 am to 2 pm.

"This is the third year we are doing pet adoption days," Barksdale said. "The Humane Society tells me they are very pleased with the number of dogs and

cats that get placed into good homes" thanks to this event. Some Willits residents get so encouraged to adopt a shelter pet that they go down to the Humane Society in Redwood Valley after the event, to find a dog or cat to bring home. "I'm a real animal lover, so for me the pleasure is in knowing that animals who need a loving home are finding one," he said.

Barksdale praised the "open-hearted, beautiful and compassionate" staffers and volunteers at the Humane Society, who will be bringing up

Read the rest of **Adoption** | Over on Page 9

Furry Friends - Dashing Danny

Meet the very dashing Danny! He had previously been adopted from our shelter a couple of years ago, but then became a lost dog. We tried our best to find his family, but they had moved and left no forwarding address. So Danny is now looking for his true forever and loving home. Danny is about 3 to 4 years old, weighs about 56 pounds, and we believe he is a mix of Bull Terrier and Chinese Sharpei. Danny has become a staff and volunteer favorite, and although we will miss him, we really want him to have a home to call his own!

Danny is a super-sweet, affectionate, and attentive dog. He walks great on the leash, he seems to know some basic commands, and since he has previously been a family pet, he may already be housetrained. He is definitely going to make a great family pet or companion. We hope you will come meet him and take him for a walk, or just hang out with him in our adoption room and see if he would make a great addition to your home!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets or visit our shelter during shelter hours. Info: Sage Mountainfire at (707)463-4654.



Photo by Katherine Houghtby



Some beautiful dogs and cats from the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County.



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Below: Jessie Sue Atkinson and Jordan Foster, students at Laytonville High, left, interview Ralph Cantor, right, for "Youth Speaks Out."

Photos by Dan Roberts

Bottom: The poster for last month's presentation by Ralph Cantor.



Kate Maxwell
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Ralph Cantor: 'Marijuana and the Adolescent Brain'

Jayma Shields Spence, director of Laytonville Healthy Start, and Dan Roberts, producer of KZYX's youth radio show "Youth Speaks Out," are both involved with teenagers as educators and mentors and really care about the kids of Mendocino County.

As long-time community members, both know that growing up in Mendocino means growing up in a culture with a unique relationship to marijuana, that continues to evolve over time. Finding ways to talk honestly with teenagers about their drug use and its potential effects, in the midst of a changing marijuana industry, is one challenge that Spence and Roberts, along with their fellow educators, guidance counselors, and many parents of teenagers, reexamine daily.

Spence, a native of Laytonville, first encountered the research of Ralph Cantor at a UC Berkeley conference, where he was a featured speaker on marijuana and youth development.

Cantor worked for decades as a counselor and educator in the Alameda County school system, and emphasized the need to "move beyond the prejudices that the war on drugs has caused" – on both sides – to better research the possible impacts on youth.

Cantor's experiences teaching in Berkeley led him to explore research indicating that marijuana can have specific neurological effects on teenagers in particularly crucial stages of their lives, and to develop a set of

strategies around talking with them about it.

Working at Healthy Start several years later, Spence found many parent attendees curious about how marijuana might impact their kids, and kids in school were confused about how to understand medical marijuana. "It really solidified the need for reliable information," she says, and she remembered Cantor's emphasis on creating open community dialogue about the same issue.

The following year, she invited him to speak in Laytonville and enlisted Dan Roberts of Willits, poetry teacher and youth radio mentor, to record the broadcast for KZYX.

In the presentation, Cantor outlined the current science behind how marijuana interacts with teenage brains, affecting dopamine, serotonin, and neural pathway development.

Cantor also spoke of how repeated marijuana use can impact a teen's

Read the rest of **Marijuana** | Over on Page 11

The rest of **Adoption** | From Page 8

dogs and cats available for adoption. "This is one of the Humane Society's big events of the year," Barksdale said, "and there will be food and celebration."

Animals ready for adoption through the Humane Society are all spayed or neutered, micro chipped, vaccinated, de-wormed and de-fleaed. Cats are tested for feline leukemia and feline AIDS, and dogs are tested for heartworm. Both kinds of animals come with a certificate for a free well-pet exam with a local veterinarian and a free bag of Science Diet food.

The fee for adopting a dog is \$175, and the fee for adopting a cat is \$80.

Donations to the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County can be brought to the Summer Solstice Adoption Day event, or can be mailed to 9700 Ova Drive, Redwood Valley, CA 95470. Donations can also be given with credit cards or a PayPal account at www.mendohumanesociety.com.

For more information about pet adoptions or how to help with the Humane Society's work, call 485-0123.

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Help Wanted
Medical Assistant. Long Valley Health Center currently has openings for FT and PT Medical Assistants. Job duties include assisting the nursing and medical staff in a variety of patient care tasks. Any medical experience is a plus. Will train a qualified applicant. EOE. To apply, visit www.longvalley.org and fill out the application in the "Employment" section of our website.

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From Green Uprising Farm's goat herd: Nubians, Nubian-La Mancha crosses and Nubian Oberhasli crosses. Male and female. Approximately 3 to 4 months old. Price variable: \$50 to \$150 or barter. Fed no GMO alfalfa or imported feed: these goats and their parents browse and forage on Little Lake Valley farmland and eat leftovers from local gardens and orchards. 707-216-5549 or homesteadingsara@gmail.com.

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Patricia Johnson for her part in reaching the first sweet labor agreement in recent memory.

Marisela de Santa Anna, who teaches Spanish at the high school, reminded the school board at the June 11 meeting of what has been lost at the high school over the past year: a junior counselor, a senior counselor, a career center technical aide, a math teacher, an earth sciences teacher, a woodshop instructor, a U.S. history teacher, a chemistry and physics teacher, a librarian, an ROP construction teacher and one-half of a school psychologist.

"If the students are bailing – and I think they are – then something is wrong," said de Santa Anna.

"In the beginning of the year, when [counselor] Tanya [Ramming] left, I stood up here at two different board meetings and said what a mess this place was," said Jeff Bergmann, a social studies and leadership teacher at Willits High who is moving to another school. "It was, 'OK.' All the changes on campus: we feel like it's 'OK.' It's like a constant ignore. [It is like the administration is saying] 'We are going to do what we want to do, and screw the teachers,' the people who matter most to your district, to your kids, to everything.

"We work our asses off," Bergmann said. "We care about these kids, dearly.... Yeah, spirit's kind of low, but that's just kind of the culture. It's hard as a leadership teacher getting kids jazzed about stuff. But it's gone from that to even lower morale.

"There's a real big problem. Several. They've all said it. And we've been saying it the whole year. And I feel like the editorials by the district office are glossing over the problem.

"I'm tired of hearing about how we're changing," Bergmann said. "What are we changing for? The worst? There's an institutional memory loss [underway] at this school. This school, when I came here, was beautiful. Sitting on this campus, you had teachers out in the quad, eating lunch. Connection. It was a very positive experience for me as a new teacher. And this year, there is none of that. It's gone. These kids' morale is so low, it's incredible."

"I want to tell you about my son," said Liesl Hendrix, a parent and teacher at Baechtel Grove Middle School. "He graduated six years ago. And he had somebody directing him. He had somebody who was able to give him all of the information he needed. He knew when he had to take his SATs. He knew when he had to take his ACT. He knew everything he had to do.

"My junior? We just found out from an outside source that my junior should have taken her SATs back in May," Hendrix said. "And I feel like right now – as a parent who has a child becoming a senior – that my daughter's getting the short end of the stick. Not just my daughter. All of our kids. All of our children going through our school system right now, are not getting the education they deserve, that they have a right to.

"I understand that money's important, but these kids have to be more important than that."

Brooktrails resident Mike Aplet told the board what having a competent counseling department can do for students and for families.

"Both of my girls went here, to this school, and went on to excellent colleges. Molly went to Holyoke, became a software engineer, got a job working for Google. She's still there.

Naomi went to Cal, got a degree in history, then went on to grad school, and got a master's in information science.

"When Naomi came into high school, she came into high school about the same time I came off the road," Aplet said. "I worked away from home. I had a daughter who was a teenager. It was a recipe for terrible things. I wasn't used to being around a teenager.

"Naomi was in the Peer Counseling Program. I credit that program for saving our relationship. To this day – she's 27 years old – we're great.

"I see this fine new library out there," he said. "And now I hear, you guys don't even want to staff it with a qualified person. That just galls me. It pisses me off. We're on a race to mediocrity here. Talk about qualified librarians, qualified counselors. 'Oh no. We're just gonna put anybody out there.'"

"I want to tell you. If my kids were here today, I would not send them to this school."

Trustee Christopher Neary asked Bergmann what, specifically, he would recommend trustees do, prompting groans from the audience.

"Goddamn!" Bergmann responded. "Are you serious? You guys are unreal. These people just read two letters to you. You had your entire leadership staff resign, with a big long letter and a speech. I don't know what else to say, sir."

Board Chairwoman Saprina Rodriguez called a recess after Bergmann's response.

Much later in the meeting, the public rose again to comment on a district plan to staff the high school media center with a non-credentialed person, a certificated employee who would clerk the library, but who (in the opinion of several former WHS librarians) would likely not be able to provide the specialized services of a trained, fully credentialed librarian.

This person, who has not been hired yet, would work under the supervision of a certificated (non-credentialed) person employed by the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE). The MCOE librarian, however, would also be servicing the libraries of 10 other schools while advising the librarian at Willits High's media center.

Mike Colvig, who is leaving his position as librarian/media center technician at WHS to take the social studies classes vacated by Bergmann, told trustees many studies have been done that show a strong correlation between having a skilled librarian in the school library and student achievement.

The board declined to render a decision on the librarian question. It will take up the issue again at a special school board meeting, as yet unscheduled, when it also considers the 2014-15 budget and the allocation of state Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) funds.

Thorns, Troupe Satya dancers, Cloud 9 dancers, the Willits Drum Circle, and more.

"Music" will also be provided by three "musical dance floors" built with **Grid Beams**, that make a musical sound when you dance on them or touch them. Tap dancer Rosie the Riveter invites other tap dancers to come out and help work out the floors: she'll have some extra tap shoes. Grid Beam will also be providing a children's play area, with lots of Grid Beams to play with, and displaying some of "the amazing Grid Beam furniture people can build," Phil Jergensen said.

Deals at downtown stores that will stay open late include a buy 2 get 1 free sale "on the entire store" at **Monkey Wrench Mens and Womens Wear** (excluding Danner boots). **Mazahar** will offer "random giveaways through the receipt books" as well as many "specials on top of specials." Willits Weekly columnist and psychic **Suzanne Wagner** is doing 30 minute introductory readings at Mazahar during Hometown Celebration: stop by the store to sign up in advance.

J.D. Redhouse is offering 20 percent off toys and gifts, samples of fudge and \$1 ice cream mini-scoops, and **The Book Juggler** will offer specials, too.

"Everything in the store is on sale, 25 to 50 percent!" said Marie Blancas of **Moon Lady and Moon Man**. "We run the sale Thursday through Sunday of Hometown Celebration weekend." Virginia Stranske of **Kimberly's Jewelry** is "happy to show people our new little location. Come by and hello!" she said.

Healing Central Chiropractic is doing free spinal screens at their booth and offering savings on their services, and **Diane Smalley**, acupuncturist, will have her homemade, life-size cloth model of the human digestive tract at her table. "If you are curious about how your belly works," Smalley said, "come check it out."

Wowser will have its "German wheel" on display, along with some Wowser bellows, jewelry made at Wowser, and "maybe people wax-working," said Cyndee Logan of Wowser. And the **Willits Bible Church** will be doing its gospel outreach.

The **Kinetic Carnivale** table will feature performers and people in steam punk costume to help promote the 3rd annual carnivale, and to recruit volunteers, too. Some lucky spinners of the Local First prize wheel will win a pair

Willits man held in attack on woman

A 71-year-old Willits man is being held in county jail on \$20,000 bail after he allegedly beat his 74-year-old, wheelchair-bound roommate during a drunken rage Tuesday evening.

Deputies went to a home in the 2200 block of Oriole Lane shortly at around 8 pm Tuesday after neighbors reported hearing suspect Joel Berkowitz arguing with the woman.

Deputies found the woman sitting next to her wheelchair on the back porch of the house. She told them Berkowitz had hit her in the face, kicked her out of her wheelchair, and threatened to kill her.

Berkowitz was found extremely intoxicated on the floor of his bedroom, the Sheriff's Office says.

He was arrested on suspicion of making criminal threats and taken to county jail.

This report based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Both contracts include a 5 percent raise in year one.

WTA Lead Negotiator Paula Nunez thanked Johnson for her work, adding: "This is the first time in eight years we are starting the summer without being in impasse."

CSEA President Dany Laurent also praised Johnson, saying: "This is the first year in a long time we have had good communication with the superintendent."

The most salient element of the school district budget is how the state has changed the way education is funded. The state has imposed a funding plan, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), and has decided local school districts can decide how to spend that money, to a great extent.

Within the LCFF is something called the Local Control Accountability Program (LCAP) which dictates LCAP expenditures must be aimed at helping low-income students, English-learners, and students being raised by foster families. State support under the LCFF and LCAP is expected to increase annually for the next several years.

In 2014-15, the district will receive an additional \$1.15 million over the current year's budget. In 2015-16, it will receive another \$928,058, and in the following year, it will get a further \$515,000.

This means total district revenue over the next three years is expected to increase from \$15.4 million in the current year to \$15.9 million in 2014-15, to \$16.6 million in 2015-16 to \$16.77 million in 2016-17.

As a result, the district will add numerous programs and positions over the next three years.

of tickets to the Grand Ball or one of four pairs of adult day tickets to the August 9 and 10 event.

Arabella Soap Company is offering a free bar of soap with a \$20 purchase and \$1 off Grapefruit Body Wash.

Celtic Heritage Destinations will have information about tours and cruises, including a "Photography Basics and Beyond" cruise to Mexico with local professional photographer Chris Hansen.

Local author **Roni McFadden** will be selling and signing copies of her books, "Josephine" and "The Longest Trail," and the **City Girls Relay for Life Team** is selling raffle tickets (\$10) for a chainsaw donated by Mike Garrity of Willits Power and Carhartt.

Another raffle will be offered at the **Willits Kids Club** booth, for a Western-themed quilt made by Betty Lemmer (\$1 and six for \$5); Kids Club will also be promoting their Summer Camp for kids.

American Legion members are selling raffle tickets (\$1 and six for \$5, too) for a number of prizes, including a Brinkmann Elite 5-burner gas grill and a ladies Western fringed leather jacket. "We'll be recruiting for new Legion members, too," Commander Robert Ireland said.

Servpro of Mendocino & Lake Counties will be focusing on disaster prevention and awareness at their booth, as well as highlighting their cleanup, restoration and mold mitigation services. **Lisa Epstein State Farm Insurance** will offer "drunk goggles" which simulate different levels of blood alcohol, where you can see what you're like "under the limit, at the limit, and above the limit."

Don't miss Willits Weekly's table: We'll have the new Thursday edition, complete with the 2014 Willits Frontier Days program inserted inside the June 26 edition, a drawing for a free six-month newspaper subscription, home delivery and mail subscription forms, T-shirts for sale, and our tip jar, if you want to show some love to Willits' locally owned and independent weekly newspaper.

And last, but not least, Pete Swanton of **Main Street Music** offers "The World's Cleanest Public Bathroom," for the comfort and convenience of the Hometown Celebration crowd. **Shanachie Pub** will have Jazz at 8 pm.

See you downtown, Thursday, June 26, from 5 to 9 pm.

2. Investigating formal complaints from citizens against public officials and local government for misconduct in office.

Responses are required by the agencies and officials investigated, within 60 days for elected officials, and 90 days for all others. Responses are posted on the Grand Jury reports page as they come in.

Grand Jury investigations are strictly confidential. Information about becoming a member of the 2013/2015 Grand Jury, and an application form, is available here: www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov/grandjury.html. A form to file a complaint to be considered by the Grand Jury is available here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/complaintform.pdf.

Please address any inquiries to the Grand Jury foreperson, Finley B. Williams, who is the Grand Jury's sole spokesperson: P.O. Box 939, Ukiah, CA 95482-0939 or 707-463-4320 or grandjury@co.mendocino.ca.us.

Summary: "Privatization of Mental Health Delivery Services"

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors awarded the contract for the administration of adult

In the proposed budget, Johnson has recommended the district add \$1 million worth of new staff, including three elementary school teachers (\$225,000), drug dogs (\$10,000), a part-time probation officer (\$15,000), a restorative justice intervention program for the high schools (\$47,000), and a reading and studying program (AVID) for high school students close to being eligible to go to college.

The district will add one teacher on special assignment, who will work supporting English learners (\$75,000), and two teachers of English as a second language (\$150,000). The district will beef up the salaries of teachers who have a bilingual credential (\$20,000).

In 2015-16, the district plans to hire a director of curriculum and instruction (\$95,000), a position Johnson wanted to add in 2014-15, but was urged to postpone by the school board. Johnson plans to fund the salary for the lead transportation person with LCAP funding (\$50,000).

Also, due to a plea made at the June 11 board meeting, trustees directed Johnson to find funding for a dean of students position for Baechtel Grove Middle School. A dean will help with student discipline, as well as perform other functions on campus.

Although the labor contracts were approved at the June 11 meeting, the budget was only introduced at that meeting: it was not approved. A special meeting scheduled for June 17 was cancelled. Presumably, a special meeting of the school board will be scheduled soon, so the budget can be approved before July 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

or in its Health and Human Services Agency.

However, County HHSA Director Stacey Cryer told supervisors there simply wasn't any more money available to increase RCS funding.

"We have to balance everything together," Cryer said. "We wish there was more money available. It's not there."

After Tim and Camille Schraeder, executive director of Redwood Quality Management Company and executive director of RCS respectively, harshly criticized Cryer, Supervisor John McCowen told Cryer to sit down with them once again to try to find more money. But Cryer told McCowen she had already had many conversations with the couple and had looked everywhere for more money.

"There are a lot of elements going into this," Cryer said. "I do not want to cut mental health. I do believe this is the funding that is available."

The board approved the cut on a 3-2 vote, with McCowen and Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde opposed.

Mental Health Board annual report

Mental Health Board Chairman John Wetzler presented a summary of MHB's annual report to supervisors at Tuesday's meeting.

Reading from an unbound sheaf of papers, Wetzler often had to flip from page to page, sometimes putting one stack of papers down and thumbing through a second stack before continuing with his report.

He apologized to supervisors for his presentation.

"I was going to finish it this morning," Wetzler said. "But my grandkids woke me up at 5 this morning and wanted to play baseball."

But Supervisor John Pinches praised Wetzler for his report, calling it "the best I've heard in quite a while."

Wetzler noted several areas where mental health services in the county are lacking or not fully developed, and pointed out a few areas in which county efforts to support mental health services have failed completely.

He noted the 11 o'clock court calendar program still has not started on the coast, although it has been successful in

The justice department's Second-Hand Dealer and Pawnbroker Unit furnishes local police, like the Willits Police Department, with background check results and a license number for dealers.

A 2012 bill mandated the DOJ develop and implement a single, statewide, uniform electronic reporting system. It applies to licensed secondhand dealers and pawnbrokers, who by law report tangible personal property transactions. It is funded by secondhand dealers and pawnbrokers license fees, information from the DOJ stated.

General plan

Some members of the council, and Willits resident Bill Barksdale, were opposed to the suggested general plan charge for developers and property owners.

"It sounds like you are charging people who are enhancing

ability to "figure out what roads to take, to find out what makes them feel alive" at a stage when gaining skills to deal with adult socializing, frustrations, and asking "where do I want to go in life" is essential.

Citing friends in this county, he discussed how there is a "tremendous need ... for more information and dialogue," particularly in rural communities like Mendocino, where growing over generations can create cultures of secrecy and an "us vs. them" mentality.

Cantor also touched on how "things in the field are really changing," referring to potent new products, changing laws and new medical research. "Kids need guidance to navigate that," he says.

The original 2013 recording was soon rebroadcast and shared around the world, reaching more than 21,000 downloads from the web.

This May, Shields arranged to have Cantor return and lead discussions with each English class at Laytonville High School, as well as give an expanded community presentation at Harwood Hall, entitled "Marijuana and the Adolescent Brain – Further Adventures with Ralph Cantor," which has been broadcast on KZYX and on KMUD.

In addition to answering questions in the classroom and for the community, Cantor was interviewed by Laytonville High School juniors Jessie Sue Atkinson and Jordan Foster for "Youth Speaks Out" on KZYX in a show called "Weed with Ralph," where he talked honestly about his visit to Laytonville.

In the recordings, Cantor encourages parents – regardless of their involvement with marijuana – to talk openly with their teenagers without fear of hypocrisy, drawing parallels with an alcohol culture of "just say wait." He talks candidly about his conversations at Laytonville High, where students discussed feeling stigmatized by those from outside the area and expressed a desire for more reliable scientific information. He also speaks to parents as a counselor and father of teenagers, offering strategies to create open conversation – beginning with "how does it feel?" – and to help kids "find their passion."

Both Spence and Roberts felt the visits have begun an essential dialogue within the community. "Every time I hear Ralph talk, I learn something new," says Roberts, "and after he talks, the kids start to think about things just a little differently."

Recordings of Ralph Cantor's presentation at Harwood Hall and his interview for "Youth Speaks Out" are available via free download or streaming at www.youthspeaksout.net. Recordings are available in high-quality versions, and also in lower-quality versions suitable for slower connections.

Ukiah. The program assigns a superior court judge who hears criminal cases involving the mentally ill, assigning recovery work instead of jail time when possible.

Wetzler said he was disappointed to learn the MHB could have been part of the Mental Health Services Act plan approval process. "The mental health board did not have input into the plan, and we did not know we could have had input," Wetzler said.

He noted there was a downside to the plan. "The ... downside is that the forum meetings and the meetings for the innovation grant did not seem to interest the public," he said.

He also observed that work in cultural competency undertaken by Mental Health Services Act staff has not been effective. Data on the number and ethnicity of persons served indicated only a tiny portion of mental health clients are Hispanic or Native American. "There is a large underserved population in our county," Wetzler said.

The condition of mental health services delivery in the county was highlighted when Wetzler became embroiled in a dispute with Mental Health Director Tom Pinizzatto.

Wetzler was trying to explain why there is no money available for housing for the mentally ill. He told supervisors he knew there was money out there, but it wasn't available, and asked Pinizzatto to explain why.

Pinizzatto attempted to do so, but Wetzler implied Pinizzatto's explanation didn't make sense. "The mental health board does not understand how mental health is funded in this county," Wetzler said.

Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman told supervisors crisis response has improved since July 1, 2013. "I'm not talking about clinical work or anything other than crisis response, which is where we come in," Allman noted. "But just in that one area of crisis response, we've seen a vast improvement.

"Response times have been faster," Allman said. "A higher number of people have seen a higher quality of service. And I would say a higher number of family members seem to have been more satisfied with crisis response."

Supervisor John McCowen also praised the overall condition of mental health services. "I think we've made progress in the past year and our goal is to keep that moving forward," he said.

city property," Barksdale said. "This is an additional fee to costs they already incur to improve our city."

Mayor Holly Madrigal said the need to update Willits' general plan was an "unfunded mandate."

"It is a surcharge," Councilman Ron Orenstein argued. "Anybody who is applying for a building permit, it is not inappropriate to charge them a surcharge like the gas tax."

City Manager Adrienne Moore said Mendocino County charges the same fee under building permits.

"I do not care if the county does it; it does not matter to me," Councilman Larry Stranske said. "It takes a lot of money to get started, and you have not even opened your doors."

A draft of the city's next budget does not fund community development and planning positions for the upcoming fiscal year.

due to that," Mannatt said.

Components for the project are arriving almost daily, Public Works Director Rod Wilburn said. About \$1.07 million has been spent so far.

Wilburn says project costs have been lowered by \$87,014. It now estimated to cost just over \$2 million to complete.

Other parts of the project are shaping up, too. "We are currently in negotiations with Water Works Engineers for water plant treatment building design," Wilburn said.

Wilburn added the city also is busy obtaining a streambed alteration permit from the state to cross a creek with a water line from the Elias Well.

Chemical tanks for the new treatment plant will be some of the last pieces to arrive. They're expected by the end of July. The project could be done in August.

The state public health department awarded \$250,000 to the city in February. That amount could now be doubled to \$500,000.

However, a \$1.5 million grant application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development has hit a snag.

The city auditor failed to meet a deadline to submit a document, and the tardy documentation is holding up the application.

"We are compliant; we have been compliant all along," City Manager Adrienne Moore said. "It is frustrating that we even have to go through this battle."

Moore said the city's auditor is writing a letter accepting responsibility concerning the matter.

City Planner Alan Fallari responded in a memorandum to Orenstein's suggestion. In his memo, Fallari urged the city to stay on track with clearing up the ordinance.

"As more people attempt to survive difficult economic times by looking at opportunities for selling their products, we have seen an increase in inquiries regarding mobile vendors, from taco trucks, to hot dog carts, mobile barbecues, jewelry, bonsai trees, blankets, and others," Fallari noted.

The subject came out of committee talks and to the council earlier this month.

Orenstein's change of mind to reconsider food truck policy failed to gain enough support from other council members to pass.

Council members Madge Strong, Bruce Burton and Mayor Holly Madrigal voted against the change. Councilman Larry Stranske supported Orenstein.

Council members need to vote on the matter again, but for now the rules being written include a ban extending one block from Main and Commercial Street, a 90-day allowance for remodeling work and no music.

supervisor's race, final results show Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal increasing her share of the vote to 39.81 percent, with 1,489 votes. Willits real estate broker Tom Woodhouse retained his first-place finish by six votes, with 1,595 votes, and 39.97 percent of the vote.

Woodhouse and Madrigal face a runoff for the 3rd District supervisorial seat in the November 4 election. In final results, 3rd District candidate Hal Wagenet received 12.51 percent of the vote (468 votes) and candidate Clay Romero received 7.51 percent (281 votes).

"It was a task, there's no doubt about it," said Brooktrails Fire Chief Daryl Schoepfner, about the effort that passed the fire tax so resoundingly. "We pulled everybody together, and tried to be as open and honest about it as we could. I think that helped."

Schoepfner also thanked members of the Revenue Enhancement Committee "who did the arduous work of looking at the budget, and looking at all the reasons why it was so important for us to pass Measure K," and the Friends of the Brooktrails Firefighters, "who put in a lot of work and a lot of phone calls."

Funding from Measure K will start coming in November, "We'll get half in November, and then it'll take about a year before it will be fully on track," the chief said.

"I'm really proud of our community and obviously of our firefighters. It feels great that we'll be able to protect them properly," Schoepfner said.

The one countywide race that will also go to a November runoff is the election for county superintendent of schools. Final, official results changed very little from election night results: Warren Galletti (at 42.72 percent of the vote) will be running against Paul Joens-Poulton (32.20 percent) in November. Third-place candidate Kathy Wylie took 24.76 percent of the vote.

Countywide, voter turnout was 34.72 percent, with 16,420 of 47,297 registered voters casting ballots.

Off to Girls State

WHS junior Rachel Kanonchoff chosen as 2014 delegate



American Legion Auxiliary of Willits President Dori Grauer, Rachel Kanonchoff and Auxiliary Chairperson Vicki Ham.



Above left: All of the weekday photo specials included dropping off passengers for a series of photo run-bys. Here, photographers gather to capture Mason County Logging #7.

Above right: Five steam locomotives with a heavy passenger consist struggle up the Alameda Creek grade on the Niles Canyon Railway during Steamfest 3.

Photos by Bruce Evans

Mason County Logging #7 arrives with its passenger train at the Sunol Station on the Niles Canyon Railway.

Photo by Dexter Day



Roots Returns

from Steamfest 2014



The Mason County Logging #7 steam locomotive is due to arrive home on Thursday, June 19, after spending 22 days at the Niles Canyon Railway. The locomotive travelled to Niles for Steamfest 3, a railfair featuring five operating steam locomotives.

Chris Baldo
Contributing Writer

The locomotives pulled a variety of combinations of freight cars and passenger cars, culminating in a busy Father's Day Sunday.

Another of the highlights was Friday's quintuple-header, five steam locomotive lashed together, pulling a nine car passenger train up the Alameda Creek grade.

The Niles Canyon Railway operates on one of the oldest railroad grades in California, between Sunol on the east, and Niles, on the west. The line was the original Sacramento to San Francisco route of the Central Pacific Railroad, completed in 1869. The line follows Alameda Creek up the steep 2 percent grade from Niles to Sunol. On the other side of Alameda Creek runs the present Union Pacific Railroad mainline. The horns of Union Pacific diesel locomotives and the Steamfest 3 steam

Willits High School Junior Rachel Kanonchoff was selected as one of 500 girls who will be attending the 71st Girls State event, held June 23 through 28 at McKenna College in Claremont.

This is an annual event held to teach girls about government at local and state levels, the processes of voting, creating rules and setting up of towns and cities with hands-on activities and mock situations. Girls will get to campaign for positions and go through the motions of what a job could be like if they chose a governing career.

Rachel's sister Rebecca attended over a decade ago, and Rachel was excited to follow in her big sister's footsteps.

"I've been watching people go over the years," explained Rachel. "I'm excited that I am now getting to be a part of it. I've heard that it's a great thing to do, and I can't wait to go!"

The essay Rachel wrote for her application to Girls State was about

Willits government. She even eloquently presented the essay to the Willits City Council. "They told me I did a good job, and asked if I wanted to join!" Rachel said.

Along with her essay, Rachel said she felt her community and school involvement were large factors in her winning the opportunity to attend Girls State.

Rachel was the top editor of the Willits High School yearbook and a member of the Leadership class; she is involved in sports and works hard to keep a high GPA.

Plans for after graduation next year include possibly attending Cal Poly, where she thinks she may want to study civil engineering.

"I'm more logical, I like problem solving, numbers and facts!" laughed Rachel.

On the way down to Girls State, the group will stop at colleges on the way, and Rachel noted she was excited to see campuses and look at her options.



The quintuple-header arrives at Sunol station with the Mason County Logging #7 in the lead.

Photo by Dexter Day

whistles often joined together to fill Niles Canyon with wonderful railroad symphony.

The Roots crew of engineers, firemen, conductors, brakemen and oilers included Shane Grupp, Bruce Evans, Don Nelson, Troy James, Chuck Jones, Keith Rongey, James Anson, Jimmy Booth, Chris Baldo, Tyler Phillips, Wes Brubacher, Jerry Moore, Scott Wickert, Martin Hansen, and Scott Gordon.

Three of the steam locomotives were owned by the Niles Canyon Railway: the Robert Dollar Company #3, the Clover Valley Lumber Company #4, and the Quincy Railroad #2. Visiting locomotives included the Santa Cruz Portland Cement #2 and the Mason County Logging #7.

The Roots of Motive Power crew last visited Niles Canyon in 2010 for Steamfest 2, and the opportunity to learn from the staff of one of the finest living history museums in the country was not to be missed. Roots members wish to thank the Niles Canyon Railway for extending the invitation to attend, and for being such supportive hosts.

The rest of Grand Jury

From Page 10

The County is required by Senate Bill 82, as amended, to establish investment to implement the Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013. The Act mandates every county to provide crisis care and recovery treatment for post hospitalization.

Regarding suicide prevention, conservatorship, and secure treatment, the Mental Health Board Report of December 18, 2013 stated that the response to consumers in crisis, before becoming a danger to themselves or others, took longer than anticipated.

The Grand Jury received several complaints stating that mental health clients were confused when they went to the access centers and did not receive the service they were expecting. The Grand Jury was informed that the staff did not know where to refer the clients because, "... we are in a state of transition." As of the close of this investigation, this still appears to be the case.

The Grand Jury recommends that a contract be written to include ongoing structured care provisions for Level 3 clients. The Grand Jury finds the County is not complying with the intent of State Law.

Full report on "Privatization of Mental Health Delivery Services" here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-4-2_hhs_privatization_140605_final.pdf

Summary: "An Appearance of a Conflict of Interest in the Adoption of the Mental Health Privatization Contract"

The 2013-2014 Grand Jury recommends that the ethics policies for Mendocino County be corrected to include time limitations on when County employees must recuse themselves from decisions regarding previous employers. The Grand Jury also recommends that all respective ethics policies are emphasized and County employees are trained to understand and apply these policies.

Enforcement of these policies must be a high priority for all County senior managers. County senior managers and senior staff must recuse themselves from any contract activities when they have or had a financial or business relationship with the contracting party within the last three years.

The Grand Jury received complaints regarding perceived conflicts of interest in awarding the Mendocino County contract for the administration of adult mental health services to the Ortnr Management Group. Certain individuals employed by the County with current and previous associations with Ortnr had the opportunity to have undue influence in the awarding of this contract.

During the investigation, the Grand Jury determined that no apparent illegal activity was carried out by any individual; however, there were sufficient opportunities for these individuals to have used undue influence in the selection process.

An employee of Ortnr Management Group was contracted as a consultant by the Director of Health and Human Services from February 2011 through March 2012. The actual dates of work were from December 2011 through March of 2012. The newly contracted consultant had access to patient records and County Medi-Cal billing information. This access was not available to other bidders. A concern of the Grand Jury is that the information would have been useful for estimating the cost of the Request for Proposal for administering the billing of adult mental health services in the County. However, there is no indication that information was used inappropriately.

The evaluation summary for Request for Proposal 24-12 for mental health services was scored by seven County employees. These scorers included the County's Mental Health Director. This Mental Health Director had previous business relationships with Ortnr Management Group that terminated less than 18 months before the evaluation summary scoring took place.

The complainants alleged that Ortnr Management Group was given unfair advantage by the active presence of the consultant and the Mental Health Director during the preparation and scoring of the Request for Proposal. The complainants also alleged that the release of the Request for Proposal was delayed until Ortnr Management Group had completed drafting its response.

There is an appearance of impropriety in the process of bidding and awarding the contract to Ortnr Management Group because of the previous relationship of the Mental Health Director with Ortnr Management Group. There is no evidence that impropriety occurred.

Full report on "An Appearance of a Conflict of Interest in the Adoption of the Mental Health Privatization Contract" here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-4-1_hhs_contract_140605_final.pdf

Summary: "Mendocino County Office of Education: Mission Statements Are Made to be Followed"

During the economic downturn, the State of California made severe funding reductions to education. As a result, Mendocino County Office of Education made cuts in student programs. Whenever cuts are made, students are adversely affected. Nevertheless, the Mendocino County Board of Education saw fit to raise the superintendent's salary in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

During that time, the superintendent found sufficient funds to increase the salaries of more than 20 management positions by adding

days and/or responsibilities to their job descriptions. While salary increases were given, cuts were made in student programs and services.

Cuts made to programs and services were approved by the Mendocino County Board of Education. The Board President stated to the Grand Jury, there were "no major cuts" rather, cuts were made "around the edges."

The Grand Jury's investigation concluded that the Mendocino County Office of Education leadership is not following its Human Resources Division's Mission Statement. The Mission Statement promises to value its clients, employees, and the public through service, efficiency, teamwork, and integrity.

The Grand Jury investigation determined that employee morale has gone down in recent years as evidenced, in part, by the increase in the number of grievances filed. As a result of the cuts in programs and services, a number of employees were laid off or reassigned. The Grand Jury found that the Human Resources Division, while responsible for handling those changes, acted insensitively and unprofessionally toward some employees. The Grand Jury also found other instances of unprofessional conduct by the Human Resources Director.

Employees expressed their many concerns about working conditions, treatment of employees, and other issues at a Mendocino County Board of Education meeting held on January 14, 2013. The Grand Jury found that the Board President had "no knowledge" of the low morale of the employees even after presiding over that meeting.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Mendocino County Office of Education's superintendent, directors, managers, and supervisors value their employees, clients, and the public, as stated in the Mendocino County Office of Education Human Resources Division's Mission Statement. The Grand Jury also recommends that the Mendocino County Board of Education adopt the Human Resources Division's Mission Statement as its own.

Full report on "Mendocino County Office of Education: Mission Statements Are Made to be Followed" here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-3-1_educ_mcoo_140528_final.pdf

Summary: "The Mendocino County Free Library: How Is It Doing After Measure A?"

While researching Measure A issues, the Grand Jury discovered that historically the General Fund has not paid the County Librarian's salary and benefits as required by law. The salary is estimated at \$1,280,000 for the period of 1998 through 2013. Instead the County Librarian's salary was paid by the Library budget.

Three years ago, the Board of Supervisors passed, and the voters approved an ordinance on the ballot as Measure A, which levied a 1/8% sales tax for the Library.

What has been the result? There is bad news and some good news.

The bad news is that the County Administration, hungry for money, immediately started charging the Library for indirect support. Some of these charges are legitimate; some are not. All expenditures of the Library are carried on the County books as coming from the General Fund, when in fact, many of these expenditures are paid by dedicated revenue. Dedicated revenue is property tax and the Measure A sales tax. The County does not properly account for the Library's dedicated pro-rata share of the property tax.

The Library's defense of its funds generated great tension between the Library, the Chief Executive Officer, and the Board of Supervisors. After a closed personnel session on March 25, 2014, the County Librarian and the Library's Administrative Services Manager II were no longer employed. This loss of professional knowledge and financial expertise has added uneeded and unsettling tension to the operation of the Library.

More control over the Library and its funds is shifting to the Chief Executive Officer, contrary to s0tate law and county code. The County Free Library is a Special District. The County labels and manages the Library as if it were a department. The tight control of the Chief Executive Officer has prevented the Library from spending its dedicated revenue for the enhancement of its services, especially in information technology.

The good news is that, because of Measure A, the libraries are open full time, the collection is increasing, new equipment has been added, children's librarians are back, and the bookmobile has added new stops.

The Grand Jury urges the Board of Supervisors to honor their constituents' steadfast love for their libraries. The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors proceed in accordance with the law in an open and transparent manner. Recruitment of a permanent County Librarian should begin immediately.

The Board of Supervisors should actively work with the Library Advisory Board to ensure the County Free Library is better able to serve all the residents.

Full report on "The Mendocino County Free Library: How Is It Doing After Measure A?" here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-1-1_spl_dist_free_library_140607_final.pdf

Summary: "The Impact of the Public Safety Realignment Act on Mendocino County"

The 2013-2014 Grand Jury elected to report on how prison Realignment has affected

Mendocino County after many residents expressed concerns to the local media regarding the impact of Realignment on public safety.

A lawsuit was filed with the Federal District Court regarding prison overcrowding. The State's response to the order of the federal court, Assembly Bill 109 entitled Public Safety Realignment Act, is intended to reduce the California State prison population.

Prisoners sentenced to State prisons prior to Realignment will not be transferred to county jails to finish their sentences. Since the implementation of Realignment, defendants who are convicted of non-serious, non-violent, non-sexual felonies, without similar prior offenses can now be sentenced to serve their time in county jails. In Mendocino County, Realignment caused an increase in the number of inmates from 206 to 270 by the end of June 2013.

When State parolees violate parole, they will not be automatically returned to State Prison. Instead, a hearing will be held in the Superior Court and the State parolees may be incarcerated at the County Jail. Upon release from County Jail, the County Probation Department will monitor the former parolee or probationers. The prisoners released from State Prison on parole will be monitored by the State Parole Department. Realignment places responsibility on the County to rehabilitate inmates with issues of alcohol, drug use, and other behavioral issues.

The purpose for Realignment is to reduce the State Prison population from 158% of capacity to 137% by February 2016. If the percentage is not met, the State will issue paroles. When prisoners who have been convicted of non-violent, non-serious, or non-sexual crimes are released from State Prison, they will be supervised by the County Probation Department.

The County Jail staff is no longer able to separate the un-sentenced prisoners, who are awaiting sentencing from the Superior Court, from the sentenced prisoners due to the lack of available space. An additional difficulty is separating the different classes of prisoners: e.g., gang members from maximum security inmates. As a result there are more violent incidents occurring at the County Jail.

The County Jail staff is meeting the basic needs of the inmates with the available budget and Realignment funds. The Grand Jury recommends that the County fund expansion at the County Jail to accommodate the needs of the Jail due to the increasing numbers of inmates as a result of Realignment.

Full report on "The Impact of the Public Safety Realignment Act on Mendocino County" here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-7-1_crim_just_realignment_140530_final.pdf

Summary: "County Delivery of Animal Control Services"

The 2013-2014 Grand Jury found a consistent problem with communication between Animal Control, Animal Care, the District Attorney's Office, veterinarians, and the public. The Grand Jury is recommending changes to address these problems. The Grand Jury recommends that Animal Control and Animal Care be re-integrated into one operational unit under the Sheriff's Office.

This Grand Jury investigated ethics violations during the handling of large animal abuse and neglect cases, resulting in a report, Animal Control Confidentiality Violations. This led to further investigation of the County's entire delivery system of animal control and care. Major issues at the Animal Care Shelter are discussed in a second report, County Delivery of Animal Care Services.

This report covers issues that contribute to the dysfunction of overall delivery of services including:

- Problems of data communication between two different county agencies
- Lack of written policies and procedures with respect to inter-departmental interactions
- Inadequate staffing
- Inequitable salary structures not commensurate with responsibilities
- Issues associated with the interaction between the county agencies and private veterinarians
- Prosecution concerns

Full report on "County Delivery Of Animal Control Services" here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-6-3_ad_hoc_3_control_140524_final.pdf

Summary: "County Delivery of Animal Care Services"

The 2013-2014 Grand Jury investigated possible ethics violations during the handling of large animal abuse and neglect cases. This led to an investigation of the entire County Animal Control and Care delivery system. The Grand Jury has determined the system is underfunded and mismanaged. Much of the problem is the reorganizational division of the services between two county agencies.

Originally, all animal control and care services were under the Health and Human Services Department. Now, Animal Control Officers are managed and dispatched by the Sheriff's Office; Health and Human Services Department operates the Shelter.

The Grand Jury recommends the reintegration of the two units under the Sheriff's Office.

Full report on "County Delivery of Animal Care Services" here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-6-2_ad_hoc_3_shelter_140605_final.pdf

Summary: "Animal Control Confidentiality Violations"

The 2013-2014 Grand Jury investigated ethics violations in the handling of large animal abuse and neglect cases. Animal Control Officers were releasing the names of complainants of animal abuse to the person against whom the complaint was filed. The complainants and their children were then harassed. The Grand Jury found these complaints to be valid.

Animal Control has urged owners to relinquish control of animals but has not sought prosecution for animal care violations. Many incidences of neglect or abuse have continued for years with little or no improvement in the condition of the large animals. Often in cases where animals have been removed, abusing owners have acquired new animals within weeks and abuse starts again. This has led to distrust within the community of the Mendocino County agencies responsible for animal control and care.

The Grand Jury is recommending that ethics training on confidentiality be re-emphasized in both Animal Control and Animal Care.

Full report on "Animal Control Confidentiality Violations" here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-6-1_ad_hoc_3_confidentiality_140605_final.pdf

Summary: "County Treasury Investment Pool: Our 'Surplus' Money"

Mendocino County is the sponsor of an Investment Pool that consists of funds belonging to 37 local government agencies in addition to the county schools and the county government. The Board of Supervisors is responsible for the management of this investment pool. This report outlines the seriousness, extent, and complexity of investing this money to gain a return with minimal risk, while providing access to the funds needed for current operations. All this is to be accomplished by the County Treasurer in accordance with California Government Code §27007.

The County government and local county agencies receive cash resources to perform their duties. These funds are received at various times during the year and are expended as necessary. Funds not needed for near term expenses are referred to as "surplus" and must be invested securely for yield, yet easily available for use in the future. Surplus funds become the "Investment Pool" and are contained within the Mendocino County Treasury.

The Investment Pool does not include funds belonging to the retirement system or to the incorporated cities within the County. The Investment Pool varies in magnitude during the year as the monies flow in and out. During the last fiscal year the average monthly amount was \$200,610,000.

The County Treasurer is charged by the Board of Supervisors to manage the Investment Pool. This stewardship by the County Treasurer is reported monthly, quarterly, and annually to the Board of Supervisors.

This money generates concerns about the effectiveness of the pool investments as related to the social and economic needs of the community. Some people have concerns regarding the possible economic advantages of utilizing a portion of these funds within the local economy.

The County Treasurer must administer the Investment Pool to assure the safety, liquidity, and return on the funds therein.

The Grand Jury recommends increased transparency, oversight, and financial valuation of the performance of the Investment Pool.

Full report on "County Treasury Investment Pool: Our 'Surplus' Money" here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-5-1_admin_investments_140604_final.pdf

Summary: "Crosswalks: Are You as Safe as You Think?"

According to the Department of Motor Vehicles' 2013 Driver Handbook, pedestrian deaths in California account for approximately 19% of all traffic fatalities. Due to the many reports of recent crosswalk incidents, including fatalities, the 2013-2014 Grand Jury felt that issues relating to crosswalks warranted an investigation. The more that the issue was looked into, the more it was discovered that crosswalks are unsafe.

Consistently, pedestrians disregard their own safety by entering crosswalks without watching the traffic flow, failing to make eye contact with drivers, and by focusing on personal electronic devices, e.g., cell phones and audio players.

Drivers must adhere to driving laws, pay attention to traffic conditions, and never use electronic devices while operating a vehicle. Pedestrians and motorists share the responsibility for the safe usage of crosswalks.

Full report on "Crosswalks: Are You as Safe as You Think?" here: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-2-1_cities_crosswalks_140513_final.pdf

Editor's Note: The Grand Jury also released positive reports on "Comptche Elementary School: A Quaint And Charming County School" (www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-3-3_educ_comptche_140513_final.pdf) and "Anderson Valley Middle And High School" (www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/pdf/1314-3-2_educ_anderson_vly_140513_final.pdf).

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Local Willits grad off to MIT

This past weekend, Emerson Glassey, 19, packed homemade wooden crates full of bicycles and other worldly goods, and assembled them all on a shrink-wrapped pallet, for his move to Boston. Glassey has come a long way from Blosser Lane Elementary School: a graduate of the Willits Charter School at 16, he has studied at Mendocino College, UC Santa Cruz and Stanford, and is now off to earn a doctorate in synthetic biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Kate Maxwell
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Glassey traces his love of science back to childhood lab experiments at WCS, and particularly the school science fairs organized by Erin Vacarro. For one of his earliest projects, he used sensors and an old laptop to monitor the effects of light intensity of photosynthesis on some *Chamaedorea elegans* plants he put in a gallon glass jar and hid under a blanket in his room. Glassey improved on his project the next year and went to the state science fair, gaining a lifelong love of biology and a plant that still sits in his living room.

"The coolest thing is that if you were motivated, they were happy to help you," says Glassey of his time at WCS.

Work continues on Haehl Creek Trail

Volunteers sought for major June 26 - June 28 effort

Haehl Creek Trail Steering Committee members Mike Aplet, Keith Baker, Alan Falleri, Dave Madrigal and Larry Stropes met June 16 to discuss the current status of Haehl Creek Trail, its construction and a timetable for completion.

Contingent upon delivery of supplies and availability of equipment and operators, a date has been set for major construction Thursday, June 26 through Saturday, June 28, when Perma Zyme, fabric, and 350 tons of crushed concrete/aggregate will be used to cover the trail. More grading is needed and another 250 tons of crushed concrete/aggregate, as well as light and heavy-duty equipment, pickups and flatbed trucks but the end is so near they can almost taste it.

A special shout out to trail aficionados from Trail Boss Mike Aplet: if you've been wondering how you can get on the bandwagon and become a part of this amazing all-volunteer effort, it's easy. Pack a lunch, grab a bottle of water, get out your crustiest shoes, throw a rake or shovel in the back of your car or pickup, and join the work parties that will be underway June 26, 27 or 28 out at Haehl Creek. Believe me, no one will be turned away. Contact Mike Aplet at 459-6413

or mike.aplet@gmail.com for details.

All of the commemorative benches and tables, to be constructed by Hilfiker in Eureka, have been purchased by sponsors, but it's not too late for you to make your own imprint. Simply give Linda Buletti (354-8888) or Larry Stropes (888-2772) a call to order a most unique "Trail Blazer Steppingstone" for \$500. Donations of less than \$500, any denomination, can be mailed to Jann Lamprich, 44 Madrone Street, in Willits and will be accepted with the crew's heartfelt gratitude. Every dollar counts; every dollar matters.

Looking at the roster of volunteers, sponsors and donors, it seems half the town is involved in this project, but for those of you who are not aware of the Haehl Creek Trail, it is a 1/2 mile route near the new hospital and the Haehl Creek subdivision. Former City Community Development Director Alan Falleri brought the possibility



Dave Madrigal
operating a
roller at Haehl
Creek Trail.

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Emerson Glassey with his pallet wrapped and packed for MIT.
Photo by Kate Maxwell



He credits the school for preparing him to navigate a college-level academic curriculum.

He is moving to Boston with his girlfriend, Kim, who he met in his Intro to Biology class at UCSC, where he also raced on the bicycling team. Before flying east at the end of the month, Glassey is spending his last days in Willits enjoying the local beauty, with a bicycle ride to the ocean and back and a backpacking trip on the Lost Coast.