

El Nino: Rain isn't certain

To the Editor:

My name is John Mitchell, and I am the person quoted in last week's article regarding the coming El Nino and the potential for a very wet winter this year. I would like to add some clarification to the article, which I believe mischaracterizes my statements to the Willits City Council on August 12.

In my statement I addressed the most recent international atmospheric and oceanic government agencies' predictions of a potent, perhaps even a record-strong El Nino this year. In previous El Ninos of this magnitude, Willits experienced record rainfalls and this should be prepared for. However, I did not state that there is a certainty that this will occur.

Predictions of rainfall for California this year are complicated by an unprecedented patch of extremely warm water between Northern California and the southern coast of Alaska. This pool of warm water has the potential to divert rain away from the state, but it also has the potential to significantly increase the water vapor available to supercharge coming storms. In addition, it also has the potential to increase the likelihood of "pineapple express" storms coming to us from the tropics. These warm rain storms are the ones which in the past have produced the most severe flooding in our area.

I characterized my analysis of this coming season as follows: there is a 50 percent chance that we will experience a new record rainfall this winter, there is a 20 percent chance that we will experience 120 percent of the record (or greater), and a 3 to 5 percent chance that this will be an overwhelmingly wet winter with 140 percent of our previous record rainfall accumulation.

In 1982 and 1997, the previous two record El Nino years, we had periods of extensive flooding here in the Willits valley. For example, in four days ending on January 1, 1997, a "pineapple express" storm brought 14 inches of rainfall to downtown Willits, with significantly more rainfall in the western mountain range.

In view of the potent El Nino this year and the incredibly warm waters in the Pacific Ocean, I would like to remind everyone to be especially diligent this year in preparation for a season of potentially unprecedented rainfall sometime this winter.

John Mitchell, Willits

FFA dinner postponed

To the Editor:

Due to the tragic and untimely passing of dear Mr. Randrup, we are postponing our FFA Alumni fundraiser dinner until October 10. We will be giving more information in the days to come. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

Sue Clark, Willits

Highway 20 speed limit

To the Editor:

I cannot believe that a decision has been made to raise the speed limit on Highway 20. Has anyone ever imagined lowering the limit? Have our city officials, county supervisors, and Caltrans decision-makers ever spent a morning, or afternoon, trying to get across the intersection of Highway 20 and Blosser Lane/Coast Street? Has anyone tried to cross on foot in that crosswalk?

I have both crossed and watched in horror as people were crossing there, thinking to myself, "Oh hurry, please hurry; you're going to get hit." I witnessed a lady literally running for her life there, as a car just barreled through the crosswalk.

Does someone have to be killed to make everyone finally slow down there? My dad was killed in a car accident there, a long time ago - so I guess I have pretty tender feelings about the decision that has been made.

Kathleen Ells Lewis, Willits

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Gleaners phone incorrect

To the Editor:

The Grateful Gleaners of Willits are looking for gardeners who have excess produce that we can harvest and deliver to the food bank and other local agencies that serve our community.

Please note that the contact number sent to the Willits Weekly last week was incorrect. Please call 513-9489, and leave a message with your name, phone number, and the types of unsprayed fruit, vegetables or nuts you have. Thank you for your generosity!

Marilyn Boosinger, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

Sharron Kidd and Liz Gardner, co-chairs of Survivors for Relay For Life, Willits, and co-captains of Team High Hopes, wish to first thank all the survivors - around 40 people - for coming to Relay this year.

To the vendors in town who donated raffle items to our survivors and to our team, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Vendors include 1st Nail Salon, Main Street Video, The Stylist, Les Schwab, and Old Mission Pizza.

A special thank you to Anchor Lodge at the Noyo in Fort Bragg, Cap'n Flint's at the Noyo, and the Emerald Dolphin Inn in Fort Bragg for the mini-golf certificate. Carol Deuel won our Fort Bragg package raffle. She's a survivor.

Very special thanks to Carlin Woodhouse for donating materials and time to make a survivor quilt. And to Irene Durigan from the Brooktrails Women's Club for donating materials and time to make another survivor quilt. Carol Deuel won this quilt, too.

A big thank you to the nearly 300 participants and 19 teams that raised a final total of \$45,743.10. All of us from Relay For Life Willits 2015 thank you for making this year a success!

Sharron Kidd and Liz Gardner, Willits

Vandalism at the Grange

To the Editor:

The Grange is a major Willits community center. We host dances, the winter farmers market and a variety of programs for children, entertainment and education, and we will continue as an active place for community work and play.

We are sorry to report that on the night of Monday, August 17 some vandals took part in vandalism in front of the Grange.

An attempt was made to pry a locked electrical box off the front of the building, which could have resulted in electrocution, or at the very least live wires hanging out of the building. The cover was ripped off a phone box. Some plants were destroyed and damage done to the concrete building.

We are preparing to paint the building - after almost 50 years - to take its place of pride in the Willits community. We are grateful to all of you for your support and our great

community relations with the city, our neighbors and service groups.

We would also like to be part of a "community and neighborhood watch."

The surrounding neighborhood area has become a target for tagging, petty theft from porches and cars, including actual car theft, and also the spray-painting of several parked cars nearby.

What can be done to stop some people from wrecking things for the rest of us?

Beauty and a peaceful place to live is the starting point of a vibrant community. Let's continue to work together to create a place where all are welcome and feel pride of place.

Annie Waters, president, Little Lake Grange, Willits

School immunization

To the Editor:

As children are heading back to school, the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency Public Health Officer, Dr. Constance Caldwell, would like to remind parents of the importance of immunizations and clarifying school immunization laws.

You may have heard about a new law called Senate Bill 277 that will eliminate the personal belief exemption in California. Please note that this law does not take effect until 2016, and thus does not affect school entry this fall.

Children entering Kindergarten or seventh grade this year are required by law to have certain immunizations. This fall the law is the same as it was in 2014. Students must have the required immunizations, or have a permanent medical exemption, or have a personal belief exemption that has been signed by their physician.

If students have begun but not completed the required immunizations they may be admitted to school conditionally. You may visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html for information on immunization schedules from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There are helpful charts on the site that give information for parents and their children.

Dr. Caldwell states: "These immunizations are important to protect our children against several serious contagious diseases, including measles, mumps and whooping cough. Not only are immunizations essential for protecting our own children, they can also serve to protect other children who cannot be vaccinated because of medical conditions. It is called "herd immunity," when those who are vaccinated also protect others who are not, but it only works when a very high percentage of the population is vaccinated."

Parents needing to have their children immunized are encouraged to call their clinic or physician for an appointment. Recommended routine childhood immunizations (0 through 18 years of age) are available by appointment at the Health & Human Services Agency Public Health offices in Ukiah for those who qualify for the Vaccines for Children program. Those eligible for the VFC program include those who are eligible for Medi-Cal or the Child Health and Disability Prevention program and those who are uninsured, underinsured, Native American or Alaskan Native. Please call HHS Public Health at 707-472-2600 to make an appointment.

Submitted by Dora Briley, HHS Communications

Correction

Due to an editing error, Willits Weekly's August 20, 2015 story, "Engineer warns city of record wet winter," incorrectly presented engineer John Mitchell's warning about a predicted El Nino as a warning about a record "wet" winter. Please see John Mitchell's letter to the editor for a fuller explanation. Here is the lead paragraph of reporter Damian Sebouhian's story as originally submitted:

"During public communication at last Wednesday's city council meeting, John Mitchell, engineer and president of an independent energy efficiency consulting firm, addressed the importance of preparing for the coming El Nino season."

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

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 3, Number 120
P.O. Box 1698
Willits, CA 95490
willitsweekly@gmail.com
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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

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Meet Pandora

Pandora is a 4 year old female American Bulldog mix. She weighs 81 lbs. She is 81 lbs of love and one of the sweetest dogs we've met. Pandora has a mellow, easy going disposition that makes her great company. Given her temperament we think she'd do well in any kind of loving home, including one with kids or other dogs. Pandora loves to lounge and play in the shelter yard. Luckily Pandora was recently adopted to a loving home.

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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B2

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

Level: Intermediate

How To Sudoku:

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

		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	62		
	63	64						65					
								66					
									67				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Encase a gift
5. Tonsillitis bacteria
10. Pre-1972 British trial session
12. Family Upupidae
14. Five & dime pioneer
16. Public prosecutor
18. Actress Farrow
19. Household god (Roman)
20. Indian dresses
22. Misjudge
23. Actress Zellweger
25. Remove flour lumps
26. Obtain
27. Modeled
28. Juan, Francisco or Antonio
30. Indian territory, Daman and _____
31. Owl sound
33. A slab of stone or wood
35. Of the largest continent
37. Napped leather
38. Spoke wildly
40. Comically strange
41. Fed
42. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
44. Snakelike fish

CLUES DOWN

1. Point midway between W and SW
2. 2011 animated macaw movie
3. A word element meaning nitrogen
4. Shot
5. Coasts
6. Hill (Celtic)
7. Decays
8. Hebrew dry measure
9. Venice river
10. Ablaze
11. Duskiness

CLUES ACROSS

45. Bishop's official seat
48. Bash _____ Falls, N.Y.
50. Bay Area Eating Disorders Assoc.
52. Driver compartment
53. Emitted coherent radiation
55. Radioactivity unit
56. Former CIA
57. And (Latin)
58. Disintegrate
63. "Desperado" band
65. Makes into law
66. Attentiveness
67. Skillful hand movement

13. Enlightened
15. Unnaturally pale
17. Acutely insightful and wise
18. "French Kiss" actress Ryan
21. "Alien" director
23. Long-tailed rodent
24. A way to ingest
27. Sound units
29. Relating to the nose
32. Cereal grass
34. Sticky or hot-cross
35. Productive land
36. Englut
39. Apply with short strokes
40. Indian corn genus
43. Stroke
44. Flowed in contrary directions
46. Comforts
47. Point that is one point S of due E
49. Shrub fence
51. Organ of balance
54. Proofreading symbol
59. CNN's founder Turner
60. Smallest whole number
61. Airforce of Gr. Britain
62. A subdivision of a play
64. Exclamation of surprise

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COLUMN | Intuitive Patterns

September 2015

Osho Zen Tarot: Suppression, Healing, Sharing

Medicine Cards: Swan, Turtle

Mayan Oracle: Resolution of Duality, Organic Balance, Caban

Ancient Egyptian Tarot: Nine of Cups, The Hanged Man, King of Cups

Alister Crowley Deck: Adjustment, Change, Gain

Healing Earth Tarot: Master, Nine of Feathers, Five of Wands

Words of Truth: Aggression, Continuum, Evolution

The first of the month is intense and will bring up questions about relationships. But the question to ask is, "Am I seeing my relationships correctly?" Prepare to look carefully at the plans in your life and be willing to communicate clearly to your loved ones about what you want and what you intend to move towards. Everything is asking for you to explore your depth.

Venus goes direct on the 6th of September, and it is time to transform your communication into what will serve the highest good for all. It is time to learn how to use words with great skill so you can clearly express the vision you have for the future.

As the month progresses, the Jupiter/Neptune opposition gets stronger and stronger, asking you to expand your reality in ways that allow the deepest part of yourself to be expressed. You will want to expand your spirituality, believe in yourself, and claim your own visionary potential, and



Suzanne Wagner
Columnist

then to find the practical steps to take so that you can bring that vision into actual manifestation.

The Eclipse on September 12/13 will make you realize that you have to move things in the direction of Virgo, which makes attention to detail essential for the upcoming 12 months. It is time to get organized and to get your work in order. You will look at the question, "How does my work serve me, and how do I serve my work?" There is an adjustment that needs to be made, and you have to look at where you have been wounded in life. You will see that old wound has to be addressed in order to heal that so you can move forward.

We begin the month with Mercury in its shadow, and then Mercury goes retrograde on the 17th in Libra, and it will be retrograde until the second week in October. Remember to back up the computers and be prepared to deal with legal issues that may come into the forefront of your awareness.

Saturn also goes into Sagittarius for the long haul until December of 2017, so just remember that it is highly advisable to not lie. It is time to be honest and truthful about what is happening in your life. Sagittarius is about truth, so keep it simple. The truth will come out eventually, so it is pointless to create layers of lies that you will just get you caught in eventually anyway. You might notice painfully where you judge others. Decisions need to be made that serve the highest good for all rather than the elite few.

Saturn wants you to get serious about what you want to learn. Saturn might make your life a bit difficult and force you to focus in a whole new way, but you will be supported energetically in those decisions and there will be great movement if you are willing to do the work. This type of

Read the rest of **Astrology** | Over on Page B7

COLUMN | The Medicine Chest Garden

Manzanita berries

"Studying plants closely can be a grand passion, but tasting them moves this relationship beyond the platonic. Through the medium of wild foods, the minerals of the places I love have been knit into my bones."

Donna d'Terra
Columnist
— Margit Roos-Collins, "The Flavors of Home"

Anyone living in the hills around Willits has probably noticed manzanita – the small bush to mid-size tree with a smooth, mottled red trunk and evergreen leaves.

The name "manzanita," meaning "little apple," refers to the berries, which turn from green to red and resemble little apples.

Now is the time to collect the berries, which are also eaten by bears, raccoons and other critters. Once you have collected the berries, separate out any leaves and stems, and then try one of the recipes below to enjoy their sweet-tart flavor.

Manzanita Berry Cider

Fill a jar 1/3 full with berries. Pour boiling water over. Let sit overnight. Strain out the berries and compost them. Serve the cider-water chilled and with sweetener if desired.

Manzanita Berry Sugar

Dry berries and then grind coarsely on the lowest speed of a food processor. Separate out seeds and skins from the berry "sugar" in a mesh strainer, using a wooden spoon to push the sugar through the sifter. Store sugar in an airtight container in a cool place. Add manzanita sugar to oatmeal, tea or whatever you want to sweeten. (Note: 2 cups berries will make about 1/2 cup sugar.)

Manzanita Berry Vinaigrette

Mix together in a bowl:

- 1/4 cup prepared manzanita sugar
- 1/4 cup prepared dry mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic clove
- 1/2 cup caramelized onions

Mix together liquids in another bowl:

- 1/3 cup golden balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup orange juice or manzanita cider
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 cup sunflower oil

Combine all in a blender, and shake the mixture well before using.

Donna d'Terra is a Willits area herbalist who has been teaching herb classes for 25 years.



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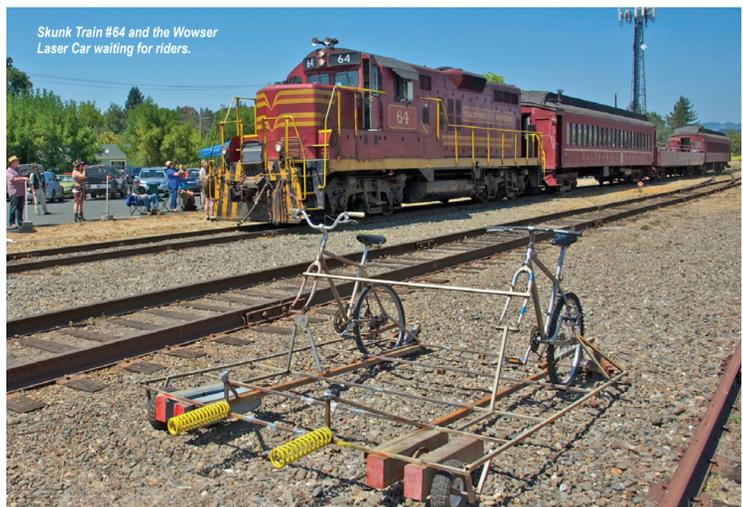
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From left: The Pineapple Express. Amanda Senseman and Michael Hackleman, in the Gridbeamer. Wowsers's Rolling Bandwagon.

Photos by Peter Armstrong



Skunk Train #64 and the Wowsers Laser Car waiting for riders.



At top: The Speedito Banditos: Holly and Gabe Madrigal.

Above: The Gridbeamer rides the rails.

Photos by Peter Armstrong



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Thursday, August 27

Last chance for "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 Marta 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.

Community Hu Song: "In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, August 27, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. HU (pronounced "hue") is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome." Sponsored by Eckankar. Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit www.miraclesinyourlife.org.

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

Friday, August 28

Hazmobile in Willits: The HazMobile household hazardous waste collection team will be at the Willits Corporation Yard, 380 East Commercial Street, on Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29, from 9 am to 1 pm. HazMobile accepts toxic materials like paint, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, solvents, acids, bases, toxic cleaners, auto and household

batteries, mercury and fluorescent light tubes, that can't go in the trash, for recycling or special disposal. Free to households; 15 gallon limit/per day. Small business waste is also welcome at the collection, but an appointment must be made and a fee will be applied per gallon of waste. When bringing materials to the HazMobile, the public should be careful that items are kept in their original containers (except motor oil which can be consolidated), that nothing is leaking, and that all containers are tied down. Info and schedule, call the Recycling Hotline, 468-9704, or visit www.mendorecycle.org

Shanachie Pub: Moonshine Mountain Band: Americana, folk and country from northwest Montana. 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, August 29

Hazmobile in Willits: See Friday, August 28 listing for details.

Girls Gone Stitchin': Free annual

outdoor quilt show put on by the Long Valley Quilters is set for Saturday, August 29 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, August 30 from 11 am to 4 pm. Behind The Fat Quail quilt shop, 44550 Highway 101 in Laytonville. "Come and vote for your favorite quilted items, purchase raffle tickets for our selection of themed, filled baskets or a spectacular

What's Happening Around Town



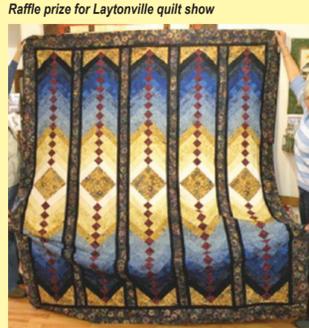
cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, August 30

Girls Gone Stitchin': Quilt show in Laytonville; see Friday, August 29 listing for details.

"Special Service of Music": at the United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, 10 am.

"The themes of the prayers, readings, and music are peace, inclusiveness, diversity, and joy. You are invited to join us and celebrate God's love through music." Info: 459-2855



Raffle prize for Laytonville quilt show

quilt (proceeds go towards scholarships for Laytonville High School grads). The theme for this year's challenge is: Animals, including a group of elephant quilts as well as quilts in all sizes, tote bags, table runners, and pillows. As always, there will be some items for sale. Ron Crane will join us on Saturday with his collection of antique washing machines, irons (from the 1850s-1950s), and ironing boards including a child's board and iron." Info: 984-6966.

'Raising a Healthier Generation': The Avenues to Wellness Speaker Series presents "Raising a Healthier Generation," a talk by Tamey Sheldon, teacher, nutrition and physical activity program leader, and North Coast Opportunities staff member. 5:30 to 7 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Sheldon will "present community-based solutions to move away from the national obesity crisis." "Get a brief overview of health issues facing many of our children and learn about the Mendocino County organizations working to make a positive difference in kids' lives. Free; donations appreciated.

Pajama Story Time: The Willits Library presents the first Tuesday night "Pajama Story Time" for families. "Come in pajamas and bring your teddy bears!" 7 pm.

Wednesday, September 2

Mariposa Market 26th Anniversary: 9 am to 7 pm at Mariposa Market, 500 South Main Street. "Our celebration will include a garden wagon drawing, guided store stores, food samples, customer discounts, raffles, product demos and live music."



Saturday, September 5

Willits Photography Club 14th Annual Show: Show featuring photos by members of the Willits Photography Club opens tonight with an artists' reception from 7 to 9 pm. Show runs through September 27. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1732.

Claws for a Cause: The

Willits Rotary and South Ukiah Rotary Clubs – with the Ridgewood T.R.A.I.L. Riders Association – are combining efforts to plan a fundraiser with live Maine lobster and filet mignon dinner at the Charles Howard House lawn at Ridgewood Ranch, benefiting T.R.A.I.L. (Teaching Riding as an Access to Independence and Learning). The evening also features live music by "The Bassics," appetizers, local wines, beer, live and silent auctions, site tours and a heartwarming video. Tickets for this exceptional event are \$80 per person and are limited. Tickets are available at Willits Furniture Center, 775 Central Avenue in Willits, 707-459-4224, and at The Mendocino Book Company, 102 South School Street

in Ukiah, 707-468-5940. If you would like to be an event sponsor or if you would like to make a donation, contact Willits Rotarian Mike Smith, 707-972-2471 or South Ukiah Rotarian Beth Schwarz, 707-391-7049.

Shanachie Pub: Jacob Green, one man band. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, September 6

Shanachie Pub: Shake Well, rock'n'BBQ. 4 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

CLAWS FOR A CAUSE

September 5, 5-9pm at Ridgewood Ranch Home of SEABISCUIT



COLUMN | At the Movies



'Straight Outta Compton'

The Story: Here on screen and in high energy are the birth of gangsta rap and the creation of the music legend NWA: Ice Cube, Dr. Dre, Easy E, also Snoop Dogg and Suge Knight. A movie of corruption in the music industry, of hip hop, and

beatings in the streets. To understand gangsta rap, you have to know that police violence against black folk is random and terrifying, and then recognize that the best rappers are poets who just say what they see.

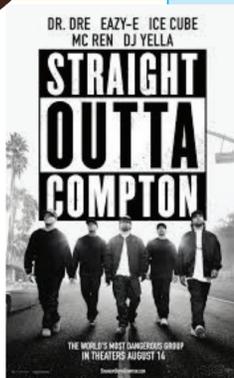
My Thoughts: This is fine movie, a favorite ... high energy and focused on the gangsta myth even though the original members of NWA were not, in fact, gangstas. Easy E moved a lot of dope, that's true, but as the flick asks: where did he get the dope? And the answer, never given but well understood, is that the crack came from the CIA who were so very instrumental in sabotaging black youth in L.A. in order to fund their war in Nicaragua. (See "Kill the Messenger," last year's flick starring Jeremy Renner. Also very good.)

This is a first-rate music flick that had me jumping in my seat. It's highly political. It is totally not stupid. Actually, I think it's one of this year's essential movies. The Cube says if it isn't hard, it isn't true.

Parents: Fights, pistol whipping, blood, naked butt parties, drugs. I'm pretty sure it would be wrong to send your kids.

Note: My wife is from Compton, dude. She's a poet ... she doesn't rap.

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



FFA Alumni Dinner Postponed

The FFA Alumni Fundraiser dinner scheduled for August 29 has been postponed until October 10, due to the tragic and untimely passing of former WHS ag teacher Greg Randrup. More information to come.

Correct phone number for Grateful Gleaners

"The Grateful Gleaners of Willits are looking for gardeners who have excess produce that we can harvest and deliver to the food bank and other local agencies that serve our community.

"Please note that the contact number sent to the Willits Weekly last week was incorrect. Please call 513-9489, and leave a message with your name, phone number, and the types of unsprayed fruit, vegetables or nuts you have. Thank you!"

Mendocino County Fair & Apple Show

September 18, 19 and 20 at the Mendocino County Fairgrounds in Boonville.

CCPRA Rodeos, Classic Car Show, Sheep Dog Trials, Entertainment, Carnival and Apple Tasting. Fun for the whole family. Visit www.mendocountyfair.com for full details.



Tuesday, Sept. 1 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Willits Senior Center
1501 Baechtel Road, Willits
Free to public.
For more information, call 459-2777 for information.
www.avenuestowellness.org
or forhealth@willits.org
See www.avenuestowellness.org for Speaker Series Topics

Community-based Solutions
"Get a brief overview of health issues facing many of our children. Learn about Mendocino County organizations working to make a positive difference in kids' lives. Join the "Raising a Healthier Generation" movement!"
Join us for the presentation at our home from "National Obesity Clinic" to community-based solutions in Mendocino County.
For the past 6 years, Tamey Sheldon has been a North Coast Opportunities (NCO) staff member focused on working with families, schools, and local agencies to support healthy habits and wellness.

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 Corinne 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.

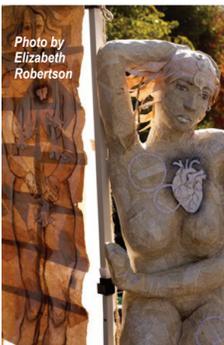


Photo by Elizabeth Robertson
Artists wanted for Laytonville Art Walk

Artists are wanted to participate in The Fourth Annual Laytonville Art Walk, which is set for Saturday, September 26 from 10 am to 5 pm. Registration deadline is August 15. To register email bluecloud52@hotmail.com or call 707-321-8003.

"More than 50 fine artists and artisans will be showing their work in various media, throughout the town of Laytonville. There will be an incredible raffle including art from every participating artist. All of the proceeds will be used to support the arts for Laytonville youth! As always, there will be Live Music and Dance, a fabulous Kid Zone with crafts for all ages, face painting by Jade, and so much more! The Laytonville Art Walk is fun for the whole family & a great time to do some early holiday shopping."

Visit the official "Laytonville Art Walk" page on Facebook for more info.

Vandana Shiva

at the Willits Grange

Monday, September 7

World-renowned anti-GMO crusader Dr. Vandana Shiva will speak at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, on Monday, September 7, at 6 pm as a benefit for the Charter Project of Mendocino County. "Her fiery opposition to globalization and to the 'food totalitarianism' that Monsanto is trying to impose on the world has made her a hero to anti-GMO activists. Good food and wine available for purchase." Tickets \$15, at Brown Paper tickets and local outlets.

Suicide Prevention Mobile Story Board Tour

This year Suicide Prevention Week is September 7 through 13, and the theme is "Suicide Prevention: Reaching Out and Saving Lives." Mendocino County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services' third annual Suicide Prevention Mobile Story Board Tour features a collection of stories and art work submitted from those who have had personal experiences with severe depression or suicide. Plus a short suicide prevention presentation. September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day. The public is invited to attend this special event at the following locations in the Third District:

- Tuesday, September 8, 10:30 to 11:30 am in Laytonville at Healthy Start Family Resource Center, 44400 Willits Avenue
- Wednesday, September 9, 10:30 am to 11:30 am in Willits at Manzanita Services, 286 North School Street
- Wednesday, September 9, 1:30 to 2:30 pm in Covelo at the Yuki Trails Human Services Program, 23000 Henderson Road.

The Mobile Story Board Tour Schedule will be published at: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa/mhsa.htm. For info: Robin Meloche, MHSA coordinator at 707-472-2332.

Embryonic Devourment

Saturday, September 12

"Come celebrate with Willits local metal band Embryonic Devourment for their singer Austin Spence's birthday bash!

Saturday, September 12 at the Shanachie Pub, featuring two sets of live music from the band. With nearly 15 years of existence, four full-length albums, and numerous tour dates nationwide, the band is well-equipped to bring a dynamic performance to the Willits community and local metal enthusiasts. Visit www.embryonicdevourment.com for more info. Show starts at 9 pm, 21 and over, and only \$5 at the door.



Drive-Thru BBQ Chicken Dinner

Friday, September 11

The Harrah Senior Center will host a drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner to Go on Friday, September 11 at 1501 Baechtel Road, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. "The Lions Club will be BBQing for us, and the tickets come with two gift certificates for \$5: one courtesy of Dr Chana of East Hill Vet and one for our Thrift Store." Tickets are \$25 for dinner for two. Info: 459-6826.

Roots of Motive Power Steam-Up

September 12 and 13

Roots of Motive Power's big annual steam-up at the Roots facility at 420 East Commercial Street is set for Saturday, September 12 (starting at 9 am) and Sunday, September 13 (ending at 4 pm). "If you come to only one of our events, this one is it!! We will have every one of our operating machines fired up and in action! Come see the Bucyrus 50B dig, the steam cranes lift, and the Willamette Steam donkey and stationary steam engines operating. Ride the train being pulled by our Heisler locomotive. After you have worked up an appetite, come eat at the BBQ!"

Volunteers sought for

Veterans Stand Down Fair

September 9 and 10

Mendocino County Veterans Services Office is looking for volunteers to support our veterans for the second annual Lake and Mendocino Veterans Stand Down/Resource Fair. This event will be held Wednesday, September 9 and Thursday, September 10, from 9 am to 4 pm in Clearlake, at the American Legion Post 437 located at 14770 Austin Road. Volunteers may be helping to organize supplies, passing out clothing or toiletry items, and doing food prep. "If you would like to volunteer to assist with this event, for the whole day or just a few hours, we would greatly appreciate your support. Please contact Alice Watkins at mendovets@co.mendocino.ca.us or 707-463-4226."

Nominations sought for county Art Champion Awards

The Arts Council of Mendocino County is now seeking nominations from the community for the 12th Annual Mendocino County Art Champion Awards. Art Champion Awards will be made in the following four categories: Business Champion for the Arts; Individual Champion for the Arts; Artist Champion; and Educational Champion. Nominations are due by Friday, September 4. The awards will be presented before the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in October. A public reception to honor the Art Champions will immediately follow the awards presentation.

The Art Champion awards are annually presented in October to coincide with National Arts and Humanities Month. National Arts and Humanities Month is a coast-to-coast collective celebration of culture in America, dedicated to giving millions of Americans the opportunity to explore new facets of the arts and humanities in their lives and encourage them to begin a lifelong habit of active participation. To learn more about National Arts and Humanities Month, visit the website for Americans for the Arts at www.americansforthearts.org or the website for the California Arts Council at www.cac.ca.gov.

To submit a 2015 Mendocino County Art Champion nomination form, to review the award criteria, or to see a list of past winners, go to the website of the Arts Council of Mendocino County at www.artsandmendocino.org. You may also request to receive a nomination form by email or mail by calling 707-463-2727.

— Alyssum Wier, for the Arts Council of Mendocino County

The Delbert Anderson Trio

Sunday, September 20 at Willits Community Theatre

A unique Native American jazz trio will perform at Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, September 20 at 2 pm. The Delbert Anderson Trio includes Navajo horn player Delbert Anderson, Mike McCluhan on stand-up bass, and drummer Nicholas Lucero. The group formed in the deserts of the Southwest, has performed at concerts throughout the United States, and counts as its influences many greats from the jazz world.

The three jazzmen serve up a unique cutting edge form of modern funk and jazz combined with ancient indigenous melodies. Their first live album Manitou was released in March 2015 and includes the songs "Groove Warrior," "New York Navajo," and signature tracks like "Iron Horse Gallup."

Anderson began his jazz studies at Eastern New Mexico University, where he apprenticed with saxophonist Christopher Beaty and trumpeter John Kennedy. He found further influences in Lee Morgan, Clifford Brown, Sonny Rollins and Joshua Redman. Anderson says of his playing jazz, "We need to keep this true American art form alive."

— Steve Hellman, for WCT

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.

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. 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 HMH 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 SAL 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.

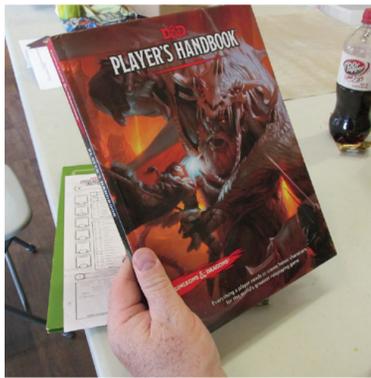
Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street 459-2444. With Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

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 Café 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.



SEPTEMBER 5TH - 27TH
WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
71 EAST COMMERCIAL



Fun & games at Gateway Games

A 'community center' for those who love to play

Jeffrey Morra and Daniel Church, owners of Gateway Games, met when they were 11 and 12, respectively. A mutual acquaintance had invited them to play a game of Dungeons and Dragons, and they've been close friends ever since. "You can say that D&D brought us together," Morra said.

Organizers of the game club that met weekly at the Willits Library, the two long-time friends had always dreamed of owning their own store. When they noticed the building off East San Francisco Street was up for rent, they made a deal with the owner and began fixing up the place.

Gateway Games officially opened for business on July 3, and the response from the public has been excellent. "We knew there were gamers out there, but we were surprised by how many," Church explained. "There's been at least 50 people so far, coming over to use our tables for D&D, Magic, whatever."

Gateway Games is much more than a store. It's a community center for people who want a space to play games, whether it's Catan, Magic, D&D, or any number of board and role-playing games. If you show up with nothing, there's a stack of games available for play on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 10 pm and on Saturdays from 2 pm until everyone gets tired and leaves.

"Eventually we'll be renting out games for people to take home for a couple days," Morra said. If you are curious about a certain game, but don't want to commit to buying it, you will be able to rent a sample version at a reasonable price, play it, and bring it back.

The back room, which is still under construction,

Below, from left: A D&D dragon. Sarah Coleman shows off specialty Citadel paints she uses to hand-paint her gaming figurines.



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will function as the gaming center, with several tables available for use. The front room, which is currently used for both shelving of stock and gaming tables, will primarily function as the merchandise area, which includes books, collectibles and toys.

"We have big plans," Morra exclaimed. "Coffee, snacks, soda machine, microwave oven, frozen burritos. We'll be installing a bathroom soon. Creating a space for the community to engage in organized play is the primary goal of Gateway Games, so coffee and food is a must."

A few of those games will be created by Daniel Church himself, who is in the process of designing role-playing games set in Willits. "They will have different themes, like this super hero game I've been working on, but they'll be set here in Willits. There's also an old West theme I want to do, that includes magic."

Currently Church and Morra are looking for more game masters, who are in the process of designing role-playing games set in Willits. "They will have different themes, like this super hero game I've been working on, but they'll be set here in Willits. There's also an old West theme I want to do, that includes magic."

For all those who play the popular card game, Magic, there will be a cash tournament held at the shop on Sunday, September 27. With eight winning places, there is a good chance of leaving the tournament with some extra cash.

Gateway Games is located at 395 South Main Street, off East San Francisco Street, between Unique Boutique and Hidden Pearl, with regular business hours, 11 am to 11 pm, seven days a week. For more information, including announcements of upcoming games and tournaments, check the "Gateway Games" page on Facebook or call 841-3072.

Above, from left: The player's handbook for Dungeons & Dragons. D&D miniatures in a tight spot during Saturday's game. Collectible dice aplenty.

At left: Saturday's D&D crew at Gateway Games, from left, front: Sarah Coleman ("Dragon Born Paladin"), Eli Smith (multiple "Dwarf Fighter" characters), Joey Mendoza ("Buddy Justice"), and Chris Wood ("Fighter Bard"); standing in back: co-owners Daniel Church, left, and Jeffrey Morra.

Below: Gateway Games co-owners Jeffrey Morra and Daniel Church.

At bottom: Gamer Tomas Hardman, who plays as "Frostflash."

Photos by Jennifer Pool



The rest of Woodhouse | From Page 1

pushback there about me talking to employees too much," Woodhouse said. "Being the new supervisor, a lot of employees come to me with problems. I find them all to be very kind. They're not angry, they're not bitter. They just want to make things better.

"You know, it's not about doing an audit or having this firm come in to do a study," he said. "The answer to the problem we are having with our employees is standing right in front of us. It's the employees. All we have to do is listen to them.

"The strange thing to me is the consistency about it," Woodhouse continued. "They all describe the same thing. They feel like speaking out is not something the county leadership wants to hear. They are all concerned about — well, I don't want to use the word, retribution, so I'll just say, they are concerned about paying a price for coming forward and being honest.

"I feel strongly these people all want the best thing for our county. They are kind people. They are good people," Woodhouse said.

Brown confirmed to Willits Weekly she had sent Woodhouse "a confidential communication regarding personnel matters," but declined to elaborate further.

"Although some people do not respect confidential communications, I do, and I can't discuss it," Brown said. "Everyone has a right to privacy in California regarding personnel matters, and I am respecting that right by maintaining confidentiality in this matter."

In recent months, the County of Mendocino has come under repeated criticism for its staffing rates. The Mendocino grand jury released a report in May in which it found the county's Children's

The rest of HMH | From Page 1

hospital on October 15, 2015," Bockmann said.

"For now, our clinic teams are hard at work, learning the ins and outs of the new facility and the new technology that comes along with it, and making sure we have everything in place for patient move-in," explains Bockmann. "There is much work ahead but I am proud of our efforts on behalf of the communities we serve," he concluded.

With this development, HMH is pleased to announce a Grand Open House scheduled for Sunday, September 13, from 1 to 4 pm, where the community will have a chance to get a behind-the-scenes tour of the new facility.

"This is a pivotal milestone," said Amy Ford, senior project manager for hospital construction. "Having grown up here, I know how much we need this hospital. It was a great privilege to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience," she said.

"We are excited to show the community their brand new hospital," Bockmann said. "Everyone is invited to our Grand Open House. This is their chance to see all the rooms and the equipment without actually being patients themselves!"

The new hospital offers private rooms with bathrooms, state-of-the-art operating rooms, a spacious emergency department with trauma bays, a helipad, and "Roots" — an organic farm-to-fork restaurant that will be open to the public.

The rest of Brooktrails | From Page 1

approach to charging for water use and replaced it with a one-tier, universal-rate system.

Under the old system, Brooktrails had seven tiers for billing purposes. The first tier was 1.6 cents for each cubic foot of water, for the first 690 cubic feet of water. Customers whose use crept into Tier 2 were charged 2.6 cents for each cubic foot of water use, for the next 690 cubic feet of water. Beyond that, Brooktrails had fixed its rates so the charge increased a cent per cubic foot for every additional 690 cubic feet of water use, up to 7.6 cents, for the seventh tier.

Under the new system, Brooktrails is doing away with that billing structure and replacing it with one tier, with the rate set at 2.15 cents per cubic foot of water. At the same time, the ceiling for water use in Brooktrails remains at 200 gallons a day, which translates to 6,000 gallons per month, or 801 cubic feet of water.

According to a Brooktrails staff report, under the new system, a customer using 801 cubic feet of water in a month would be charged \$17.25; under the old system that customer would have been charged \$13.96.

The Brooktrails board elected to leave the base rate for water availability at \$46.13 per month, and to increase the sewer fee by \$1.47; that fee is now \$63.06.

So a customer who previously would have paid \$121.68 for water and sewer will now pay \$126.44, an increase of \$4.76.

In addition, the board of directors significantly increased certain other fees for services in the township.

The fee to reconnect a customer's house with the Brooktrails water system was increased from \$50 to \$75. The cost of doing so "after hours" was hiked from \$117 to \$200. The fee for meter testing was increased from \$54 to \$150. The fees for certain architectural review services were increased, including new fees set at \$75 for a preliminary architectural review, \$50 for a minor site review, and \$25 to review the potential removal of a tree from an architectural point of view.

Brooktrails also significantly increased its fees to administer lot mergers. The old fee, established in the 1990s, was \$175. Under that system, Brooktrails agreed to cover all costs in excess of the \$175 fee paid by the property owner. However, in recent years those added costs have swelled considerably, with Brooktrails sometimes having to bear costs now approaching \$1,000 for each lot merger.

New rates were set at \$350 for an application to merge two lots into one, with an additional cost of \$75 for each additional lot to be merged into the one remaining lot. Also the fee for recording the merger was set at \$14.

and Family Services branch is performing poorly in relation to similar agencies in other California counties.

The grand jury report claimed that failure was largely due to chronic understaffing.

The number of employees in Mendocino County government has declined from about 1,500 employees in 2008 to a little more than 1,000 employees today.

At the August 18 board meeting, Health and Human Services Agency Deputy Director Becky Emory told supervisors the eligibility staff for its Family Services division was down by 50 percent. There are currently 33 eligibility personnel employed and 33 vacant eligibility worker positions in the HHSA family services division.

Emory said currently the average caseload for each eligibility worker in the Family Services wing (CalWorks, CalFresh and Medi-Cal) is 730 open cases.

During the August 18 board meeting, while supervisors were discussing the possibility of forming an ad hoc committee to deal with repeated criticism from the grand jury on how the county administers the Mendocino County Library, Woodhouse began to comment on the communication from Brown. He spoke only for a few moments before Brown interrupted him.

"At the last meeting I said we need to be more open to criticism, and think of it as constructive criticism, rather than struggling with the library," Woodhouse said. "As a side comment, I try to do that in my life. I got a letter from our board chair, regarding my communication with staff, and it tried to give me constructive criticism. I'm not used to getting criticism ..."

"Supervisor..." Brown said, leaning toward him in an anxious manner.

"I just want to finish if I may," said Woodhouse.

"I want to thank you for that. It's just an example of how we need to be able to take criticism, even on emotional issues, and I appreciate the input."

"Well, it should be on the agenda item before us," Brown replied.

The rest of Legalization | From Page 1

cannabis marketplace, farmers should create a marketing plan, keep up with cannabis news and legislation, and "differentiate" and "diversify" their farms and products.

O'Neill spoke after lunch Saturday on the many state regulations with which cannabis growers will need to comply.

Addressing about 70 members of the Emerald Growers Association at the Long Valley Garden Club in Laytonville, both speakers were optimistic about the potential for home-and-pop cultivators in Mendocino County to compete with large corporations and venture capitalists already descending on the state to enter the cannabis marketplace.

Miller said the days of cannabis farmers being treated like "stray dogs" by dispensaries and other brokers are over.

"You don't have to take what they give you," Miller said. "You need to be strong and have your brand in place and an understanding of the value of what you have to offer. You are subject-matter experts. You guys are the future consultants of this industry."

Following her opening pep talk, Miller offered scientific information on the genetics and evolution of the cannabis plant as well as practical advice on growing and marketing cannabis products.

Noting the Sativa species of cannabis originated in the high mountains of Afghanistan and Pakistan, Miller said the plant is not a "water hog," as many claim, because it thrives on desert conditions.

"If there's one thing that kills cannabinoid potency, it's overwatering," she said. "If they don't experience xeric or desert environment stress, they don't produce."

Miller said desert conditions encourage the manufacture of the THC-containing trichome crystals in cannabis flowers, probably because they are a kind of "sunscreen" that protects the plant from water loss. She said broad-leaf Sativa plants have a higher ratio of CBD (cannabidiol) to THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) than narrow-leafed Sativa and many Indica varieties.

Cannabis has evolved genetically through a complex interaction with the physical environment and human uses of the plant, according to Miller.

She said the THC-rich flowers of the Indica species, for example, native to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia, were commonly used in religious ceremonies and celebrations. Thus, farmers in those regions bred for high-THC flowers that create an intense high.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan potent flowers or buds were not as important, because residents there used hashish, which is made from the leaf of plants, not flowers.

"We have always bred by intuition, by the smell, the look the familiarity," O'Neill said. "Now [with a greater knowledge of plant genetics] there are more tools in the farmer's toolbox."

Both speakers said they favor growing cannabis from seeds rather than clones, which do not have a tap root, can carry diseases from the mother plant, and cannot be bred.

Breeding allows farmers to differentiate themselves by creating new strains.

"Who knows? You could conceivably develop the next big cultivar strain," Miller said.

Both Miller and O'Neill described a couple of problems they have seen in plants this summer. O'Neill reported seeing more "hermies," his term for hermaphrodites — plants that appear to be females early on and turn into males with seeds as they mature. He speculated the extreme weather fluctuations of hot and cold earlier in the summer might have caused that problem.

Fusarium, a toxin-producing, soil-dwelling fungus that can devastate a plant's root system, has been another common problem this year in outdoor grows.

Signs of Fusarium damage can include wilting in the top outer leaves, leaves turning upward, and dry rot in the root. Fusarium mold spreads through water movement,

The rest of Policy | From Page 1

recently, as in years past, is because of a public complaint, often from a neighbor.

"When we receive complaints, we have an obligation to follow up," Sherman told Willits Weekly during a meeting Tuesday afternoon that also included City Manager Adrienne Moore. "We have a duty to carry out the code as it exists."

Moore emphasized that if citizens are not happy with the local ordinance about medical marijuana growing, "the appropriate avenue is to address the elected officials" and to lobby for a change in the regulations.

"We've been consulting with Mr. Lance [the city attorney] to make sure we're handling it correctly," Moore said. She said if the city council was interested in reviewing options on medical marijuana grows inside city limits, there are two options: To bring in more code enforcement resources, or to amend the current ordinance.

Some of the public think it "outrageous that we're enforcing the code," Moore said. "The other side feels like we're not doing enough."

The Willits City Council passed the ordinance regulating medical marijuana grows within city limits in 2007.

The code caps the number of plants a medical marijuana patient or caregiver, with a prescription under Proposition 215, can grow on any one lot at six plants, no matter the number of patients living at that address.

The plants must be grown in a "fully enclosed and secure structure," which is defined as a structure having "a complete roof enclosure supported by connecting walls extending from the ground to the roof ... which is attached to a permanent

foundation." The structure must also be "secure against unauthorized entry" and be "accessible only through one or more lockable doors."

Exterior walls need to be at least 4 inches thick and "sheathed with a minimum ½-inch nominal thickness [with] boards, fiber board, composite wood panels or other material approved by code for residential building construction."

The ordinance also requires the structure "be adequately sealed to significantly reduce the emission of odor emanating from cultivation."

Sherman said he gives out-of-compliance backyard medical marijuana growers the option of moving plants to an approved location, or paring down the number of their plants.

"The nuisance isn't that you grow pot or use pot," Sherman said. "The nuisance is the odor — and that marijuana plants can be an attractive nuisance," i.e., they can invite thieves or home invasion robbers into the neighborhood.

Odor problems from a medical marijuana grow inside a secured structure can be ameliorated, Sherman said, with an activated charcoal ventilation system.

Sherman said he "very rarely" gets complaints about less than six plants being grown in a backyard that are not in a secure structure. "If you've got less than six plants, and the neighbors don't complain, I don't have any issue with you," he said.

The city ordinance on marijuana cultivation can be read in full at the City of Willits website. Go to <http://thecityofwillits.com>, click the "City Government" link across the top, scroll down to the "City Ordinances" link on the right side of the page, then either search for "marijuana cultivation" or navigate to Chapter 17.86, "Marijuana Cultivation."

gardening tools, farm equipment and the air. One of the biggest offenders, Miller said, can be molds from nearby vegetable or flower gardens. She urged farmers to remove any damaged plants or parts of plants from the garden, sterilize pots and tools that contain Fusarium, and add micro-rhizomes to the soil.

Miller and O'Neill agreed that testing plants for potency (ratio of CBD to THC) and toxins, mold and mildew is an important way to improve quality and demonstrate to prospective buyers the potency and health of their plants.

Dispensaries are not currently mandated to test their products, but that is changing Miller said. And more and more cultivators are testing, too.

"You don't want to deliver contaminated products to a dispensary," Miller said. "There is a lot of competition. One contaminated pound, and you're out."

Miller warned that not all labs are honest. Since there is no state regulation of cannabis testing, some labs, hoping to retain customers, manipulate their results to make a grower's products appear more potent than they are.

"When potency equals value, there is a desire to manipulate results," Miller said. "We're in a war. Venture capitalists versus privately funded companies like mine. The temptation is about money. You can have a principled business and an ethical business, and you can make money and you can do well. Not as quickly but as a sustainable business over time."

After lunch, O'Neill reviewed some of the permits cultivators will need to comply with new or existing state codes.

Last week the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted California's first regional water-quality regulatory order designed to protect the environment from waste associated with cannabis cultivation.

Starting February 15, 2016, growers with cannabis cultivation areas of 2,000 square feet or more must enroll in one of three tiers, depending on site conditions and threat to water quality. Tier 1 is a low-threat tier based on compliance with defined standard conditions and site characteristics. Tier 2 is a management tier, which requires the development and implementation of a water resource protection plan to meet standard conditions. Tier 3 is a cleanup tier, which requires the development and implementation of a cleanup and restoration plan.

O'Neill listed some of the permits farmers will need to have to comply with state law:

- writ of diversion stating how much water a farm uses from wells, creeks and other sources;
- Board of Equalization sellers permit;
- waste-water discharge permit;
- Department of Fish and Wildlife 1602 "stream-alteration permit."

O'Neill encouraged farmers who plan to compete in the emerging cannabis marketplace to do what all retail businesses do: Brand their products; develop a business structure and plan; keep bookkeeping records; track sales and expenses for tax-reporting purposes; and comply with environmental regulations.

He said California Assembly Bill 266, on track to be signed into law this year, assigns regulation of cannabis farms to the Department of Food and Agriculture — something the Emerald Growers Association has been lobbying for.

"Regulatory compliance can be costly and challenging," O'Neill concluded. "It will involve on-site inspections. Despite the challenges, compliance with existing environmental regulations is a promising pathway for continued success as a farmer."

Jane Fletcher is host of "The Cannabis Hour" on KZYX radio.



Above: Scenes from the Kinetic Carnivale at the Rec Grove, including, at right, Dr. Solar.

Photos by Peter Armstrong



Above, left: The Gypsy Time Travelers: "fabulous storytelling with live anvil accompaniment."

Above, right: Krista and Jamie of Circus Maximus, with their boas.

Left: A steampunk stillwalker and friends in fancy costume.

Photos by Peter Armstrong

Steampunks performed for the crowd – onstage and off – at the Kinetic Carnival last weekend in Willits.

Gorgeous costumes, lectures on corsets and steam power at the Tea Room, the syncopated rhythms of multiple bands, "and circus acts woven all the way through" were highlights this year, said Alison Glassey, director of the Mendocino County Museum in Willits, sponsor of the event. Not to mention the food and drink.

"What we've heard from folks is that they like the small town atmosphere, they like the Rec Grove and the trees, and they feel it's a very comfortable situation," Glassey said. "It's what you want a community festival to be."

The educational component is something Kinetic Carnivale wants to expand on, Glassey said: "We want to make that connection between kinetic energy and history, and steampunk being an alternative view of history. That's what the museum is about, presenting history in a variety of different ways."

The dates for next year's Kinetic Carnivale are already set: August 20 and 21, 2016.

– Jennifer Poole



Above: Two dapper couples stroll the Rec Grove.

Photos by Peter Armstrong



Above: Children this year especially enjoyed the giant rocking horses.

Photos by Peter Armstrong

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Hope Rising: the Rocky/Jerusalem Fire Relief Fund

North Coast Opportunities and MendoLake Credit Union have teamed up to create a Fire Relief Fund for those impacted by the Rocky and Jerusalem fires this summer. Because people's lives and livelihoods are at stake, NCO and MLCU have moved quickly to assemble the managing committee and make fire relief applications available to the public.

The managing committee in charge of reviewing applications and disbursing funds was finalized on Tuesday, and will meet next week to review the first applications.

Anyone impacted by the fires is encouraged to fill out the short application for funding. These monies are intended to help with expenses like smoke damage, loss of personal property, and other expenditures incurred during or after the fire. Applications are available in English and Spanish on the NCO and MLCU websites. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a continual basis until the funds have all been disbursed.

More than \$30,000 has already been raised, with \$15,000 raised in the fund's first week. Money is still being accepted, with several fundraisers being planned by various individuals and organizations.

"Our goal is to reach \$50,000, and with such generous community support we are confident we can get there," says NCO Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Welch, who is serving on the managing committee. "No donation is too small, and we are grateful to everyone who has given any amount."

To donate, go to any MLCU branch and make a cash donation or write a check to NCO (mail to 413 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482) or MLCU (mail to 526 South State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482). Please put "Fire Relief Fund" on the check's memo line.

Savings Bank of Mendocino County recently contributed \$2,500. "We are proud to be a part of a community that takes care of each other in hard times," says Savings Bank Lakeport Branch Manager Susie Robinson. Savings Bank employees are also showing their support by rallying together through an internal donation drive with a match of up to \$500 from the bank. MLCU employees are doing a similar drive, also with a \$500 match from MLCU President Richard Cooper.

For more information on how to apply for funds in English or Spanish, contact NCO Executive Assistant Elizabeth Archer at earcher@ncoinc.org or 467-3210.

– submitted by North Coast Opportunities



Trustees approve health assistant job description

A job description for the position of health assistant was approved unanimously by the board of trustees of the Willits Unified School District at an August 11 meeting. The district needs to hire three health assistants to oversee the care, condition and activities of five students attending various schools.

According to school Superintendent Patricia Johnson, the WUSD recently hired a registered nurse as the district's health coordinator. However, that person would not be able to oversee the care of the five young students.

According to the job description, health assistants will prepare lists of students with identified health problems, obtain individual emergency health plans, investigate student complaints of illness, and take appropriate action according to established guidelines.

The health assistants also will report confirmed or suspected communicable diseases to the school nurse and the site administrator, will report suspected cases of child abuse to the site administrator and the appropriate agency, will screen for head lice, and will perform specialized health care procedures, as necessary, under supervision of the school nurse, as well as handle 12 other specific duties.

Health assistants would need to be trained by the health coordinator, and would work under the supervision of either the school nurse or the health coordinator, if that person is qualified.

Approval of the job description does not mean the district will hire the three assistants anytime soon. According to Director of Special Education Kelly Labus, the district will retain the services of a private agency to provide the needed services until the three can be hired.

Labus said the private agency works for \$50 an hour, describing this rate of pay as "very expensive."

"If our health coordinator and the school nurse positions are filled, and we add health assistants, there will no longer be a need [for] costly contracts, our students will be safe, and we will be protected from potential liability," she said.

The health assistant job description was approved 4-0, with Trustee Laurie Harris absent. During discussion on the issue, trustees asked several questions about the position, but did not question the need to approve the job description or hire the three health assistants.

Contacted on August 26, district Human Resources Director Laura Sleeper noted the money to pay the health assistants would come from the district's LCAP allotment, in particular from money saved from not hiring a school nurse. She said all three positions would be full time.

Sleeper added the openings have not yet been "flown" (advertised on the internet as staff openings), because the district CSEA, the labor union for certificated employees, has yet to determine the pay scale for the positions.

be at least partially offset by reduced investment management fees.

Most trustees were impressed with State Street's industry experience, which includes serving 10 of the 20 California county retirement systems operating under the 1937 Act. However, three trustees voted "no" because they were not convinced the benefits of a custodial bank relationship justify the price tag.

"If we hire someone for a job we don't need, I'd rather pay the minimum amount for it," Trustee Tim Knudsen said.

Knudsen was not lured by potentially higher investment returns made possible with a custodial bank relationship, which allows investing in separately managed investment accounts in addition to mutual funds.

"I was never so happy than when we eliminated the last separately managed accounts and went all to mutual funds," Knudsen said.

Trustee Ted Stephens did not see a significant risk in operating without a custodial bank, and objected, due to the bank fees.

"We have had a fantastic growth in expenses and unfunded pension liability, much more so than the growth in assets and investment returns," Stephens lamented. "Our funded status is getting lower and lower. Until this trend reverses, I will vote against any additional expenses."

After disseminating the quarterly investment review presented by MCERA investment advisor Callan Associates, trustees voted unanimously to sell the \$17 million investments held by investment manager Janus Overseas and reallocate the fund balance to other mutual funds holding a combined \$90 million of MCERA's international equities.

Trustees also agreed to move \$7.2 million in investments held by AllianceBernstein to a different fund with the same investment manager. Expected savings in fees from this move are \$13,000.

During general board member discussion, it came to light MCERA had overpaid benefits to at

suggested the main cause in the poor performance of the county's Family and Children's Services Division was due to understaffing, but the First 5 report goes further, making 24 recommendations which, if implemented, would improve the performance of the beleaguered agency while improving the health and safety of young children, the organization claims.

First 5 California is a statewide agency funded by 1998's Proposition 10, which added a 50 cent tax to each pack of cigarettes sold. First 5 strives to "improve the lives of California's young children and their families through a comprehensive system of education, health services, childcare and other crucial programs." First 5 Mendocino is based in Ukiah, and Anne Molgaard is the agency's executive director.

According to the First 5 report, the county's young kids need three main things to be safe: first, a highly functional Family and Children's Services department; second, continuous improvement and vigilant monitoring to protect children; and thirdly, adequate substance abuse treatment for parents.

In order to improve the functionality of FSC, First 5 is seeking more transparency about how state and federal funds are being used to help children. "It remains unclear how Mendocino County is allocating its realignment funds, and we encourage immediate steps toward transparency," the report said.

The report stated "federal and state funds must be strategically leveraged for maximum local benefit," and urged FSC administrators to "maximize our local match. Without careful attention and investment to pursue revenue opportunities, we potentially forfeit millions of dollars."

The report urged the county to increase its efforts to improve employee morale. Part of that effort included increasing the pay of FCS staff workers. The report notes the county has recently agreed to a 5 percent pay increase over a two-year period, which will pay down half of the 10 percent cut county employees took in 2010. In addition to the pay increase, the report suggested expanding the county's training program, growing the county's internal expertise, and turning to outside experts.

The report called for agency-wide annual staff surveys that would "include questions that delve into whether the workplace culture is to fix problems at the lowest level possible, or to hide difficult issues."

First 5 urged the board of supervisors to "monitor progress on staffing through a monthly report that tracks open positions, exits, average length of time to fill a position, etc."

It also addressed a problem noted by the grand jury report: that many employees in Family and Children's Services do not have an adequate education to legally do their jobs, according to minimum standards required by the state of California.

The report urged the county to "improve the educational status of social workers" without

least four retirees because of unspecified errors. Over the past three months, MCERA had negotiated repayment agreements with the four retirees totaling \$30,000.

Stephens asked when these settlements had been reported to the public, and MCERA Chairwoman Shari Schapmire replied the first three settlements were reported as part of the consent calendar in May and July, and the last agreement was reported and voted on as an agenda item at the board's August meeting.

Stephens attempted to discuss the aggregate loss from these four settlements to MCERA, but was told by legal counsel Jeff Berk that since this was a closed session item, it was not appropriate to discuss the matter in open session. As per Berk, no action was taken in closed session that would require reporting to the public under the Brown Act.

Berk did not answer a direct question by Stephens as to whether a vote was taken in closed session.

The amount of the actual overpayment error remains unknown. The overpayment error, minus the \$30,000 the four retirees will remit, will be paid for by the county.

Also at the August meeting, retirement administrator James Wilbanks announced MCERA was awarded the Certificate for Achievement in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

According to a statement from GFOA, this certificate is "the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting." An important part of the GFOA standards is whether a financial report demonstrates a "spirit of full disclosure" that fully relates the financial story of an organization.

"We are pleased to be recognized for our hard work in this area," said Wilbanks. "This recognition is a testament to the hard work of the MCERA board and staff and their diligent efforts to create a first-rate, professional organization."

recommending how that could be done (especially when the average caseload of a typical eligibility worker in the Family Services division is 730 cases), and insisted "unqualified staff acting in a social worker capacity should immediately receive training and mentorship from experienced social workers, perhaps through contracts with retired social workers in the community."

The report criticized a cultural shift it claims has taken place since 2009, when the county departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Public Health merged to become the county's Health and Human Services Agency.

According to First 5, "FSC has become insular and opaque" since that merger took place. The report urged FCS to "re-establish open and active relationships with community stakeholders and advocates," and to reinvestigate such bodies as the Policy Council on Children and Youth, the Public Health Advisory Council and the board of supervisors' own standing Health and Human Services Committee, which has not met for the past three years.

The report said "those modes of communication with the public partners are proceeding weakly at best, precluding many opportunities for feedback, partnership and continuous improvement."

First 5 urged supervisors to convene regular meetings of the Health and Human Services Committee for at least one year.

The report noted the county's Alcohol and Other Drug Program has "diminished significantly" over the past five years, to the point where "there is currently only one drug and alcohol counselor serving the entire coast."

The white paper stated that "the Family Dependency Drug Court (FDDC) depends on the ready availability of substance abuse treatment staff."

It noted how the county's diminished staffing in all departments has forced FCS administration to play a kind of shell game with drug counseling staff. "Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency transferred two treatment staff to FCS to be readily available to serve FDDC participants. However, those treatment providers have been partially redirected to other programs, and FDDC participants are currently without the treatment providers to operate effectively. With proper FDDC staffing, parents become sober and reunite with their children at almost twice the rate of parents without FDDC support," according to the report.

First 5 Mendocino called on supervisors to "ensure parents have quick access to effective Alcohol and Other Drug treatment throughout the county."

"The First 5 Commission strongly urges the county board of supervisors to take every opportunity to support and improve Family and Children's Services in this county. We call upon the board to make the physical and emotional well-being of our youngest citizens our first priority by implementing the recommendations included herein," the report concludes.

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A letter from ...

The Director of Willits Charter School

Jennifer Lockwood

the school that will emphasize our focus on the arts and sciences. We are so excited for our students to return to a beautiful campus, new sign and faster internet!

We are proud to announce that the Accrediting Commission for Schools once again determined that Willits Charter School met the ACS Western Association of Schools and Colleges criteria for accreditation, and we were granted six-year accreditation status, with a mid-cycle one-day visit, through June 30, 2021. In our WASC report, we outlined many positive changes to our program to increase academic rigor. For example, our Charter School Association of Willits board voted that our high school requirements will exceed the "a-g" courses required for admission into college. We believe in setting up students for success, and want every student who graduates from WCS to have the option of going to either a community college or a four-year university.

In addition to providing a wide variety of creative Friday Academy courses, we will also provide a series of "Response to Intervention" courses that will target students' academic needs in math and language arts. Our Friday Academy program also serves high-achieving students by offering a wide range of courses such as American poetry, psychology, peer counseling, world religions, and honors biology lab (to name a few).

WCS firmly believes that the arts help students develop creativity and allow them to think in new ways. Research has repeatedly shown that students who

participate in art are more successful academically. WCS is expanding our arts programs to include a variety of music courses (drums, keyboarding, guitar), as well as continuing courses that have been very popular at WCS (ceramics, circus arts, drama, culinary arts). Our Friday Academy program is continuously changing to better meet the needs of our students and we are always looking for talented members of our community to teach our students.

WCS is adding some extremely talented staff in the 2015-2016 school year. Emily Apodaca joins us as a sixth-grade teacher in the subject areas of language arts and social studies. Chnae Glassey is coming to us all the way from New York as our new physical education teacher, and Jonathan Van Pelt joins our staff as our new music teacher, bringing with him a wide variety of skills and experience. Cierra Bakewell is not only our new office assistant, but will also teach a music appreciation elective that will be

Read the rest of **Lockwood** | Over on Page B7

The arts are alive and thriving at Willits Charter School!

Willits Charter School is a free, public school for the arts and sciences, serving students in grades six through twelve. The mission of Willits Charter School is to enable students to reach their fullest potential by providing them with a high-quality, personalized education in a safe and supportive environment.

We strive to inspire students to embrace their curious, creative nature and be self-motivated, competent, lifelong learners. We encourage students to become productive citizens who respect themselves, others, community, diversity and the environment.

It is an honor to begin my second year at Willits Charter School. It is an exciting time here at WCS, as we undergo many changes to our academic program as well as to the school's facility.

As you may have noticed, we have given the school a "makeover" by painting and repairing the outside of the school, as well as reworking the school's technology infrastructure to be able to handle more computers and high-speed internet.

We are also in the process of designing a new sign for

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Thanks to teachers

The Blosser Lane PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) had a little back-to-school gift for each of the Blosser Lane elementary school teachers: A pretty bag with a thank you, a wish for a "great year," a new classroom pencil sharpener, and a gift card to Staples. To keep up with the Blosser Lane PTO, check out their page on Facebook. (Photo courtesy Jennifer Drew).

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Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, August 27, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

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For Rent
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Currently recruiting for:
• **Social Worker Assistant II**
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Mendocino County HHS is also recruiting for the following positions:
• **Chief Psychiatrist**
• **Public Health Nurse II**
• **SR Public Health Nurse**
For further information on the above positions or to apply, go to website & click on: "Job Openings" <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr/>

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For Sale
14 inch Poulain chain saw \$35. Canon MP210 printer \$30. 12x20 steel open carport frame \$20. 7 horsepower Craftsman tiller "new" \$450. 456-9074.

For Sale
Goats for Sale in Willits. 707-483-0741.

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Adventist Health-Homework & Hospice Services Mendocino County. FT - PT - Per Diem positions: RN, Home Health Aide, Physical & Occupational Therapist. Great Team & Great Benefits. Call Trudy-H/R #456-3230.

Junior Grange Singers
The Junior Grange Singers, a weekly music class for kids 9 and older, is starting Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm in room 10 at the Willits Grange on School Street in Willits. \$40 a month. To register, or for more information, contact Nancy New at 459-1276, nancynew@willitsonline.com.

Mechanics Wanted
Willits Power and Hardware is looking for experienced mechanics. Must have knowledge of 2 & 4 stroke engines and supply own tools. Inquire within.

Music Lessons
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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Tiny Rodeo

Rodeo is an 8-month-old neutered male, mixed-breed young dog who currently weighs six pounds. Rodeo is simply adorable. Just look at that teeny tiny smile! While he may gain a couple of pounds before he is fully grown, Rodeo will be a very small guy of no more than eight or nine pounds. Combine this with his stellar personality, and he's the perfect constant companion!

Rodeo would love a guardian who wants to take him anywhere and everywhere! He also loves to play with toys and to cuddle up in any warm lap. We can't imagine a home that won't be made more wonderful with the addition of this little nugget of joy!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.



Photo by Rod Cools

Photo by Carol Deuel



State retirees give \$500 to Harrah Senior Center

Skip Hulet, right, president of the California State Retirees of Mendocino and Lake Counties, gives Allyn Nonneman, director of the Willits Senior Center, a \$500 donation.

The Senior Center is raising money to replace their leaky roof, as well as to help with general operating costs.

The next fundraiser is a drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner To Go at the Senior Center, set for Friday, September 11, between 5:30 and 6:30 pm at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Tickets are \$25 for dinner for two. Tickets also come with two \$5 gift certificates: one courtesy of East Hill Veterinary Clinic and one for the Senior Center Thrift Store.

The Senior Center is located at 1501 Baechtel Road.

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Teacher development at Wowser

Above from left: working on their Viking weaves at Wowser: Kirsten Turner; Jane Applebee, Cyndee Logan, Kirsten Turner and Gwyn Ware; Jennifer Lockwood, Elisabeth McMahon, Chnae Glassey and Sienna Reno; and William Travis and Ralph Mandeville.

At right: Wowser's "Espresso Yourself" gypsy wagon cafe, "driven and worked by the youth of Wowser."

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Willits Charter School teachers began a week of teacher development training on Monday morning with a trip to Wowser, the non-profit industrial/arts makerspace on East Commercial Street.

WCS director Jennifer Lockwood started out the morning with a lecture and video on innovation and creativity, working collaboratively, and "how to bring out creativity in ourselves, not just the kids," she said. "It was a good opener for in-service week: good for team-building."

Next was a hands-on project, guided by Wowser's Cyndee Logan (but the teachers helped each other, too), making a Viking weave, a woven copper wire cord that can be used to make bracelets and necklaces.

Attending teachers included Chnae Glassey (physical education), Michel Chenelle (social studies), Gwyn Ware (art, garden, ceramics and farmers market), Kirsten Turner (Spanish), Gaea Reid (math and science), Ralph Mandeville (culinary arts), William Travis (English) and Jane Applebee (independent studies), Elisabeth McMahon (math), Sienna Reno (ceramics and garden, sixth-12th grade) and Erin Vaccaro (science).

"We've been connected to the charter school from the start," said Wowser's Roger Wilson. "We love having the kids over, but we finally had a chance to have the teachers over, too. We thought they would enjoy the chance not to be in charge."
- Jennifer Poole

OBITUARY |

Bob Whitney

Robert "Bob" Bruce Whitney passed away on July 15, 2015 after a brave, brief battle with liver cancer. In his 73 years, Bob celebrated life every day through his commitment to family and his tireless work for the environment.

Bob grew up in Costa Mesa, with his mother Betty, a nurse, and his two brothers, Peter and Chris. Bob attended high school at Proctor Academy in Andover, New Hampshire. In 1961, he moved to Santa Barbara to attend UC Santa Barbara, where he studied economics. Bob received his master's degree in economics at USC in 1964.

Bob started his lifelong work on behalf of the environment in Santa Barbara, including being a founding member of the Santa Barbara Environmental Defense Center in 1977.

In 1983, Bob and family moved to Willits, where Bob taught economics and the first computer programming classes offered at Willits High School, all the while becoming involved in the local environmental community. After teaching, Bob turned his long-standing environmental activism volunteer work into a career as an environmental planner. Bob's 30 years of environmental work and volunteer efforts in Northern California span from the ocean to the mountains and thousands of acres in between. Some of the highlights of Bob's extensive work and dedication to the environment are:

- Working with the California Department of Forestry to implement sustainable forest practices on large areas of timberland in Sonoma and Mendocino counties.
- Driving force behind establishing the Golden



State Land Conservancy, a land trust based in Willits that holds conservation easements on over 34,000 acres in California.

- Founding member of the Gualala River Watershed Council, a non-profit working to restore the Gualala River watershed.

- Served as a volunteer and in leadership positions on a wide variety of citizen groups promoting sound environmental practices.

Bob: son, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, good friend and friend of the Earth. He will be deeply missed by many. Bob is survived by his wife, Joan, his sons Blair, Adam, Jason and Jeremy, daughter Alison, and five grandchildren.

Newbie |

Kassidy Lavine

Mother Lauren Morris and father Frank Lavine are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Kassidy Timberly Lavine on August 6, 2015.

Kassidy weighed 8-pounds even and was welcomed by big brother Trenton, big sister Mariah, and grandparents Annie Morris of Willits, John Morris of Ukiah and Gary and Sandy Lavine of Whitmore.



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1 hr 43 mins
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Movie Times for 8/28 thru 9/3

STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON
(R)
2 hrs 27 mins
Fri: 5:30 & 8:30pm
Sat/Sun: 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:30pm
This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

SHAUN THE SHEEP
(PG) 1 hr 25 mins
Fri: 5:00 & 7:00pm
Sat/Sun: 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 & 7:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:00 & 6:00pm

SOUTHPAW
- One Week Only -
(R) 2 hrs 4 mins
Fri-Sun: 9:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 8:00pm



Heroes at the library

Willits Summer Reading program ends with a party

"Every Hero Has A Story" was the theme of the Summer Reading program at the Willits Library this year, featuring programs by local community heroes as well as stories from around the world.

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

According to statistics provided by Willits Librarian Jill Dorman, there were 713 attendees to this summer's 13 programs, counting kids and adults, and 120 young readers signed up to log their summer reading and to earn prizes.

Enzo Vaccaro was one of those summer readers, along with his sister, Sofia, who attended the Summer Reading party on August 15. All of the books he read this summer were his

favorites, he said, but two books he mentioned were "Star Wars" and "Scooby Doo," and he really enjoyed July's "Live Bat Show!" Sofia's favorite book was "Scary Stories To Tell in the Dark," and the whole family read the classic "Little House on the Prairie" together mom Erin Vaccaro said.

"I love to read," said Grace Aguilar. "I've been reading chapter books since the first grade. It's fun. I read every chance I get. I like mysterious books and books with battles, lots of battles." Right now, one of Grace's favorites is the "Dragons in Our Midst"

Read the rest of **Library** | Over on Page B7



Above, from left: Library volunteers Wendy Copperfield, left, and Jenna Wells. Readers and volunteers from the Willits Library's Summer Reading program stand in front of the book boards, showing off stars and book "awards" for each young reader. Back row, from left: Josh Coletti, Wendy Copperfield, Jenna Wells, Ben Coletti and Grace Aguilar. Front row, from left: Sofia Vaccaro, Damian Reiter, Alex Titus, Sawyer Early and Ava Mucke. Ava Mucke and mom, Bekka Mucke, with their "Every Hero Has A Story" prizes and capes.

Above: Kaya, left, and Damian Reiter both like the library's train set.

At right: The Vaccaro family: Enzo, Erin and Sofia.

Far right: Damian Reiter, in Batman regalia, with one of the books in his favorite "Fly Guy" series.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Canning Demonstration

Veteran canners Mary Fonsen and Kara Garman show the basics

Anyone wanting to brush up on their canning skills or learn the basics had a chance to stop by Willits Power and Hardware last weekend, where Mary Fonsen and Kara Garman held a free canning demonstration. Held from 10 am to 2 pm, the demo gave attendees the opportunity to see the process from start to finish.

Fonsen and Garman made pickled jalapeños and salsa verde, and fielded questions about cook time, fill amount, how to use steam canners, and much more. A few attendees wanted to know more about pressure canning and advanced techniques, and the presenters thought they might do a more advanced class next time.

Lots of beginners wanted to know what supplies

they would need, and they were directed to a canning kit that contains a funnel, jar lifter, magnetic lid lifter and bubble popper, along with, of course, jars and lids, and the Ball "Book of Home Preserving," which has "all the info you will need to learn canning!"

Fonsen and Garman have been canning for family and friends for years, and were happy to share their knowledge with those interested in learning the process. Garman's favorite thing to can? Pickled jalapeños and beets, which is great on salads or straight out of the jar. Watch Willits Power and Hardware's Facebook page for info on the next class. More info: 459-6420.

—Maureen Moore

Above: Mary Fonsen, at right, and Kara Garman can away during the demonstration.

At right, top: Kara stirs the salsa verde on the outdoor stove. At right: Kara spoons the cooked mix into the sterilized jars.

Below, from left: Sliced jalapeños are ready for the jars, which were first filled with garlic and peppercorns. Below, at right: Mary fills jars during the demonstration.

Photos by Maureen Moore



The rest of **Library** | From Page B6

series. Grace was a volunteer this summer with the Reading Program, and she read "Wolves of the Beyond" to Ava Mucke.

Ava and her mom, Bekka Mucke, attended the end-of-summer party, too, with their "Hero" capes and masks on. Ava said she really liked listening to "Wolves of the Beyond," and that her favorite book she read herself was "The Magic Tree House."

Damian Reiter and his little sister, Kaya, were also regulars at Summer Reading. Damian fondly remembers meeting Ashes the Arson K-9, brought to visit the kids by Brooktrails Fire Department Fire Chief Darryl Shoepfner. But his favorite books were the "Fly Guy" books featuring a boy named Buzz who makes friends with a fly.

Young Kaya, prompted by mom, did a little twirling as remembered some of the countries represented in the dance around the world

The rest of **Astrology** | From Page A4

learning does not come quickly. Do not expect quick rewards, but do expect those rewards to take two years, and at the end you will really have something of great value to you and your future.

The equinox on the 23rd of September is at 0 degrees of Libra and at 0 degrees of the North Node, moving towards the center of the sun. This is about discovering the essence of your soul, and it is time to embrace what you came on the planet to give as your gift. Leave the past behind, and move towards what you came on the planet to do. Your old story is not longer interesting to others or even relevant.

Mars going into Virgo also says it is time to get to take care of your body, health and your life work. You will want to create new daily rituals that allow you to find a new and more energetic balance between your life and your work.

On the 27th of September, we have the Lunar Eclipse in Aries, and some of you might feel a need to take a risk around relationships, whether they are intimate or work-associated relationships. Something will become

program: Japan, South America, Australia, Africa and Mexico.

Volunteer Jenna Wells helped at every Summer Reading event this year, except the week she went to Disneyland! "I love to volunteer here," Jenna said. "I like to keep busy and meet people." At the party Jenna was helping adult volunteer Wendy Copperfield to hand out special prizes, like pencils, stickers and magnets.

Ben and Josh Coletti, librarian Dorman's sons, helped clean up after the party. Ben said his favorite book – "I re-read it this summer" – was "Robinson Crusoe." He said he can't stand math, but figures liking to read will help him achieve his career choice: to become a lawyer. Younger brother Josh disagrees with Ben: "Math is good!" he said. But he also likes to read, and enjoyed "The Indian in the Cupboard" this summer.

illuminated about where you are to take a risk. And that risk is to bring your life back into some form of balance, service and compassion. So you can see that it is a very full month, with a lot of shifts happening in a progression and flow.

As always the cards reflect a similar and yet slightly different angle of perception. Resolution is in the air, and the old conflicts and aggressive patterns are no longer serving you. The conflict is seen, felt and observed in a way that can be shocking and sickening when you see your own reflection and distortion in the words that leak out of your mouth. Sometimes we need to be shocked in order to drastically change, and the cards show that the old pattern is finally dead. Your soul is asking to be released from this painful manner so that a powerful healing can happen.

The suppression of your authentic self has reached a place that is no longer acceptable, and the only choice is to evolve the energy and bring it back into the place of love and appreciation. There is a force of earth energy

Friends of the Willits Library sponsored 10 of the 13 Summer Reading programs, and bought the prizes and free books to give away at the party, which also featured crafts, ice cream, cake and healthy snacks purchased by FOWL. "Readers may still come in for books and prizes through the end of August," Dorman said.

Dorman was children's librarian at the Willits Library until earlier this year, when she became head librarian for Willits. The new Willits children's librarian, Benjamin MacBean, started work last week.

In other 3rd District library news, a new group, the Friends of the Long Valley Public Library, is gearing up for their Charter Membership Drive Kick-off and Book Sale to benefit a future Laytonville library station at the Laytonville Art Walk on September 26.

that is aligning you with the crystalline core of this planet, and it is realigning you into a new synchronicity. It is time to listen to the information being transmitted through the earth into your very being.

This is a month of coincidences and strong feelings that are guiding you to your larger purpose. As you vibrate you will attract those with a similar vibration to you. Do not allow the mind to over-interpret or misinterpret the information. Allow the energy to have its own natural evolution. There is a perfect timing – all you have to do is allow that unfolding to happen naturally.

Looking at these cards I can't express enough how much it would help to be outside and in the flow of the weather, so that you can become more conscious of the messages coming your way, and to create the stillness and silence to be able to interpret them from a calm center and peaceful acceptance.

Suzanne Wigner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology," which can be found on Amazon.com. For more information: visit www.suzwagner.com or call her at 707-354-1019.

The rest of **Dance** |

From Page B6

when she began, and has ended up teaching her own grandchildren at the studio. "What a blessing!" she said. "I feel so fortunate to have been able to teach something I loved doing." Ferri-Taylor wanted to thank her husband, Brian, for his support, which made her studio possible.

For more information, check the Willits Dance Academy page on Facebook or contact Ford at 978-8154 or tara@willitsdanceacademy.com.

The rest of **Lockwood** |

From Page B1

available to both middle- and high-school students.

WCS participates in the National Student Lunch Program and cooks brunch and lunch for our students right here on campus. We offer culinary arts courses where students participate in creating healthy meals using whole grains, proteins, fresh fruits and vegetables. We also offer a free tutorial after school where students may receive assistance from a credentialed teacher until 4:30 pm.

School begins on Tuesday, September 1 at 8:25 am. We still have openings in a few grades, so please don't hesitate to call for a student application. We sincerely look forward to meeting new families as well as greeting our returning students. Enjoy the last days your summer, and we will see you soon!

HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Please Welcome



Cloud 9 Studio to become Willits Dance Academy

After 30 years of teaching dance to children in the community, Kathleen Ferri-Taylor of Cloud 9 Studio is retiring. The studio will continue in "the capable hands," Ferri-Taylor says, of Tara Nicole Ford, under the new name "Willits Dance Academy."

Ford was born and raised in Tacoma, Washington, and attended Tacoma School of the Arts, studying modern dance, ballet, hip hop, photography and theater. In her youth, she competed in gymnastics, and later became a coach and teacher, as well as teaching ballet and tumbling for Metro Parks of Tacoma.

Ford continued her studies in dance at Seattle Community College and then at Mendocino College, where she choreographed two pieces and danced in seven pieces for the college's 2015 Spring Dance Concert. Creating those dances, Ford said, sparked her passion for teaching choreography again. Ford will also be introducing new classes this year such as technical jazz, creative ballet, street jazz for adults, and cheer dance.

"I love working with kids," Ford said. "Helping them grow and learn new abilities truly became a piece of my heart. I am very excited to be taking over Cloud 9 Dance Studio."

Ferri-Taylor began teaching "creative movement for little ones and art for children" in 1985, through the Willits Recreation Program, and moved to the Grange, Room 7, two years later. As the number of her students grew, and additional teachers were added, the studio moved to Room 9 and became Cloud 9 Dance Studio.

"Before I knew it," she said, "I had the children of former students coming into the studio to take classes!" Ferri-Taylor taught her own children

Read the rest of **Dance** | Over on Page B7

Hengbing Wang, MD
Hematology & Oncology

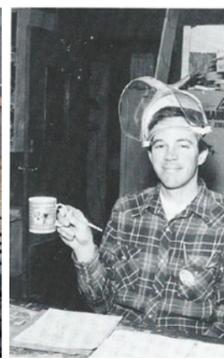
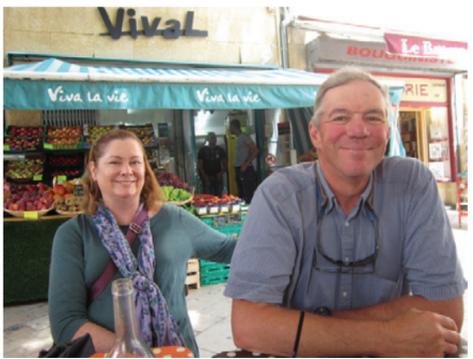
Dr. Wang is a board-certified hematologist and oncologist who provides personalized compassionate care for his patients. As a hematologist and oncologist, Dr. Wang evaluates and treats a full-range of blood disorders and cancers.

Dr. Wang is now accepting new patients.

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From left: Greg and Peggy on one of their European vacations.

Greg and daughter Jennifer.

Greg and his granddaughters, Ella and Alissa.

The classic Randrup look, circa 1990.



Remembering Randrup

What can one even begin to say to encompass all the impact one man had on so many lives? The devastating news of Greg Randrup's unexpected passing last Thursday has left family, friends and his huge herd of students in a dazed shock.

During his 31 years at Willits High School, Randrup connected with thousands of students, encouraging, influencing and harassing in that special way that only he could do. Let's assume that on average over his time at WHS, there were 20 students per period, seven periods per day, for 31 years; that's 4,340 students who were lucky enough to have Randrup be a part of their lives.

"You bonehead!" could be heard in response to a perfectly reasonable (or unreasonable) request, usually always accompanied by a laugh and grin, and everyone knew the flick of the wrist in the forward motion above his head was the official go-ahead sign, recognizable from across the room and over the roar of saws.

His class was like the reverse Home Economics. All the guys were there, so all the girls in the know were thrilled to be teaching assistants and get to learn to build things, too ... like the hand-crafted and routed-edge bench, painted with a chicken motif, that still sits on my porch to this day.

Even after he retired, Randrup was always a dependable presence at the fairs, cheering on past students (and in recent years, their children!), checking out the sheep, and giving advice. He and his wife, Peggy, would attend the Future Farmers of America banquet dinners and buy goodies at the dessert auctions to raise money for the club, including Randrup's expected-to-be-there favorite: oatmeal raisin cookies.

He was impossible to follow, lumbering over fences, gates and obstacles with his 90-inch inseam, but he was always game for helping promote agriculture and the ranching lifestyle, including posing for a photo shoot, axe in hand in a field full of turkeys, for the 2014 Willits Weekly Thanksgiving edition.

As one who was lucky enough to call Randrup "Greg" – not normal for many teachers – I considered him a friend, mentor and a great part of this community. I want to thank Peggy and his daughter Jenn for sharing Greg with all of us for these past years and allowing us to be lucky enough to be a part of their lives, too.

I'll miss you, Greg. Say "Hi" to Princess for me.

– Maureen Moore, former student

Below are some memories from others who were proud to have Greg Randrup be a part of their lives.

From Chuck Davison, former WHS principal:

The phone call I received early in the morning was shocking and sad: Greg Randrup, retired teacher from the high school, had suddenly passed away.

The shock of this news had a very devastating effect on me, as I considered Greg to be a very close personal friend.

I remembered first interviewing this great big, friendly, young candidate for the agriculture science/shop teaching position at Willits High School.

Luckily, I was smart enough to hire Greg on the spot, and he not only became a wonderful teacher, he became a friend: of the community, of students and of animals, as well as a friend to all who were fortunate enough to come to know him.

It was very hard for Greg to say no to someone asking for help. I remember going into Greg's shop class and seeing it overcrowded with students and projects. I would say to Greg, "This place is going to be a disaster if you don't clean up this mess," and Greg would say, "Yes I need to do that," with a big, boyish grin. It rarely got cleaned. All these projects were very important to the students who had started working on them.

When you opened the door to Greg's classroom, you were subjected to banging, clanging, sawdust, welding sparks, and various other sounds of a very busy shop class. Every once in a while you may even have heard the big guy say lovingly: "You bonehead." Then he would go over and help the struggling student with his project.

The shop rarely got put in order, but it was always full of very eager students who looked up to this loving, caring teacher.

Greg Randrup left a legacy of respect, love and friendship that permeated not only his classrooms: His legacy will be felt throughout the entire Willits community for many years to come.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Peggy, Jennifer, and all the Randrup family during this devastating loss.

From Ashtan Bloomquist and J.D. Redhouse:

Whether he was purchasing feed for his flock or stickers for his granddaughters, Greg Randrup always came into our store with a smile. He'd call us by last name as he came through the door with a smirk on his face, eager to ask, "How's it goin'?" For most of us, our relationships with Randrup started at Willits High, where he'd often walk about with a large stick in his hand and a Ticonderoga in his front pocket. Many generations of boneheads looked up to Greg, as he was both a friend and mentor to his students. We'd love to hear the phrase, "Let's roll!" come out of his mouth, because it meant we were setting out on another unforgettable adventure with our irreplaceable ag teacher!

From Robert McKenzie, former student:

He loved sunflower seeds and taking gum from kids. If he saw you with gum, he would ask where you got it, and then say: "Give me a piece." Hall passes were either a sheet of sandpaper or a chunk of wood, and he would just sign it with a big "G," no matter what it was.

From Michelle Tobin-McCoy, former student:

He always had sunflower seeds in his mouth, and the ag truck floor was covered in them.

From Kandi Lundgren, former student:

I was in the ag woodshop class, and I was cutting out a piece of wood on the band saw, and Robert McKenzie bumped into me and made me cut the tip of my finger off. Mr. Randrup called us boneheads, put a Band-Aid on my finger, and sent me to the office.

Mr. Randrup was always helping us kids with the animals on the ag farm. One winter the hogs got out of the ag farm, and Mr. Randrup and some of the boys from ag class were chasing them down the creek under the ag bridge.

Mr. Randrup would always give us sheets of sandpaper for our hall passes, and one year someone was going around sanding symbols on the lockers and the sides of the buildings. Amy Ford and I were joking around with Mr. Randrup about how it was us, and we started to call ourselves the "Sandpaper Bandits." Even though it really wasn't us doing it, Mr. Randrup wouldn't let anyone go to the bathroom anymore, so we had to beg him to let us go. Eventually when the rogue sanding stopped, we were all allowed to use sandpaper hall passes again.

From Amy A. Ford, former student:

Mr. Randrup's daily uniform consisted of a flannel shirt, Wrangler jeans, glasses around his neck, a face shield on his head, and a Mendo Mill apron around his waist, which would hold the sheets of sandpaper he would give us for our hall passes. He constantly had a yardstick in hand ready to chop anyone who was being a "bonehead." On the days when he would wear his rubber boots, he would store his yardstick in the side of one boot. He was always whistling Christmas songs, no matter what time of year it was. I especially remember him whistling Christmas songs in class during roll call.

At fair, Mr. Randrup was always there with us kids, making sure we had our animals ready and sending us into the show ring one by one. Even while we were in the show ring, he was constantly walking around us kids, making sure that we had our animals set up properly. It was as if he was a sheep dog, constantly herding us kids around like his flock. He was always happy-go-lucky, and he was there to help us kids no matter what.

One night our sheep and goat got attacked by stray dogs out at the ag farm. Mr. Randrup was down at the school late at night with the vet and us kids, making sure the animals were OK. He loved the animals as much as we did, and he was always making sure that we took good care of our animals.

I haven't spoken to Mr. Randrup in years, but that doesn't change how much he meant to me or what a positive influence he was during the time when he was in my life. And although I never had the opportunity to tell him that, I'm sure he knew it. I think that's the beauty of a dedicated teacher: They impact so many students in such a positive way and never require any recognition for it. Mr. Randrup will always hold a special place in my heart.



From top: Greg at the 2014 FFA dinner.

Peggy and Greg enjoy cake on their wedding day.

Greg in his coaching (and beard-wearing) days at Willits High School in 1981.

Greg and his turkeys. Photo shot for Willits Weekly in November 2014.



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