

What do YOU think?

Goodbye from Zack

To the Editor:

As a reporter I have covered the city council for Willits Weekly. Thursdays I have spent delivering Willits Weekly around town.

Each week people clamor for Willits Weekly. It brings joy. What the Willits Weekly had from the get-go is what people sit around in boardrooms trying to concoct. Except you cannot create that sort of thing from a far away place. The news industry has a name for it: hyper-local. But most call it a heck of a good paper.

With much gratitude and an eye on the future, I am departing from my duties with this great newspaper run by and supported by some of the best.

Zack Cinek, Willits

WEF mail fundraiser

To the Editor:

Since April of 2009, the Willits Educational Foundation has given just over \$100,000 to help teachers, students and programs within the Willits Unified School District.

Our funds come from many sources:

- Donations from within the community and beyond

- Annual Tri-Tip Dinner
- Annual Garden Party
- Local businesses
- Rotary Club
- Willits alumni

- Memorial donations and estate planning

These donations allow us to grow the foundation in unique ways as we contribute, periodically, to the needs of teachers and schools. This is done via small grants which suit classroom and site needs.

For the Garden Party, our biggest fundraiser, we have partnered with Willits Rotary, and without their help and expertise and the generous sponsorships and donations from local businesses, the WEF would not be able to do this massive fundraiser. All funds raised have gone specifically to Willits Unified School District art, music and library programs.

We will not be having the Garden Party this summer, but we plan to continue the tradition in 2016. In lieu of the Garden Party, we are sending this letter and our brochure [to receive a brochure, please call 459-4429] so that the community knows who we are and what we do. We hope you will make an annual, periodic, or memorial donation. Donations are tax deductible!

We do not have a paid staff, and new members are always welcome; so we hope to see you at our next meeting. Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 5 pm in the Willits High School Media Center. The meetings last no longer than one hour. We need fresh input! Our kids and teachers can use any support that you can offer! If you have any questions, please contact us at 459-4429.

Willits Educational Foundation

Celebrating the Voting Rights Act

To the Editor:

The Mendocino County Registrar of Voters Office, partnering with the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, is proud to announce that today, Thursday, August 6, is the 50th Anniversary of the Voting

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Rights Act, which was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a milestone in national legislation that prohibits discriminatory voting practices from disenfranchising African Americans. The act makes it illegal to require eligible voters to pass literacy tests in order to register to vote.

Within the same year the act was passed, many key events took place throughout the Civil Rights movement:

- Malcolm X was assassinated;
- The Selma to Montgomery marches occurred;
- The Watts riots in Los Angeles occurred; and
- President Johnson issued Executive Order 11246 to enforce affirmative action for the first time.

Since its initial passage, the act has expanded its reach with amendments that assist language minorities in the voting process by providing language-specific election materials to jurisdictions with large numbers of language minorities.

Susan M. Ranochak, Assessor–County Clerk-Recorder, and Katrina Bartolomie, Assistant Registrar of Voters

Kinetic Carnivale volunteers

To the Editor:

There is still time to get involved with Mendocino County Museum's 4th Annual Willits Kinetic Carnivale, Saturday and Sunday, August 22 and 23! This amazing event needs your help with passing out event flyers (leading up to the fair), pre-construction and decorating during the week of August 17, and on both event days.

During the fair volunteers are needed to lead children's activities and games for the Whimsy Circus, to help with crafts at Make & Take Stations, and in the areas of beverage service, first aid, information and ticket booths. No skills are necessary!

Volunteers are asked to work a four-hour shift or more on either Saturday, August 22, or Sunday, August 23. There are perks for volunteering, including free entry into the daytime fair and access to the Kinetic Crew Cafe. Volunteer for 20 hours and earn a free ticket to Saturday evening's Grand Ball!

Please contact the Mendocino County Museum volunteer coordinator at 459-2736 for more information.

Ruth Hubbell, museum volunteer coordinator, and Katherine Houghtby, Kinetic Carnivale coordinator

Herbicides

To the Editor:

A statement to the Water Quality Control Board, June 18, 2015, Santa Rosa:

As a citizen of Mendocino County, I call on you to perform your duty to protect the water existing as your public trust, in this case surface and underground water endangered by the illegal and deceitful mass herbicide spraying planned by Caltrans in the Willits valley, a spraying explicitly excluded

from its bypass draft environmental statement, done so originally in order to get approval-to-build from you.

It is particularly ironic that Caltrans seeks, in violation of its own declaration, which predicated your acceptance of its plan, to gain environmental points by poisoning the water table serving the flora, fauna and humanity of the Willits Valley for future generations. This in pursuit of a project that was achieved through misrepresentations that only a full-scale freeway would be federally funded.

Since this herbicide ploy is an open-and-shut question regarding your mandate to protect our water supply, I assume it will take no deliberation or political courage on your part to reject such a blatant and arrogant institutional move, benefiting only the herbicide industry, using Roundup chemicals already known to produce carcinogenic effects.

There is considerable political will representing popular feeling in the Willits City Council and Mendocino County Board of Supervisors resolutions NOT to poison the Willits valley, of which Caltrans now owns a quarter of the geographic entity.

We expect you to perform your mandate. Your duty could not be clearer.

William Ray, Willits

Protecting rural phone service

To the Editor:

Editor's note: this is a copy of a letter Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael), who represents Mendocino County in Congress, sent to Tom Wheeler, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission on August 4, 2015.00

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I write in strong support of your proposal to ensure consumers are protected as copper networks are retired and replaced by next-generation networks. I also urge your colleagues to support this important proposal, which will provide a backstop for my constituents, who have had their health, safety, and livelihood compromised by the neglect of copper networks.

The retirement of copper networks by neglect-often referred to as de facto retirement-can have devastating impacts on communities, particularly those in rural America.

Telecommunications providers that fail to properly maintain copper networks put the health and safety of consumers at great risk, which can be compounded in the event of natural disasters or severe weather. I submit for your review examples shared with me from the Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County, which, like other consortiums in Northern California, have carefully documented the long-term neglect of copper networks and are therefore supportive of strong consumer safeguards moving forward.

In implementing your proposal, I ask that the FCC be responsive to consumers that find their service has been discontinued, reduced or impaired with the installation of next-generation networks. I also ask that you proactively ensure telecommunications providers replacing copper networks offer rates, terms and conditions that are comparable to legacy service. Notification alone is not a sufficient safeguard. Consumers must have proper recourse to ensure these critical lifelines are well-maintained and accessible.

Thank you for your work in expanding high-speed connectivity to rural America, and in protecting consumers as next-generation networks are deployed. I look forward to the FCC's continued attention to this important matter.

Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael)



Above, left: Walking with buckets is harder than you may think! Above, right: Boys line up to donate to the Hannah Foundation. Right: Pastor Dick Mead, left, with some Vacation Bible School students in front of their prize-winning July 4th parade entry. Photos by Patricia Wear



Kids raise funds for Hannah Foundation at Agape Vacation Bible School

Kids at the Agape Bible Church's Vacation Bible School put on a great "outer space mission" skit, played games, read Bible stories, did crafts – and raised \$1,300 for the Hannah Foundation in Willits.

The "Sonforce Kids Sontroopers" campers brought in their allowances to donate to the cause, collected pocket change, did extra chores for extra money, and asked their parents for donations. Boys competed against girls to see who could raise the most money each day, but at the end of the week, the real winners were the local families who

are helped by the Hannah Foundation.

"We try to keep our mission projects local," said Suzanne Pope, director of Vacation Bible School. Previous projects have included helping kids who need prosthetic legs or cleft palate operations and donating to the local Food Bank.

Agape's Vacation Bible School has taken place each summer since 1998 – this year the week of July 20 through July 24. It's free and open to all kids from Kindergartners to sixth-graders. Teens, many who've been campers themselves, and parent volunteers help out with camp activities.

"I don't know who gets the most out of camp," said Agape

Pastor Dick Mead, on the last day of camp, "the kids or the people who work with them. We had an awesome time; we always do."

The "outer space" skit was directed by Kelly Thrift, and featured a great cast of actors and singers (including Thrift's talented daughters Devin and Pamalee) who rehearsed about a month before doing the final performance. There were special effects galore, with lighting and sound and video – and a "transporter" made with a

Read the rest of [Agape](#) | [Over on Page 11](#)

Below, left: Kelly Thrift, who directed this summer's play, at left, with "robot" actress Alicia Rea and Vacation Bible School director Suzanne Pope. Below, center: Peter Mead holds some of the cash the Vacation Bible School kids raised. Photos by Jennifer Poole Below, right: Two Vacation Bible School girls. Photo by Patricia Wear



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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

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

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Sudoku

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

How To Sudoku:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Crossword Puzzle

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	30							31			32	33	
34					35	36				37			
38				39						40			
		41		42					43	44			
				45					46				
		47	48					49			50	51	52
53					54					55	56		
57										58			
59					60					61			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Malay sailboats
6. Beach material
10. Heroic tale
14. Peers
15. Unseen
17. Plucking implement
19. Radioactivity unit
20. Stamping device
21. Quake
22. Foot (Latin)
23. Living body covering
24. Turfs
26. Gate swinging devices
29. Nail
31. Sharp bodily pain
32. Status equality
34. Horse height measure
35. Political Asylum Research & Documentation Service
37. 20's - 30's art design
38. Payment (abbr.)
39. Food grain
40. Indefinitely long period of time
41. Rear
43. Without (French)
45. Wood sorrels
46. Express pleasure
47. Recurring artistic pattern

CLUES DOWN

1. Anjou or comice
2. Nui, Easter Island
3. Towards the mouth or oral region
4. 4th Caliph of Islam
5. Soviet Socialist Republics
6. Moslem mystics
7. Game stake
8. Point midway between N and NW
9. Female deer pelts
38. Payment (abbr.)
39. Food grain
40. Indefinitely long period of time
11. Unhittable serves
12. Pathogen
13. Promotional materials
16. Setting up a golf drive
18. Lyric poems
22. Atomic #46
23. Genus Alosa
49. Deaf language
50. Runs PCs
53. Minimal punishment
57. Repeat
58. Give extreme unction to
59. Inflammatory skin disease
60. Large Aussie flightless bird
61. Polish Air Show city
24. Claus
25. Not even
27. Fencing swords
28. Conway, N.H. river
29. Brake horsepower
30. Wild leek
31. Prefix for before
33. "Splash" director Howard
35. Sleeveless apronlike dress
36. Book of the Apostles mission
37. V.P. Quayle
39. Dish directions
42. Revolve
43. Particular instance of selling
44. Exclamation of surprise
46. Wimbledon champion Arthur
47. Millisecond
48. Ammo & chemical corp.
49. Tip of Aleutian Islands
50. Expired
51. Norway's capital
52. Plant stalk
53. Macaws
54. Indochina battleground (slang)
55. Armed conflict
56. Ribonucleic acid

Relationship Ins and Outs

Different parenting styles



Doris Wier
Columnist

Dear Doris:
My husband often talks harshly to our son when he refuses to do certain things or when he does things he should not be doing. As a result, our son has become more defensive and rebellious. When I reprimand or just talk to our son, I try and incorporate more humor and lightness to get my point across. Sometimes I am successful, sometimes not. I also occasionally yell but I prefer to avoid it, as it does no good for any of us.

Dear B.:

I totally understand your wish to maintain a good atmosphere in the family. Unfortunately, when we have conflicts with our children, the good family atmosphere can vanish. Sometimes, it naturally comes back quickly, but sometimes we actively need to restore it.

to answer him in the same way (yelling). I deeply wish to have a good atmosphere in the family. What would you recommend to do?

It sounds like you and your husband have different styles of handling resistance from your son or on setting boundaries around certain of his actions. There are several aspects to this I find important. First, keep in mind what your overall goal is: to give your son optimal opportunities to learn which behaviors are acceptable in your

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

OBITUARY | Joan Wade

Joan Wade passed away with peace and grace on July 24, after an extended battle with lymphoma. She is survived by her loving husband of almost 60 years, Jack Wade, daughters Barbara and Judy, granddaughter Charlotte, her aunt Esther, sisters Christine and Rachel, and many cousins, nieces and nephews whom she indelibly touched. A son, Michael, predeceased her.

Joan was born in St. James, Minnesota, in 1932, to Roy and Florence Munson, and married Jack Wade on August 6, 1955. The family moved to California in 1965, when Jack got a job as an electrical engineer with Lockheed.

Joan was a teacher in the San Jose Unified School district for 20 years. She was president of the San Jose Teachers' Association from 1980 to 1984, and won "Teacher of the Year" in 1978. Many of her students would seek her out later in life to thank her for giving them a passion for learning. She was on the board of the San Jose Teachers Association for many years, serving as president from 1980 to 1984, and was on the collective bargaining team for the union.

OBITUARY | Linda Whipple

Linda Jean Whipple was born to Milt and Ernestine Lee on January 4, 1954 in Chico. She began her journey home July 29, 2015, following a courageous battle with lung cancer. Born the youngest of four children, she remained her Mama's baby until the day of her passing.

Linda was a member of Job's Daughters and swam for the Chico Aqua Jets. She graduated from Chico High School in 1970. The majority of her adult life was spent in Mendocino County, in both Covelo and Fort Bragg. Through her career in social work she found her purpose. Always one to root for the underdog, her compassion and dedication shone. She also took pride in advocating for her fellow coworkers as a Local 707 representative. She loved the outdoors: tending to her yard and flowers, camping, and fresh mountain air.

Above all Linda loved her family. She and her "Honey," Bob, shared a kind of love thought only to be found in fairy tales. The love she had for her children and grandchildren was enduring and unconditional. It is through them and her extended family that Linda leaves behind a legacy of love and commitment. Her passing is mourned by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her father, Milton Lee. She is survived by her husband, Bob Whipple; her son, Joshua (Pua) Pina; her two daughters, Katie (Zach Ray) Whipple and Kristin (Wes Tiekens) Gonzales; seven grandchildren, and another on the way. Additionally, Linda is survived by her mother, Ernestine Lee; her brother, Ed Lannert; her sisters, Marilyn Rafferty, Barbara Kloth and Carole Mickleson; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services were held on August 5 at the Round Valley Rec Center, with graveside services following at Headquarters Cemetery.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary

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Right: Action on the field during the soccer tournament.

Below: The Messi Blues, winners of the "Battle of the Bad" at Saturday's Alumni Soccer Tournament at Willits High School.

Bottom: 99 Problems, one of five alumni teams playing in Saturday's tournament.

Photos by Miara Truog Sebouhian and Sianna Truog Sebouhian



Willits Soccer Tournament

The Willits High School Soccer program held its annual Alumni Tournament this past Saturday August 1, successfully raising \$601 for the upcoming season. Beginning at 9:30 in the morning, the tournament went long into the afternoon, with alumni squad Gold Diggers hoisting the trophy for most points.

The Wolverines varsity team had a fine showing, coming in second place, which, according to assistant coach Daniel Haley, "was the best they've done in the four years I've been with the team." He added: "There's a second place is admirable. It bodes well for the coming season."

The tournament rules are considerably different from how regular soccer games are played. For one, the fields were smaller, and each team fielded seven players (four males and three females), instead of the traditional 11. Each game lasted 40 minutes with a three-minute half.

A team could rack up points in more ways than merely scoring goals, such as shutting a team out (1 point), ending up with a tie (1 point), and winning the game (6 points).

Six teams participated with five alumni teams and the high school varsity squad. The day ended with two games: battle for the championship, and "Battle of the Bad."

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

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Fire Safe Council: 'Too many trees'

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The Mendocino Fire Safe Council is making progress on updating the county's California Wildfire Protection Plan and on drafting a scope of work for a future study on how to address wildfire issues, Executive Director Madeleine Holtkamp told the board of supervisors last month.

The scope of work draft the board asked the Fire Safe Council to do stemmed from citizen complaints that the use of hack-and-squirt techniques on privately owned forest land in the county – primarily on, but not limited to, Mendocino Redwood Company's 225,000 acres – was leaving large swaths of dead and standing tan Oaks in the forest landscape.

Meanwhile on July 28, a group of citizens from Mendocino County's coastal area, including Albion-Little River Fire Chief Ted Williams, announced they will soon be circulating a petition to place an initiative on the June 2016 ballot to declare the practice of leaving hack-and-squirted trees standing dead in the forest for more than 90 days a public nuisance.

According to statements by MRC lead forester Mike Jani, MRC has used the hack-and-squirt practice on some 65,000 acres of MRC land since the year 2000. Jani also said that the dead and standing trees usually fall over in 3 to 4 years.

At an April 21 board meeting, citizens urged supervisors to do something about the practice. During the fourth year of a drought, citizens and coastal volunteer firefighters argued that having thousands of acres of dead and poisoned trees in the forest creates unnecessarily hazardous conditions for local residents as well as for firefighters.

In response, on May 5, supervisors directed Holtkamp to convene a committee to draft a scope of work plan for a study that would address not only the practice of hack and squirt, but also other ways to reduce wildfire danger in this heavily forested county.

At a July 21 meeting in Fort Bragg, Holtkamp told supervisors work on updating the California Wildfire Protection Plan was progressing nicely, and would be done by October.

In a separate telephone conversation with Willits Weekly, Holtkamp said progress on the scope of work was moving more slowly, but would likely be completed by December, as supervisors had requested.

Holtkamp said the problem of experiencing uncontrolled catastrophic wildfires stemmed from having too many trees.

"There are just too many trees," Holtkamp said. "There are more trees out there now than at any time since the inception of Western civilization on the North American continent. Finding a reasonable way to address that risk is something we are looking at. The solution is: We need fewer trees. Everyone knows that. It is how to economically remedy that, that is the tricky bit."

Holtkamp noted Native Americans who lived here prior to 1850 used fire to affect vegetation on the landscape. "In the summer, when the grass turned brown, they would throw a couple of burning twigs out there. Then they would go over to the coast and go fishing. In the fall, when they came back, everything was great, and there was no problem."

"What I would like to see is a set of policies in place that people would follow so that, if there is a wildland fire, it will not be a catastrophic fire," she said.

Marshall preliminary hearing delayed again

Defense attorney Justin Petersen has won a third delay in a preliminary hearing for a convicted Vacaville sex offender accused of raping and murdering a 25-year-old Willits woman last October.

Petersen told superior court Judge John Behnke he needed more time to study "material provided during [evidentiary] discovery," Mendocino County District Attorney spokesman Mike Geniella said.

The hearing for Terrell James Marshall, Jr. has been reset for 9:30 am on September 2.

The 45-year-old Marshall last appeared for his preliminary hearing April 24, but Petersen successfully argued for a continuance until July 30. His preliminary hearing had been scheduled originally for February 5.

Marshall is accused of raping and strangling Kayla Grace Chesser at a Brooktrails home following a 2014 Halloween party. He was allegedly found in the home during the early morning hours of November 1. Homeowners found Chesser's body in a bedroom.

Marshall later fled the home and suffered serious injuries when he drove his pickup truck over a steep embankment along Highway 162 near Dos Rios.

Marshall is being held without bail in county jail.

Supes honor Voting Rights Act of 1965

A resolution honoring the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 – signed into law 50 years ago, on August 6, 1965, by President Lyndon Baines Johnson – was approved Tuesday by the board of supervisors.

Although the 15th Amendment, which was incorporated into the U.S. Constitution in 1870, made it illegal to abrogate the right to vote on account of race, the amendment was largely ignored in the South, where various strategies such as poll taxes and literacy tests effectively kept most black people from voting for nearly a century.

Progress on enacting the provisions of the 15th Amendment was very slow. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 took some initial steps toward enfranchising black people and other minorities, but it had many loopholes. It wasn't until the civil rights movement of the 1960s that Congress passed a law that had some teeth in it. This was the Voting Rights Act of 1965, an act that was approved by Congress fully 100 years after the close of the Civil War.

The resolution supervisors approved called the Voting Rights Act of 1965 "the single most effective tool in protecting the right to vote and assuring the integrity of the voting process in this century."

The resolution also stated: "The Mendocino County Registrar of Voters will continue to protect the rights of voters in the County of Mendocino."

Supervisor Dan Hamburg had some cautionary words about what he sees as the erosion of the protections encoded in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. "In recent years, we've seen many instances in which the right to vote has been eroded. We've seen legislation that require voter IDs or proof of citizenship, or restrict the days on which people can vote. We've seen massive voter fraud in states like Florida and Ohio, perhaps changing the results of two presidential elections..."

"I think if Lyndon Johnson and some of the civil rights leaders that Registrar of Voters Sue Ranochak mentioned were around today, I don't think they'd be very happy seeing the restrictions on voting."

"Since the beginning of 2011, there have been 176 bills restricting voting and voter registration in some way," Hamburg said. "These laws have been introduced in 41 states. Seventy percent of the 270 electoral votes needed to win the 2012 presidential election occur in states that have these new restrictive voting laws. Laws requiring a photo ID to vote have passed in seven states and have been introduced in 34 states. Prior to the 2011 legislative session, only two states had ever imposed photo ID requirements."

Child molesting couple will serve prison terms

A former Brooktrails day care provider was sentenced Tuesday to six years in state prison for her involvement in the sexual abuse of a child. Jacqueline Caroline VanBezooyen had pled guilty to the charges in mid-May to avoid a jury trial.

The 50-year-old was sentenced at the conclusion of a lengthy hearing before superior court Judge Ann Moorman. She faced a potential sentence of 16 years in state prison; however, under certain conditions, the court could have granted her probation, after serving one year in county jail.

VanBezooyen's attorney had argued for a grant of probation to avoid state prison.

VanBezooyen was arrested in March 2014, on two counts of continuous sexual abuse of a minor and a single count of child endangerment. Her then-boyfriend, Charles Vernon Griswold, was arrested by police the same day in Spring City, Utah, on a Mendocino County warrant charging him with two counts of continuous sexual abuse of a child.

The 69-year-old Griswold was sentenced to 12 years in state prison after the pair were found guilty of engaging in three or more acts of lewd and lascivious conduct with an 8-year-old child

between October 1, 2005 and January 30, 2006. "Because the crime of continuous sexual abuse is characterized by law as a violent felony, both defendants will be required to serve 85 percent of their respective sentences before they may be released on parole," the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office said. "Upon their eventual release, both will be required to register with local law enforcement wherever they may be allowed to live as a sex offender and renew that registration annually."

Griswold had been held in county jail since his arrest. VanBezooyen was remanded into custody following her sentencing and taken to county jail for processing and housing in preparation of being taken to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, according to Deputy District Attorney Shannon Cox, who prosecuted the case with support from Assistant District Attorney Paul Sequeira.

The arrests followed a joint investigation involving Yuba City Police, Willits Police Department, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, and the Mendocino County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations.

— Dan McKee



Jacqueline VanBezooyen at Mendocino County Jail last week, after being sentenced.

Phone scammers threatening residents with arrest

Mendocino County citizens are being threatened with arrest for missing jury duty unless they pay more than \$5,000 each in electronic fund transfers at area grocery stores.

It's a scam, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office says of the calls.

The callers told the Sheriff's Office they were called by somebody identifying himself as "a member of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office," who then advised them they had missed jury duty and that the caller has a warrant for their arrest as a result.

The scammers then instruct the victim they can clear the arrest warrant by paying more than \$5,000, which is to be forwarded electronically

using various money-sending programs.

"The Sheriff's Office wants to alert everyone that in no way does the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office call people and try to obtain money in this fashion," a press release from the Sheriff's Office said. "If you receive one of these calls it is likely a money scam."

Those who receive such calls are asked to contact local law enforcement agencies.

For more information on money transfer scams please see the Federal Trade Commission website at www.consumer.ftc.gov/media/video-0046-money-transfer-scams.

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

Water rights workshop for rural landowners

Tuesday, August 11 at Willits Community Center

California is experiencing an extended drought that is affecting local communities and salmon recovery efforts across the state. In North Coast watersheds, lack of rainfall and a drastic increase in water demand are factors that have contributed to a serious water scarcity problem. Creeks that once supported thriving salmon populations are now intermittent or completely dry by the end of summer, and state and local agencies have taken notice.

In Humboldt and Mendocino County, recent fish kills and illegal water diversions have gravely impacted threatened coho salmon and water quality. The Division of Water Rights of the State Water Resources Control Board has been conducting enforcement sweeps and issuing notices of "Potential Unauthorized Diversion and Use of Water" and "Failure to File a Statement of Water Diversion and Use" to landowners who are not in compliance with state water law.

Recent enforcement sweeps included Sproul Creek and Outlet Creek, where rural families live on properties that also provide critical wildlife habitat. Landowners who are not in compliance with state water law are vulnerable to enforcement, especially if their water diversions could harm endangered species like coho salmon.

To address this concern and assist landowners with coming into compliance with state water law, Salmonid Restoration Federation, Trout Unlimited, and the Mendocino Resource Conservation District will be hosting a water rights workshop for rural residential landowners at the Willits Community Center on Tuesday, August 11 from 6 to 8:30 pm.

The workshop will discuss California water law, including riparian and appropriative rights and related water laws. The workshop is designed for rural landowners, realtors, planners, and North Coast residents who want to learn about water rights and options for improving water security. It will include an optional clinic component to help landowners fill out Small Domestic Use or other permitting paperwork.

If you are a rural landowner, legalizing your water use has many benefits, including increased water security for your property, authorization to store winter water for summer use, and a reduced likelihood of an enforcement action taking place on your property. Though the process of coming into compliance with state water law may seem

burdensome at first, there are many local groups and resources available to help.

The registration cost for the water rights workshop in Willits on August 11 is a \$20 suggested donation, and advanced registration is recommended, but not required. You can register online via the Salmonid Restoration Federation website at www.calsalmon.org.

Local residents are also encouraged to attend the upcoming Sediment and Erosion Control Best Management Practices Workshop on September 16 in Piercy. Hosted by the Salmonid Restoration Federation and Pacific Watershed Associates, this workshop will include a field tour of erosion control sites in Mendocino County and will cover identifying and evaluating sediment sources, assessing environmental impacts, creating erosion control and prevention plans, designing and evaluating grading plans, and the environmental permitting application process. This workshop is limited in size, and online, advanced registration is \$35 until September 1. To register or learn more about this event, please visit www.calsalmon.org.

To learn more about water rights, please visit the "Water Rights Education" page at www.calsalmon.org.

— Salmonid Restoration Federation

North Coast Water Rights Workshop
August 11, 6-8:30pm, Willits Community Center

Come Learn about California Water Law and How to File for Riparian / Appropriative Rights

This workshop is designed for rural landowners, realtors, property managers, and residents who would like to better understand the legal requirements for diverting, storing, and using water.

For more information or to register (Advanced Registration \$30, includes the Water Rights Primer and access to prep materials), please visit www.calsalmon.org

This workshop is a publicly funded benefit. For California Department of State and Wildlife.



Left: Willits celebrates the grand opening of Starchild Chocolate: owners Brittany and Ash Maki (holding the scissors) surrounded by staff and well-wishers.

Below, left: Chamber of Commerce director Lynn Kennelly with chocolatier Ash Maki.

Below, right: Starchild owners Brittany Maki (front, center), Ash Maki (rear) and staffers at the Highway 101 shop.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Cool chocolate on a hot day

Starchild Chocolate celebrates its grand opening

Starchild Chocolate in Willits held its official Grand Opening Friday, and a bunch of happy locals and passers-by experienced Starchild's hand-roasted and hand-crafted artisan chocolate, with 10 percent off, free samples and raffles.

A Willits Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at 6 pm was attended by a group of Willits movers and shakers to wish the new business well. The group included the chamber's Lynn Kennelly, Lisa Epstein, Carlin Horder, Denny Shaw, Patricia Baumann, and Linda Matz, Sheriff Tom Allman, councilmembers Larry Stranske and Holly Madrigal, former councilman Victor Stranske, Willits City manager Adrienne Moore, Bobbie Yokum, Virginia Stranske, Alan Falleri and Patty Bruder, and Gabe Madrigal.

"We have been busy today," said Ash Maki, co-owner with Brittany Maki. "It's been a really wonderful, really good welcome from the local community, which has been accepting and open to our endeavors."

The locals enjoying samples and – especially thanks to



the heat of the day, cold chocolate drinks – were joined by those heading up to Reggae on the River, who stopped, intrigued by the signage and look of the shop, located right on the highway a block north of Commercial Street.

The Makis have added more summer specials to their offerings, including vegan, dairy-free, refined sugar-free (but delicious) ice creams, made with a coconut or cashew nut-based creams. Three ice cream flavors available right now are "Oh My Almond Joy," Lavender Honey and Chocolate. Starchild is also offering vegan fruit sorbets, including pineapple orange and strawberry.

Ash describes "Oh My Almond Joy" as "hands down, one of the best coconut ice creams I've ever tasted" – all Starchild's sweet treats are made with "good healthy coconut sugar." The air conditioning needed to keep the chocolate at the right temperature makes the shop a pleasant oasis on a hot day, with the outside patio available, too.

For more info, check www.starchildchocolate.com or Starchild Chocolate's Facebook page. Hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, from noon to 6 pm. 707-841-3104.

— Jennifer Poole

Redwood Empire Fair Western Round-Up August 6 - 9, 2015



Live Entertainment on Willow Tree Stage
Thursday • Severance
Friday • Waylon & The Wild Cats
Saturday • Il Big
Sunday • Banda Pacifica & Others

FREE Kids Park



T&T Towing Day!
Thursday, August 6th
Kids (12 & under) and Seniors (65+) get in FREE from 3 - 6 pm

FREE Nightly Motorsports Action in the Grandstands

Thursday 7 pm • Super TT & Motorhome Destruction Derby
Friday 7 pm • Mudd Boggs
Saturday 7 pm • Truck & Tractor Pulls
Sunday 6 pm • Auto & Boat Races

UNLIMITED RIDES JUST \$22

Save \$5 on Carnival Wristbands Now!

Wristbands available at:
Taco Bell Ukiah • Raley's Grocery Outlet Ukiah
Super Chavez Market
Creative Workshop
JD Redhouse - Willits
June Marie's - Covelo & the Fair Office

Ride wristbands are good any one day of the Fair. All Presales end at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, August 6th! www.redwoodempirefair.com



National Farmers Market Week at Willits Farmers Market

From August 2 through 8, Mendocino and Lake County farmers markets will celebrate the 16th annual National Farmers Market Week. The week will honor the important role that farmers markets play in local economies. Throughout the week, communities across the country will celebrate the thousands of our nation's

farmers markets and the farmers, ranchers and communities who make them possible.

Farmers markets play a key role in developing our local food system and growing the local economy. Now more

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

Play to be one of a dozen hot seat or earned entry winners each week to pick hidden dollar amounts from the game board. Get as close as you can to \$1 (but don't go over!) to win up to

\$1,500 in Free Play!

Earn entries each week starting today!
250 points = 1 entry

Free Play Prizes
1st Place \$1,500
2nd Place \$500
3rd Place \$400
4th Place \$300
5th Place \$200
6th Place \$100

REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIR
Now through August 9
It's that time of year again! Stop by the Coyote Valley Casino booth for a chance to WIN!

HOWL YEAH!
www.CoyoteValleyCasino.com | 707.485.0700

Like us on Facebook | Facebook.com/CoyoteValleyCasino

Must be 21 and a member of the Coyote Club. Must have valid photo ID when claiming promotional prizes. Please see Coyote Club Representatives for complete rules and details. Management reserves all rights. Gambling Problem? Call 1.800.462.2277. © 2015 Coyote Valley Casino.

Thursday, August 6

Redwood Empire Fair: Market and breeding swine and sheep shows all start at 8 am at the Ukiah fairgrounds. Market and breeding beef show starts at 5 pm. More information: 462-FAIR.

Redwood Empire Fair: gates officially open to the public from 3 pm to midnight at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Performance by Severance on the Willow Tree Stage. Super TT & Motorhome Destruction Derby at 7 pm. Today is T&T Towing Day, when kids and seniors get free admission from 3 to 6 pm. Regular admission prices: \$9 adults, \$7 for children, seniors and for parking. Unlimited carnival ride passes are \$27 at fair. More info: www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com or 462-FAIR.

Library Summer Reading Program: Today's "Every Hero Has a Story" program is "Tall Tales": "John Weaver, a storytelling hero, will tell some amazing legends and tall tales." 11 am to noon, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Free.

Shanachie Pub: solo performance by Irish, a frequent performer at the Pub's Open Mic Nights. Two shows: 5:30 pm and 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, August 7

Redwood Empire Fair: Swine showmanship starts at 8 am, and is followed by the pygmy goat show at 2 pm. Large animal round robin starts at 4 pm, and small animal round robin starts at 7 pm. More information: 462-FAIR.

Redwood Empire Fair: gates officially open to the public from 3 pm to midnight at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Performance by Waylon & The Wild Cats on the Willow Tree Stage. Mudd Boggs contest at 7 pm. Admission prices: \$9 adults, \$7 for children, seniors and for parking. Unlimited carnival ride passes are \$27 at fair. More info: www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com or 462-FAIR.

Shanachie Pub: with Mitchel Holman, Nice Enough and the Good God Damns, a Ukiah band whose "sound comes from 70s style rock and roll, with a mixture of Modern Indie Rock." 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, August 8

Pet Adoption Day: Rascal's Rescue, working with the Ukiah Animal Shelter, presents a "Baby Shower Pet Adoption Day" - "Help Shower Pets with Gifts." 10 am to 2 pm at Willits Power & Hardware, 1600 South Main



The Lovin' Mama Family

Lovin' Mama Farmraiser

Lovin' Mama Farm, "dedicated to doubling Mendocino County's organic vegetable production," has started a "Farmraiser" on indiegogo. The campaign is to help farmers Corrine Hansch and Matthew Leon move their farm to Willits. "There are two ways to help: 1. Contribute - Your contributions will go towards the development of a new farm to make this goal possible. We have some yummy farm fresh thank gifts, and you can give as little as \$5. 2. Post to Facebook - The more people hear about this effort, the more likely we are to meet our target. Thank you!" Lovin' Mama Farm has been farming for five years in Redwood Valley, selling at the Willits and other county farmers markets, through Community Supported Agriculture programs, and to local markets and restaurants, but unexpectedly have to move their farm a year and a half into a 10-year lease. To donate or for more info: www.indiegogo.com/projects/lovin-mama-farmraiser#/story.



North Coast Water Rights Workshop
August 11, 6-8:30pm, Willits Community Center

Come Learn about California Water Law and How to File for Riparian / Appropriate Rights



Discussing Water Rights, A Western Pastime
This workshop is sponsored by the Salmonid Restoration Federation, Trout Unlimited, and Mendocino Resource Conservation District.
This workshop is designed for rural landowners, realtors, property managers, and residents who would like to better understand the legal requirements for diverting, storing, and using water.
For more information or to pre-register (Advanced Registration \$20, includes the Water Rights Primer and access to prep materials), please visit www.calsalmon.org
This workshop is partially funded through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Street. "Bring a donation for the Ukiah Animal Shelter and get 10 percent off any one item (excluding power equipment). Adopt a pet and get a free bag of food." Suggested donations are: canned dog and cat food, new or gently used collars and leashes, and toys.

Redwood Empire Fair: gates officially open to the public from noon to midnight at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Performance by Il Big on the Willow Tree Stage. Truck and Tractor Pulls at 7 pm. Admission prices: \$9 adults, \$7 for children, seniors and for parking. Unlimited carnival ride passes are \$27 at fair. More info: www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com or 462-FAIR.



Redwood Empire Fair Junior Livestock Auction: starts at noon at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Come bid on locally raised livestock from youth exhibitors. Easily sign up to be a new bidder before auction starts. More info: 462-FAIR.

Shanachie Pub: One-Man Band Jacob Green, original and covers (adapted blues/folk/grass style), performing on guitar, dobro, banjo, ukelele and mandolin, while simultaneously playing harmonic, stomp box and foot tambourine. Visit www.jacobgreenmusic.com. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, August 9

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs any style, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon. Adults \$7, members \$6, kids \$5.

Free Sports Physicals: Howard Hospital offers its final day, Sunday, August 9, of Free Sports Physicals for local students planning to participate in school sports programs this year. A physical is required in California for all students participating in sports. Appointments are available from 9 am to 1 pm at 11 Oaks Conference Room at 1040 South Main Street, which is in the complex north of the hospital and the Redwood Medical Clinic building. To register, please call 456-3185. Howard is also offering free "Wellness While You Wait" checks for adults accompanying their student athletes, including: blood pressure check, blood sugar check, body mass index, strength and balance test, and a healthy eating demo.

What's Happening Around Town

Redwood Empire Fair: gates officially open to the public from noon to 11 pm at the Ukiah Fairgrounds for the final day. Performance by Banda Pacifica & Others on the Willow Tree Stage. Auto and Boat Races at 6 pm. Admission prices: \$9 adults, \$7 for children, seniors and for parking. Unlimited carnival ride passes are \$27 at fair. More info: www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com or 462-FAIR

Monday, August 10

WCT auditions for 'Fright Night': The Willits Community Theatre holds auditions at 7 pm tonight at the WCT playhouse, 37 West Van Lane, for "Fright Night," an evening of one act plays on a horror theme. "Fright Night" consists of four one-act plays: "The Tell-Tale Heart," a stage adaptation of the classic horror story by Edgar Allan Poe; "The Monkey's Paw," the classic English horror play; "Ten Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse," a contemporary survival manual play featuring real zombies and lots of laughs; and "Starla," an eerie play telling the story of a young woman who, while auditioning for a play, is possessed by the ghost of a jealous actress. The call is for 10 men or boys and 6 women or girls, aged 15 years and up. "Fright Night" opens on Friday, October 16. Scripts available at the Willits Library, or contact volunteer Mike ADair at michaeladair69@yahoo.com and tell him you want an electronic copy of "Fright Night."



and Mendocino Resource Conservation District, and partially funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. For info, or to pre-register (advanced registration \$20, includes the Water Rights Primer and access to prep materials), please visit www.calsalmon.org.

Thursday, August 13

Library Summer Reading Program: Today's "Every Hero Has a Story" program is "Dance Around the World": "Explore the dances and music of many lands and cultures with dance heroine, Nikola Clay." 11 am to noon, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Free.

Celebrate National Farmers Market Week: Willits Farmers Market is in full swing, 3 to 6 pm at City Park on Commercial Street, and farmers this week will celebrate the 16th annual National Farmers Week, "honoring the important

role that farmers markets play in local economies. Throughout the week, communities across the country will celebrate the thousands of our nation's farmers markets and the farmers, ranchers and communities who make them possible." Willits Weekly has our new edition at the market each week; as well as T-shirts and subscription forms. Come grab a delicious dessert, some veggies, fresh-caught seafood, fresh-laid eggs, or local grassfed beef, sausage or lamb, among the many offerings.

WHS Boosters Club Meeting: The monthly WHS Boosters Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, August 13 at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS!

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly Jazz Night with local musicians. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. "Fellow jazz musicians are encouraged to bring their and partake during the second set, so long as it fits within the moment of sounds!" 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Tuesday, August 11

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital

Adventist Health

North Coast Water Rights Workshop: "Come learn about California water law and how to file for riparian/appropriate rights." 6 to 8:30 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. This workshop is designed for rural landowners, realtors, property managers, and residents who would like to better understand the legal requirements for diverting, storing, and using water. It will include an optional clinic component to help landowners fill out Small Domestic Use or other permitting paperwork. Sponsored by the Salmonid Restoration Federation, Trout Unlimited,

WCT seeks scripts

Willits Community Theatre is seeking original, one-act play scripts for a festival of plays to be staged in December. Scripts should be around 10 minutes in running length and be original and un-produced. The play action must be set in or involve reference to the winter holiday or winter season. Minimal props will be allowed.

The submission deadline for scripts is September 1. Directors will then select eight plays from those submitted for casting, production and staging on December 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12. Electronic submissions are preferred.

For further information or to submit a script, contact Jason Edington at jedington@outlook.com or Jason Edington at Willits Community Theatre, P.O. Box 80, Willits, CA 95490.

Round Valley Blackberry Festival August 22 and 23

The 33rd Annual Round Valley Blackberry Festival will be held this year on Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23 at the festival grounds in downtown Covelo. Admission is free.

Mickey will be Master of Ceremonies and will kick off the festivities at 10 am on Saturday. Sip a glass of Mendocino County wine while listening to the numerous local musical groups playing throughout the entire weekend. Enjoy a blackberry slush while strolling around the surrounding arbor which will be full of arts and craft vendors and community organizations. There will be a climbing wall for children of all ages. Saturday night, at 7 pm, join the community for a fun square dance.

There will be a 5/10K run/walk on Sunday morning (http://www.roundvalley.org/library/race.pdf) sponsored by the Friends of the Round Valley Library. Later in the day enjoy the motorcycle and antique car show featuring both local and out-of-town vehicles. The festival runs from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday. Further festival or booth information can be found at www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com.



Caltrans Public Meeting on Herbicide Use: Caltrans will host a public meeting to discuss the use of herbicides on the Willits Bypass mitigation parcels. The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, from 6 pm to 8 pm. According to Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie: "The meeting will include a presentation by Caltrans on the herbicide application and some background, and then we will open it up for questions."

Friday, August 14

Dancing at the Grange: An evening of dancing, with DJ selections of electronic music+ at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Come and enjoy with friends." 8 pm. Free, or a small donation gladly accepted.

Shanachie Pub: Dusty Green Bones. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, August 15

Willits High School Clean-Up Day: "Please come out and help clean up the campus at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. A fun work party, starting at 9 am; bring a broom and other supplies, and let us all lend a hand to make the campus beautiful for our kids."



WELL Garden Tour: This year's annual Willits Economic Localization garden tour will be "even more eco-friendly than ever," featuring home gardens all within easy walking distance in Westside Willits, and also featuring drought-tolerant "water wise" garden methods. 10 am: Park at (or bike to) Brookside Elementary School (north end of Spruce Street), and pick up your ticket and a map of the gardens. 10:15 am to 12:30 pm: Tour the home garden. 12:30 pm: Return to tour the Brookside School Farm, followed by lunch and music in the shade. \$15, including lunch and a WELL membership (free for current WELL members). Visit www.well95490.org or contact Madge at 459-1493 or Kimbal at 456-9128 for more information.



WELL Garden Tour participants enjoying lunch at the Willits Integrated Services Center garden last year.

COLUMN | At the Movies



'Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation'

The Story: The Bad Guys, known in this movie as "The Syndicate," are murderous, sadistic psychopaths whose leader has a Napoleon Complex with the wherewithal for terror, assassination and international mayhem. Only the Mission Impossible team can stop them ... enter Tom Cruise. There are, of course, serious complications surrounding a particular beautiful woman/double agent or is it "triple agent" whose motives are cryptic.

My Thoughts: The "Mission Impossible" director/screenwriter is Christopher McQuarrie ("The Usual Suspects"), so one can expect some clever twists ... and truly, the movie delivers clever twists. The action scenes are novel and brilliantly executed.

I'm always impressed with Tom Cruise. He does most of his stunts; his daredevil swagger and big smile remind me of Douglas Fairbanks.

Rebecca Ferguson (who's gorgeous) is the mysterious female agent and adept knife fighter. She's quite believable. The lighting and camera angles treat her like a goddess ... classic Hollywood.

Parents: Violence and terrible murders, with very little blood. The plot is somewhat confusing. I think kids (10 years and up) will be fine with the movie. For children younger than 10, it would be like watching a kaleidoscope of fist fights, car chases and motorcycle crashes without any meaning at all.

Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.



Summer Reading Awards and Party: The Willits Library's "Every Hero Has a Story" Summer Reading Program finishes up with a party: "Come be recognized for being summer reading heroes! Get some yummy treats and a free book from the Friends of the Willits Library." Willits Librarian Jill Dorman says: "If students are just coming back to town after vacation, they still have a chance to get all the summer reading prizes and incentives if they have been reading this summer and write the titles down for us (they don't have to be exact, we just want to know that they have been reading!)." 11 am to noon at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Free.

Old Timers Baseball Game & BBQ: 78th annual Old Timers Baseball Game - Willits vs. Laytonville - and BBQ is set for Saturday, August 15 at Harwood Park in Laytonville.

Opening Ceremonies on Bud Harwood Field will start at 12 noon, and the baseball game starts at 1 pm. Interested in playing on the team? Must be 35 years or older. To sign up for the Willits team, contact Steve Spackman at 707-391-4675; to sign up for the Laytonville team, contact DeberDodd at 707-972-8251. The Old Timers Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the event; if you are interested in helping with this 78-year-old tradition, contact Nikki Waldon at 707-984-8089.

Stand-Up Comedy at WCT: Internationally known comedian Marc Yaffee will bring his humor to Willits for a one-night show at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. 8 pm. "A comedy joyride that explores his multi-ethnic roots and the culture clashes that fill his world. By birth a mixture of Navajo, Caucasian and Mexican heritages, Yaffee was raised in a Jewish family....

Funny but not filthy, Marc serves his audiences an original comedy recipe, especially prepared for non-stop laughs." Opening for Yaffee will be comedienne Ina Romeo, who "calls her brand of comedy mainstream, edgy and political." Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, or online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Shanachie Pub: Julian & The Upside Sound. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street 459-2444. With Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Cafe Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

Open Mic Jam at Al's Redwood Room: Every Friday night, hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, featuring talented, established local musicians from all over Northern California. Jazz, Blues, Rock. New talent welcome. Al's Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street; starting at 9 pm. Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Cafe Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

Laytonville Summer Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Buy local: vegetables, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, hot soup, baked goods, and more.

Ongoing Events

Willits Summer Farmers Market: from 3 to 6 pm every Thursday at City Park on East Commercial Street, with produce, local meats and fish, local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

"Valley Painters Present": August show at the Willits Center for the Arts, "Valley Painters Present," the 4th annual Graduation Exhibit for students of instructor Cynda Valle, featuring oil paintings by Maria Alonso Canillar and Rachel Schroeder in the Main Room. Valle will be painting at the WCA "most days" through the month, with other artists also working, from 11 am to 5 pm, in addition to usual gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Exhibit runs through August 30 at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-1732.

The Emandal Choral: ongoing rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5 to 6:30 pm, for the Choral's 21st season (rehearsals started August 5), at the Little Lake Grange great hall, 291 School Street. No auditions: Open to all who love to sing.

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Monday night session at the Willits Center for the Arts. New beginner class runs from 7 to 8 pm, with dancing to follow from 8 to 9 pm. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. Caller/teacher Lawrence Johnson. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. \$20/month (to help pay the caller), with young dancer scholarships available. Questions? Contact Emmy Good at Emmy@pacific.net or Jenny Watts at Wattsup@gmail.com.

Al-Anon Meeting: Every Thursday Night from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. "Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

Drop-in Knitting Circle: Due to popular demand, the Willits Library is holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects - we'll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary - everyone is welcome to drop in."

Cards and Games at Willits Library: free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. "Saturday free bridge classes, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, for new and review students. New "Deadly Defense" free bridge classes for students with basic bridge skills. 10:15 am to 12:15 pm; Saturdays through August 22, starting July 18. Info on bridge: Donna at 459-9035. Chess: Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm; bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

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

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

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.

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 6:30 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All S&AL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

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Kinetic Carnivale volunteers

There is still time to get involved with Mendocino County Museum's 4th Annual Willits Kinetic Carnivale, Saturday and Sunday, August 22 and 23! This amazing event needs your help with passing out event flyers (leading up to the fair), pre-construction and decorating during the week of August 17, and on both event days.

During the fair volunteers are needed to lead children's activities and games for the Whimsy Circus, to help with crafts at Make & Take Stations, and in the areas of beverage service, first aid, information and ticket booths. No skills are necessary!

Volunteers are asked to work a four-hour shift or more on either Saturday, August 22, or Sunday, August 23. There are perks for volunteering, including free entry into the daytime fair and access to the Kinetic Crew Cafe. Volunteer for 20 hours and earn a free ticket to Saturday evening's Grand Ball!

Please contact the Mendocino County Museum volunteer coordinator at 459-2736 for more information.

- Ruth Hubbell, museum volunteer coordinator, and Katherine Houghtby, Kinetic Carnivale coordinator



Senior Center Flea Market & BBQ

Saturday, August 22

From 8 am to 2 pm. Low prices on kid's clothes. Root Beer Floats & BBQ Hot Dogs available. "Want to get rid of all the stuff you don't use anymore? Rent a space at our flea market, and turn your unwanted items into cash". Parking lot / table spaces available to rent from 7 am to 3 pm. \$20/each or 2/\$35 (Members \$15/each or 2/\$25). Please bring your own tables, chairs, bags, umbrellas (for shade) and money to make change. Contact Mariya to reserve a space at: 459-6826.



Willits native Barbara Carlon has advanced to the fourth round in the North American Sewing match, sponsored by Sew Mama Sew.

The name of the contest is the Super Online Sewing Match II, and it includes contestants from the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Carlon said there were 100 applicants. Of those, 10 were chosen to compete. In the first round, contestants had to make something called a Sutton blouse. Carlon made hers longer than was called for; it became a short dress. The judges loved it, and Carlon made it to the second round. Eight contestants remained.

In the second round, contestants were asked to make a '60s dress. Carlon nailed it, sewing something that Twiggy would have been proud to wear. She was judged to have passed the second round, and only six contestants remained.

Third round contestants were asked to make a tote bag with matching pouch. Carlon chose to incorporate a Panamanian design called Cuna mola. The Cuna are a tribe of Panamanian Indians, and the mola is an appliqué design. The result is a colorful bag that proudly displays a

Stitching for the Win

Willits woman advances to semi-finals in sewing contest

By Mike A'Dair

Carlon was born and raised in Willits and worked in the Willits Unified School District for 33 years. She was a classroom aide for the first 10 of those years and taught English, Spanish, history and computers at the middle school level for the next 23 years. She retired from teaching in 2013. She is married to retired teacher Alex Carlon.

"I always loved to sew," said Carlon. "I learned a lot in the 4H when I was a young girl, when I was about 12. It kind of always just stayed with me."

"Sewing is coming back. With the advent of computers and the Internet, it's become a business. There are lots of on-line businesses and tutorials that you can take. People can send you patterns over the Internet. Sewing is coming back in a big way because of the technology, and it's not just in your neighborhood now, but all over the world."

Above, left: Seamstress Barbara Carlon in one of her own summer dresses.

Far left: Leah Carlon models a fashionable dress made by her mother, Barbara.

At left: Barbara Carlon shows off the colorful tote bag she made for the sewing contest.



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The rest of Farmers

From Page 7

than ever, farmers markets serve as anchors across our community by positively influencing health of shoppers and providing an economic stimulus. Markets result in more viable regional economies and local farm businesses, increased access to fresh, nutritious food, and stronger social networks that help keep communities healthy.

On April 3, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the recipients of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's first-ever Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive grants, totaling \$31.5 million. FINI was authorized through the 2014 Farm Bill to help participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps program, known as "CalFresh" in California) increase their access to fruits and vegetables.

North Coast Opportunities is a partner in this grant, and will receive and administer \$103,760 over two years to help grow Market Match — California's healthy food incentive program — at the Ukiah, Willits, Redwood Valley, Laytonville and Lake County Farmers Markets.

Doing small vegetable farming is an uphill battle. The large farms get the big subsidies, but the small local farmers have difficulty making a living. However, for a variety of reasons, there has been an increase in the demand for locally produced food. Market Match supports that demand and provides low-income families access to fresh, local food that they might previously have viewed as out of their financial reach.

Market Match doubles EBT shoppers — CalFresh benefits are granted via "electronic benefits transfer" or EBT cards — buying power up to a daily maximum of \$15. The Willits market has an EBT machine, like a debit or credit card processor, and a CalFresh/EBT recipient may use their benefits by simply swiping their card, indicating how much they want to take out, and receiving tokens to spend at the market. For example, if a customer spends \$15 in EBT funds, they are given an extra \$15 in market tokens to spend on fruits and vegetables. This is a "win-win-win" situation — participants make healthier eating choices, farmers have more customers, and the community of people interacting with each other at the market expands.

"Farmers markets play a vital role in forming a healthy, local food system," says Michael Foley, Willits Farmers Market manager. "By providing the opportunity for farmers to connect directly with consumers, markets serve as education centers. Vendors teach customers about agriculture, share recipes, and expose them to new foods. Markets are making people and communities stronger and healthier. Please visit the market during Farmers Market Week and throughout the year to celebrate with us."

The Willits Farmers Market is Thursday from 3 to 6 pm at the Willits City Park. For more information visit www.facebook.com/willitsfm.

— Willits Farmers Market

National Health Center Week at Little Lake Health Center

Little Lake Health Center is marking National Health Center Week 2015 on Wednesday, August 12 with breakfast smoothies, a healthy lunch, health information, blood pressure readings, blood sugar checks, a basic eye test, free dental screenings, information about our yoga class, tooth fairy story time, face painting, and more.

Little Lake Health Center has been serving Willits since 2002, and is pleased to be part of a nationwide network of community health centers that provide health care to all who need it.

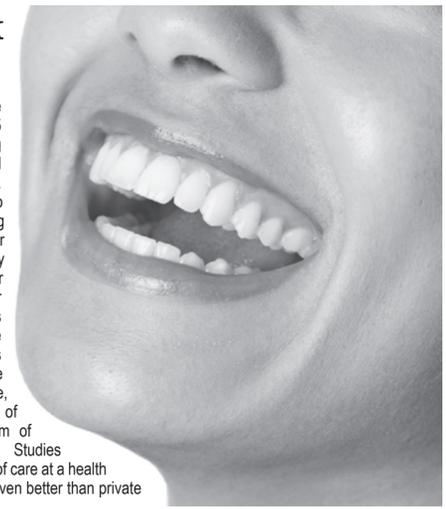
One of the bright spots in America's health care system, health centers started 50 years ago as a pilot project during President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. Today, they have compiled a significant record of success that includes:

- Reducing income and ethnic health disparities nationwide, even in the poorest and most challenged communities.
- Reducing infant mortality rates.
- Producing \$24 billion in annual health system savings.
- Reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and unnecessary visits to the ER.
- Maintaining patient satisfaction levels of nearly 100 percent.

Health centers serve more than 23 million

people nationwide — that's one in 15 Americans, including 7 million children and 260,000 veterans. Health centers are also increasingly becoming the trusted provider of choice for many families, whether they are insured or not. Evidence shows patients choose health centers because they are convenient, affordable, and offer a range of services from a team of caring professionals. Studies also show the quality of care at a health center is as good or even better than private practices.

"Every day in our waiting rooms, I see the value of having a patient-centered health care home," said Becky Driscoll, Little Lake manager. "When people have a place to go for regular care, they use it and stay healthier. We provide a range of services onsite — primary care services, pediatrics, dentistry, even mental health services. Our patients not only get the care they need under one roof, but they are treated as individuals, with dignity and respect. This is what health care should be, and what we celebrate during



National Health Center Week."

Little Lake Health Center is part of the Mendocino County Health Clinic/MCHC family of care, which offers health care to people in Ukiah, Willits and Lakeport. MCHC is a local non-profit organization providing access to health care for all. Learn more at www.mchcinc.org or call 707-456-9600 for an appointment.

— Jendi Coursey for Little Lake Health Center

Poetry, coffee and donuts

Liam UíCearbhaill reads from his new book

You missed a rare treat Saturday morning at 101 Donuts and Burgers (and I'm not talking about the donuts) if you missed Liam UíCearbhaill's poetry reading and book signing. That's pronounced "O'Carroll" if you are wondering.

We walked into the wonderfully remodeled donut shop about 10 am and joined Liam at a table he had set up with his new book of poems, "Poetry's Purpose." Settling ourselves into a booth with beverages and donuts, we were ready to be royally entertained.

Dressed as a true bard in his signature tam and red suspenders, Liam presents an imposing figure. He proceeded to awe us with his recitations, from memory, of several long odes, then sat with us and discoursed on the topic of poetry.

We were captivated and bought his beautiful book which he autographed for us. As we were leaving, Liam declared his intention to recite his "Ode to a Burger" to some folks who had just ordered burgers.

I just LOVE this town with its colorful collection of richly talented and generous people! You can find Liam on most Thursdays at the Willits Farmers Market, behind the Grange Grains and Chocolates

The rest of Agape

From Page 3

transparent shower curtain and a smoke machine.

But there was also a message, of course: to "be strong and courageous" and to trust in God, even when times look hard and a giant asteroid is approaching the earth. Actress Alicia Rea had a great comic turn playing a robot who's always wanted her own name, and actor Mike Williams had a particularly funny moment on video as he ventured outside the spacecraft to clear away the linguine noodles that were blocking the craft's ability to blast the asteroid away before it crashed.

Cathy Gott of the Hannah Foundation said

the Vacation Bible School kids were "just awesome" to raise money for other local kids and their families. "We normally put on the Hoedown for Hope each year as a fundraiser," Gott said, "but we didn't have it this year. I had a hip replacement and I just couldn't do the running around. But we'll resume it next year, and keep it going."

Hannah Foundation was started when Gott's granddaughter, Hannah Donahue, was diagnosed with leukemia right before she turned 1. The first "Hoedown for Hannah" was put on to raise funds to help the family pay for the "incidental" expenses, Gott said, that come along with a local child being treated for a serious illness in Bay Area hospitals,

like parking, gas, and food. During Hannah's treatment, the family found out another Willits girl was being treated for cancer in the Bay Area, and shared some of the funds raised with her family.

Eventually, though the sponsorship of the Rotary Foundation, the Hannah Foundation was officially formed. The foundation helps critically ill children under 18 in Willits, and has helped 37 local families so far. To find out more, call Gott at 459-4291.

For more information about Agape Bible Church, located at 290 South Lenore, and all of their family, community and youth programs, visit www.agapebiblechurch.com.

Free Summer Meals in Willits

A healthy breakfast and lunch are provided FREE to children 0-18 years old regardless of income.



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

Schoepner said. "When CAL FIRE showed up, we turned it over to them, to finish up the mop up." The airport fire ended up burning about 1/8 acre.

The third fire was way out Third Gate Road, about eight miles up Sherwood Road. "Brooktrails 5281 was the first engine at the Third Gate fire," Schoepner said. "CAL FIRE resources followed up later."

But no air support was needed at either the second or third fires. "The crews got on them quickly enough, that we were able to keep them small, and we didn't need to call in any of the air resources."

With several structures threatened at the North Incident, air resources were used extensively, as Willits residents hearing aircraft overhead can attest to. CAL FIRE's Air Attack 110, an air spotter, directed the air response, Chief Magann said. "It's basically an eye in the sky for us." The 110 carries an observer trained in fire behavior, as well as the pilot. "The pilot circles the plane around, and the observer updates the ground troops about the fire behavior, and where to come in from, and where to lay their lines," Magann said. The air spotter also directs the air tankers: There were two CAL FIRE-owned air tankers from Ukiah dropping retardant, as

well as the CAL FIRE helicopter from Howard Forest Station fighting the North Incident fire.

CAL FIRE ground resources responded also, as well as five U.S. Forest Service engines, each with a four-person crew, who just happened to be passing through Willits on their way to the Rocky Fire in Lake County, when the North Incident fire broke out.

Ground resources from Little Lake Fire included three fire engines and a water tender.

Magann said the original 911 call came in from Northbrook Way: "That's where I spotted the fire up on the hill," he said, "and requested resources from CAL FIRE and directed [Deputy Fire Chief] John Thomen to go up Sherwood Road to find access, figure out how to get in there."

Despite rumors during the fire that the Northbrook Health Care Center was ablaze, Magann said Northbrook residents were asked to shelter in place, and there was "never any worry about evacuating Northbrook."

The North Incident fire was outside of city limits, Magann said, but was within the LRA, or Local Responsibility Area, the area Little Lake Fire has jurisdiction over. But the State Responsibility Area - CAL FIRE's jurisdiction - "would have been impacted if the fire spread," Magann said. "That's why they jumped on it as fast as they did."



At far left: A CAL FIRE dozer works with ground crew to contain the fire.

At left: The CAL FIRE copter drops another load of water on the fire.

Photos by Carrie Shattuck

Also assisting the ground firefighters was a bulldozer from Howard Station and a crew from Chamberlain Creek. "They were quite a help for us," Magann said. "They helped us to lay a hose on the right-hand flank of the fire, and assisted with some mop-up."

"We had 3,000 feet of hose on the ground: we circled the fire with the hose. And then CAL FIRE took the dozer and pretty much put a circle around the fire to help stop any potential spread."

Water to fight the North incident fire came from a hydrant on at Bittenbender and North Main Street (Bittenbender Lane is the street heading west off Highway 101 just south of Village Mart.)

Brooktrails fire engine 5281, the first engine at the Third Gate Fire, sustained some damage, due to difficult access to the fire. "That's the nature of the beast," Chief Schoepner said. "Some of these terrains can be really rough." Engine 5281 is expected to be back in service at the end of the week.

Both fire chiefs emphasized the need for fire safety and caution during this fire season. "The biggest thing I would tell everybody," Schoepner said, "is, yes, we've had some cool weather, the past couple of days, it may feel like it's fall, but we're just starting fire season. People need to stay vigilant: We are a long ways from the end of fire season."

Chief Magann said there'd been several recent incidents - two north of town last weekend - of Little Lake Fire being notified of people illegally doing outdoor burning. "Fire season is not over with," he said. "I just can't express enough the potential for large fires in our area," he said.

Crews from Little Lake Fire have been helping cover the CAL FIRE Howard Station while CAL FIRE crews are over at the Rocky Fire. And John Engler, Brooktrails Fire volunteer, is preparing to head over to the Rocky Fire as driver/operator for a crew from the Laytonville Fire Department.

As of press time Wednesday, CAL FIRE's 6 pm report on the Rocky Fire shows containment is up to 30 percent, with 69,600 acres burned and 3,483 firefighting personnel working the fire. CAL FIRE says their damage assessment of the burned area - now complete, barring any further fire spread - shows the Rocky Fire has destroyed 43 homes and 53 outbuildings.

Those wishing to show appreciation for the Willits and Brooktrails fire departments are welcome to send in donations to: Little Lake Fire Department, 74 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490, or to Brooktrails Fire Department, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, CA 95490.

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

Barton is scheduled to return to court September 16 at 1:30 pm for a preliminary hearing, a date that will likely be changed because of the 30 CDs sheriff's investigators compiled during the investigation that Thompson needs to review.

The Mendocino County District Attorney's Office has charged Barton with two counts of premeditated murder in the deaths of 17-year-old Teo Palmieri, and his father, 52-year-old Coleman Palmieri, as well as the attempted murders of Dr. Cindy Norvell, 54, and her brother, Theodore Norvell, 52. He also faces two counts of false imprisonment of two teenage girls who were staying at the home during the time of the killings.

The DA's Office is also seeking eight special allegations of using a dangerous weapon in the commission of a crime.

Investigators have yet to firmly establish what led Barton, a former foster child living at the Palmieri and Norvell family home, to allegedly grab a 12-inch knife from the kitchen just after midnight on July 19, and fatally stab Teo Palmieri in his bedroom, killing him after what the Sheriff's Office deemed to be a violent struggle. Barton then allegedly moved through the home, killing Coleman Palmieri, and critically wounding Cindy Norvell and her brother Theodore, who was visiting from Canada. Two teenage girls - one a daughter of Cindy Norvell and Coleman Palmieri, the other the daughter of Theodore Norvell - emerged traumatized but unharmed from the attack.

After giving himself up to deputies, Barton admitted to using marijuana heavily, but denied using controlled substances, and sheriff's investigators found no controlled substances at the scene.

Both Cindy and Theodore Norvell were airlifted to out-of-county hospitals for treatment of life-threatening injuries, but have since been released from the hospital.

If found guilty, Barton could be sentenced to state prison for 25 years to life, face life imprisonment without parole, or be put to death.

"It's been a policy of this office and the district attorney to not even discuss the possibility of the death penalty until after the preliminary hearing when everything's been laid out on the table," said DA's Office spokesman Mike Jenella.

Barton remains in Mendocino County Jail, where he is being held without bail.

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

at the board's July 30 meeting, urging trustees to approve both of them and arguing approval of both job descriptions would give her flexibility as she seeks help in addressing the district's technology needs.

Ari Rule, who had been lead technology person at the district, has recently resigned to seek opportunities elsewhere, leaving the district without anybody to attend to its technology needs.

As has occurred at previous meetings, trustees Laurie Harris and Alex Bowlds opposed Johnson's request. Bowlds said he would prefer the district to hire a consultant who could train a "hands-on employee" to do the work. Harris said much the same thing.

"I'm not interested in more managers. I'm interested in workers," Harris said.

Johnson described the district's technology wing as being in woeful condition, not only since the departure of Rule, but before that as well.

"It has been a band-aid department since I've been here," Johnson said. "There is no one in the district who is heading up technology."

Board Chairwoman Cynthia Carni spoke in support of Johnson's attempt to beef up technology personnel.

"To me it seems like the biggest hole in what we offer is in technology," Carni said. "The biggest feedback I get from students and graduates is that they are not prepared to deal with or to utilize the tech that is required to enter the professions, because they don't get the technical training here."

Trustee Saprina Rodriguez also supported Johnson, stating: "We spent all that money on technology in the bond. And then to not support it? That's almost negligent."

Of the two positions, director of technology is the senior position. The network systems manager would make the same as a district's food services manager, or \$42,867 in the first step, and \$52,229 in the ninth step. The director of technology would be paid the same as the director of maintenance, operations and transportation, that is, \$70,860 in the first step and \$86,336 in the ninth step.

The first five bullet points for the job description of network systems manager include: 1. assist in planning to ensure that technology is used effectively to meet student needs; 2. demonstrate on a regular basis the use of technology in the classroom; 3. encourage learning activities that take advantage of computer networking capabilities; 4. provide frequent feedback to staff members and administrators regarding instructional technology; and 5. has the ability to develop independent solutions to problems and interface with other specialists to make decisions or recommendations to significantly change, develop or interpret policies or programs.

The first five bullet points for the position of director of technology include the following: 1. plan, organize and direct the district's information processing operations; coordinate the district's computer activities and operations; and coordinate activities with regard to policy and administrative needs of the district; 2. analyze, direct and determine the development and implementation of new and revised systems and applications to accomplish the district's information processing needs and manage the information processing system, including both central data processing and network systems throughout the district; 3. coordinate network system needs with intradistrict technology committee and research and review site [school] technology plans for coordination into the district's technology plan; 4. plan, evaluate and coordinate with county, state and federal network developments and participate on planning committees and determine viability of integration into district needs; and 5. participate on technology grant and development application committees and ensure coordinated effort with other technology projects and grants.

In the vote on the network systems manager job description, the motion passed, 3-1-1, with Harris voting no and Bowlds abstaining. The job description of the director of technology was approved 3-2, with Harris and Bowlds voting no.

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

four people for the two jobs, and Chapman-Jones agreed to take the job.

On July 25, district Superintendent Patricia Johnson told Willits Weekly the district intended to create an "internal succession plan" which would allow talented teachers who seem to have displayed a tenacious loyalty to Willits, and who therefore can be expected to not move away soon, to be taught how to be administrators.

With Chapman-Jones in position as principal of both elementary schools, the district intends to bring back two recently retired administrators to serve as assistant principals at each elementary school.

However, when contacted on August 3, Willits Unified School District Human Resources Director Laura Sleeper said she did not know who would be the assistant principal at either Blosser Lane or Brookside schools.

In addition, the district is moving ahead with recruiting candidates to undertake a training program to earn an administrative credential. Sleeper would not disclose the names of those stepping up to take the training, saying only "several certificated teachers are working towards an administrative credential."

However, this reporter saw Brookside teachers Barbarie Gonzalez and Anne Hammond slip into the board room for an interview during the closed session meeting held July 30.

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

the ideas come from local government staff people and community groups. Each locality is free to implement its own strategies to accomplish the goal.

Allman, Cryer and Thompson have been working with other countywide and statewide organizations to craft an effective strategy for Mendocino County.

Allman said on average some 20 to 22 percent of the jail inmate population has mental health issues. Currently the jail holds about 300 inmates. Twenty percent of that would be 60 inmates.

According to Allman, the idea is to divert low-level offenders from the correctional system and into the mental health recovery system. "Once a person is in the county jail, funding stops for mental health services for this person," Allman said. "If we can prevent low-level offenders from crossing the threshold of the jail, and hand them off to mental health, then our community is better off."

Allman said the \$150,000 would be used to expand training to other branches of law enforcement that may not have had it yet. "The guys in my department have had training for the past four years," Allman said. "What we want to do is expand the training to police officers, ambulance personnel, and other first responders."

When Supervisor John McCowen asked what providing one-time money would mean for the future, Allman replied the commitment would likely be ongoing. "I certainly am not trying to tell you that \$150,000 is going to solve this problem, forever. This needs to be a continuing conversation."

Public Defender Thompson told supervisors the combined efforts of her office, the district attorney, the Health and Human Services Agency, and the Mendocino County courts have diverted 85 people with mental health issues from the jail over the past two and a half years. Thompson said currently 27 people - who would otherwise be in jail - are in some kind of extra-constabulary treatment program at the present time.

"We have done a lot with no money. I think we could do a

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

county government," the grand jury report states. The major cause of those failures, the grand jury report asserted, is FCS's lack of adequate staffing.

The supervisors agreed with the finding that understaffing is a problem with FCS, but disagreed that FCS's performance was an "embarrassment." "The statement in F5 is not a finding of fact but a personal opinion ... which is not supported by evidence in the record. The performance of Mendocino County FCS is not an embarrassment to county government or the community. The performance of county FCS is higher in some areas and lower in others when compared with other counties."

While it is true FCS "has been unable to recruit and retain the required number of social workers with a [master's degree in social work], it has achieved compliance by filing a waiver request as noted by the HHSA director," supervisors said.

HHSA Director Stacey Cryer conceded in her response to the report: "Ideally, it would be better to have Social Worker IVs and Vs, who would need some training, but much less than Social Worker Is," who are trainee-level social workers and ordinarily would "only be carrying a very small caseload."

"That being said," Cryer said, "in order to protect children, it is better to have Social Worker Is handling investigations and working to protect children than to leave the positions open in hopes of acquiring social workers with a master of social work degree ... as this would definitely place children at risk by not having anyone to investigate referrals."

Supervisors also disagreed with the grand jury report's claim that a significant number of FCS staff do not meet state educational standards or are under-qualified, citing Cryer's response to the report that "employees meet current specifications for their job classifications."

The board did agree with some of the grand jury report's recommendations. Supervisors, through county CEO

Carmel Angelo, stated "[HHS] management will bring to the attention of the board of supervisors the ranking of the county with respect to all measures of FCS performance in comparison with the rest of the state." That recommendation has not been implemented yet, "but will be implemented in the future. FCS will work with the executive office on the coordination of a presentation to the board of supervisors within six months."

And while the county agreed to implement report recommendations "regarding valid issues" the grand jury report identified, supervisors rejected recommendations "to the extent they imply endorsement of accusatory statements and value judgments included in several of the 25 [report] findings, 22 of which the board of supervisors was not asked to respond to."

Supervisors also rejected as "unwarranted or unreasonable" a grand jury recommendation that "HHS report to the board ... on a quarterly basis [concerning] what is needed in terms of budget and staffing to meet the state requirements" of the Family and Children's Services Division.

"Budget updates and information are included in the executive office quarterly reports to the board of supervisors," Angelo said.

Before approving the report, Supervisor John McCowen asked that one sentence be struck from the report: "Mendocino County is doing the best it can."

And Supervisor Dan Gjerde found fault with a county statement implying the educational and training shortfalls of the FCS staff were taken care of by the one waiver Cryer applied for and received from the state.

Cryer has filed many such waivers, Gjerde said, while in other years no waiver was requested and none was given. In truth, he said, in some years the county's FCS did not meet state standards.

That clarification was added to the county's response.

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

The new contract will cost an extra \$1.2 million a year; however, because the state pays 83 percent of IHSS employees' wages, the cost to Mendocino County comes in at an extra \$157,000 a year.

IHSS workers perform certain domestic duties, such as cooking, cleaning, driving, bill paying, yard work, home repair chores and other duties. Their work greatly enhances the quality of life for their clients, and in many instances allows them to live comfortably at home, instead of in an institutional setting.

lot more if we had some money," she said.

No one from either of the county's two privately owned mental health providers, Ortnr Management Group and Redwood Quality Management Company, spoke to supervisors in support of the national Stepping Up campaign.

While supervisors appeared to view the presentation from Allman, Cryer and Thompson with approbation, they did not vote to assign the \$150,000 to the training program. Deliberations on the final budget are scheduled to take place in September.

Allman to seek grant for new jail building

Allman requested and received permission to submit a grant to the state of California for \$20 million to build a third building at the county's Low Gap Road jail facility. The building would be used to house violent offenders shunted off to the county from the state penitentiary, and also would house inmates being held due to criminal activities caused by their own mental health issues.

Allman said constructing the new building would commit the county to providing additional funding to staff the facility. He envisions being able to run the annex with a revolving staff of one sergeant and three correctional deputies per shift: a total of 10 deputies and two sergeants. This would cost the county an additional \$1.2 million in the first year, he said, and an estimated \$1.9 million 10 years out.

Allman noted one of the results of realignment - which sent low- and mid-violence inmate inmates from the state prison system back to county jails in response to a court decision ruling state prisons were overcrowded - is that the county jail is now "at capacity."

The sheriff said the jail was built to house up to 305 inmates, and currently the population hovers between 290 and 305 inmates per day. If the county receives the grant, the new building sought by Allman would have 60 beds.

Supervisors approved Allman's request unanimously.

Casting the lone dissenting vote on approval of the response to the grand jury report was Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse. In voting "no," Woodhouse urged supervisors to be more open to criticism.

"I feel like the grand jury does a good service," Woodhouse said. The grand jury "offers us constructive criticism. And criticism usually isn't appreciated by the person getting it. But I don't really like the way we have responded to this."

"Now, everybody can respond the way they want," he said. "But this is really our response. I just disagree with it. It's not the way I talk to people or treat them, as far as disagreeing with everything they say."

"A lot of these [responses] had partial agreement and partial disagreement; I would tend to just agree with the criticism and just take it, because I think the grand jury - there's 20 people on it, and I know some of them. They're very respectable people. And I was thinking this morning they have 1,400 years of life experience."

"With that many people coming together and working on something, they're giving a lot of outside perspective," he said. "It's like hiring a consultant for \$50,000," and then ignoring or just debating the overall results "and talking about the fine points."

"I understand," Woodhouse said. "We don't want to admit we're not doing the best we can. But I think maybe just admitting the problems and agreeing we can all do better is not a weak position for us to be in."

When the public sees supervisors "respond in these picky ways, focusing on these little details rather than on the spirit of what's being said, I think it makes us look less informed about the challenges that we have," he said. "And I don't want to appear that way to the public."

Additional reporting on this story was done by Dan McKee.

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

classes are only held for animals that will go through the terminal auction on Saturday. These include hogs, beef, sheep, meat goats, rabbits and poultry. This year, turkeys were added to the poultry show and should be a fun new addition to the auction. Market classes are held to evaluate the muscle, fat and readiness for the animal to be butchered, and the exhibitors even participate in an "Ultrasound Carcass" contest, too.

Breeding classes are for evaluation of the animal's desirability to be used for herd production. Do they look true to breed? Have good bones? Good coat? Stand correctly with good confirmation? The best specimens receive Best in Breed awards: Some have produced local livestock that return for generations through the auction.

The auction is the main event for many fair exhibitors, who enjoy putting their winnings towards cars, education, other future savings, or even towards next year's animal. Everyone is welcome to come to the Saturday auction, which starts at noon, and to sign up to be a buyer. A table near the ring is set up, and signing up is easy.

Animals are sold by the on-the-hoof pound and can be purchased for businesses, families and very hungry individuals. A packet noting each lot's weight is provided so buyers can calculate their costs. Kids spend a great deal of effort raising their animals, and the process is a great way to help teach responsibility, financial planning, and many other positive life skills.

But if livestock isn't your interest, there's still tons to see at the fair. All of the buildings are stocked with displays by local artisans, craftspeople and other talented exhibitors.

The Agriculture and Horticulture building is run by Jai Nelson and Jan Pedrotti, and features fruits, veggies and all kinds of tasty garden goods, along with some creative classes, too. The ever-popular "produce characters" class encourages entrants to mix and match produce - and toothpicks - to create a creature. This is

Pedrotti and Nelson's last year at the building, and if you have a free moment, pop in and send the ladies off with some well wishes!

Next door is the Floriculture building, run by Gail Harrie, which is filled with cut flowers and arrangements of all kinds. The building is also home to some metal horse statues on loan from Willits Furniture, which keep the theme "Western Round-Up" in full view. Dried arrangements, fresh arrangements, potted plants, cut stems and more can all be enjoyed there.

Just north of Floriculture is the Junior building, where all the youngsters showcase their exhibits. It's almost a little sampling of all the other buildings, but for the kids. They also enjoy divisions for fly tying, scrapbooking, welding, table setting and gardens.

The Home Arts building is at the south end of the fairgrounds by the fair's main gate, and it is run by Loraine Patton. This is a quilter's and baker's paradise, as the building is swathed along the whole perimeter with carefully created quilts, wall hangings and other decorative fabric items. Jams, jellies and more canned creations glisten on the front table, and baked goods rotate on a glass display. There are boxes for collection displays, and tole painted creations poke out of every corner.

The Fine Arts building, run by Brenda Hodges, has been turned into a Western town in keeping with the theme, and even the exhibits have been lightly sorted to fit within the concept. There's a corral with livestock exhibits; an undertaker area with darker images; a "meat market" with bird photos, the dog wall, and heart-shaped jewelry; a mercantile with salt water taffy and wooden bowls (for the produce photos!); and even a Western Round-Up wall with "wanted" portraits.

Another Redwood Empire Fair option is to come ride the carnival rides, enjoy the fair food, and check out the raceway events. Performers and big truck events will happen every night at the fairgrounds, too, at 1055 North State Street. Check out Willits Weekly's calendar on pages 8 and 9 for specific information on these events.

Also, log onto www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com or call 462-FAIR for more information.



At top: Willits 4-H and Redwood Valley 4-H rabbit members pose with their bunnies and leaders. The group as a whole did very well, and was proud to show off their blue ribbons.

Above: A display at the Fine Arts Building. A number of entries about Squaw Rock (now known as Frog Woman Rock) kept arriving, allowing for this interesting vignette.

Left: Lisa Burgess' "Western Rodeo Daze" entry in the Floriculture building.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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