

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

WHS staff shaken

To the Editor:

The staff at Willits High School is shaken regarding the recent decision to transfer one of our two counselors, Tanja Ramming, to Baechtel Grove Middle School. We are concerned that the consequent void in our staff will result in an inability to meet the needs of students on our campus. Before this transfer, our staff was already overextended in the face of losing an administrator and a full-time teaching position in the 2013/2014 school year.

We believe it is inappropriate to evaluate the need for Ms. Ramming's position at Willits High School based on the contract ratio of "1 counselor to 650 students." Doing so is to overlook the administrative duties she performed that consumed 50 to 60 percent of her time; many of those duties may no longer be performed in her absence. Ms. Ramming's duties included the following:

- ELD (English Language Development) program coordination
- CELDT (California English Language Development Tool) testing, which is a state requirement
- Site administration of CSTs, which requires a solid month of full-time work; WHS saw a significant increase in our API last year, which we attribute in no small part to Ms. Ramming's efforts
- Administration of other standardized testing, including PSAT, SAT, AP, and CAHSEE
- Local scholarship coordination, which brings in at least \$80,000 per year to our college-bound students
- Senior portfolio coordination, which is a WHS graduation requirement, and includes an interview between community members and every senior

- Boys' and Girls' State coordination
- Military liaison, which includes ASVAB testing, public speaking engagements, and early enlistment coordination

- Probation officer-student liaison
- Administrative representative to IEP (Individualized Education Plan) meetings, which requires an extensive knowledge of students' records and personal backgrounds

- Administration of 504 plans for students with special needs
- Development and facilitation of WHS's In House Suspension (IHS) program, new to the school as of Fall 2013

- Development and facilitation of Restorative Justice, a PLC-inspired discipline model with proven results

- Monitoring of requirements for A-G track students to prepare for admittance to a four-year university
- Supporting and monitoring a significant population of students on vocational/career tracks

- Coordination and facilitation of applications for colleges, scholarships, and FAFSA
- Administrative representative to WHS Leadership Team, which included multiple site meetings as well as six annual trainings

at the Sonoma County Office of Education and follow-up training of staff

- Community networking to build internships and employment opportunities

- Academic interventions directly with athletic coaches

- Direct emotional/ behavioral supports for individual students in therapy with Bronco and Special Education

Further ramifications of the loss of this position are difficult to quantify. For instance, this decision has created a profoundly negative impact on staff and student morale. Another issue is that the remaining counselor and administrator are both men who, while capable, leave our female student population with fewer options for support regarding personal, reproductive and sexual matters.

We also have grave concerns that our depleting ability to address discipline issues will threaten the safety and well-being of our students. Our staff has worked diligently to foster a safe school culture and learning environment, which is jeopardized with the lack of personnel to supervise and enforce our discipline program.

In closing, we ask that you weigh the consequences and seriously reconsider this distressing decision.

Willits High School faculty and staff

(Editor's note: This letter, according to WHS teacher Marisela de Santa Anna, who read it to the school board Tuesday evening, was signed by all but one teacher at Willits High School, as well as staff members.)

Superintendent comments

To the Editor:

I would like to dedicate this statement to our students in the hope that they will learn to embrace change as a conduit to realizing their goals and dreams.

The summer months provided us an opportunity to reorganize, finalize and recreate several standards within the district. A reorganization of our custodial staff better prepared our sites for the opening of school; completion of re-sodding of the football field; and relocation of third-grade classes and the district office have proven to be worthy of our efforts.

Although each event brought its own challenges, each event was successfully completed before the beginning of the school year. The custodial reorganization, although not perfect, was successful at every site. Areas neglected or overlooked were minimal and easily resolved prior to the arrival of students.

Three days of Professional Development were available to all certificated staff to place the district on common ground with the implementation of Common Core, Professional Learning Communities, and Response to Intervention Strategies.

As the 2013-14 school year began, we set our sights on higher enrollments, reduction of administrative expenses, continued budget restructuring with the Local Control Funding Formula, and implementation of Common Core curriculum alignment, along with challenging labor issues.

The opening of school brought higher than estimated enrollments, requiring the addition of staff and the transfer of essential personnel. These are the opportunities every school district dreams of and

welcomes as a new school year begins. No positions have been eliminated, no program has been closed, and no student has been left without support.

School personnel are continually asked to fill the gap between the role of family and community and academic and social support for all students. As we begin each day we have the responsibility to model behaviors that exemplify good citizenship, goal-setting and a willingness to face the challenges of the future.

I have witnessed this community's internal capacity to meet obstacles head on. Change is inevitable: we must prepare ourselves and our students to be the masters of their future. The future will occur regardless of our level of preparedness.

This community has the wherewithal to determine what the future holds if and only if we do not cling to the past but instead learn from it and challenge ourselves to participate in its creation. This district will leave no child behind, we will not lose a child, nor will we seek the easy road at the expense of any student. Let us seize the opportunities ahead to fully participate in the building of our future.

We cannot build a future and ignore the warning signs of the past. In the last several months this board, this staff, these students, and this community have had to replace their dreams of a brighter future to remain financially solvent. We have met this challenge and we will continue to meet this challenge.

I believe that as we continue in this journey together, we will accept the challenges ahead and work to support each other in our daily work to achieve the goals of our district. This journey will require us to challenge the way we think about the past; it will require us to leave our comfort zone and step up to the plate to do what we have not done before.

Our future and the future of our district is in our hands. Let us not give up because it's never been done. Let us embrace our destiny with creativity and teamwork. Taking comfort in knowing that we have the gifts and talents within ourselves to build a brighter, better and sustainable future.

We can't create the future by clinging to the past. We must take each step forward with caution, creativity and community.

Pat Johnson, Willits Superintendent of Schools

Standing up for Chief Magann

To the Editor:

I want to stand up on behalf of Fire Chief Carl Magann and the Little Lake Volunteer Fire Department. There was a very disparaging letter to the editor in the Willits News last week, and though I do not know the letter's author, I do know about the honor of our fire department.

These volunteers work tirelessly to keep us safe. There is not a person in our town that has not been touched in some way by these first responders. The paid staff and management make their decisions in an era of very limited resources. Our department is always looking for qualified volunteers, and managing those volunteers professionally is a full-time job.

Little Lake Fire operates on a very small budget, and I have seen our first responders out selling raffle tickets to raise money for our desperately needed new firehouse! To a man, they go above and beyond to meet

the all the commitments of a small town fire department.

Thank you Little Lake Fire for all that you do. I feel safer in this community because of your hard work and sacrifice.

Holly Madrigal, Mayor, Willits

Thanks to Kohl's

To the Editor:

As we embark on another year of fund-raising in order to put on our 27th Sober Grad Party, we have realized that in our end-of-year thank you letter back in June, we failed to thank a business which has become an important partner with us. We forgot to thank Kohl's not only for their generous donation and discounts, but also for making us a member of their Kohl's Cares family.

Each year for the last three years, Kohl's has sent five employees to help us set up and decorate the day of the party. The employees stay for three hours each, which represents 15 hours of work which is an incredible help! So a huge thanks to Kohl's and Mark Cain, manager of the Ukiah Kohl's, for all of their support. As with the rest of our business and individual partners, we could not do it without you.

Joyce Waters, Willits Sober Grad

More on Muir Mill bridge

To the Editor:

I'm sorry that testimony given at the hearing for the Muir Mill bridge replacement was described as a "rebellion" in Willits Weekly's August 28 story, "Replacement approved for Muir Mill Road bridge." To disagree with the county planning staff, and to bring to light what was neglected is hardly a rebellion. The public is doing the decision-makers a favor, and that is what a hearing is for.

What all those present called for was that the study in question should have included a comparison with rebuilding the current bridge with modern techniques rather than straightening the road and re-contouring the streambed to facilitate a bridge almost three times the length of the current one. This is not a two-lane paved road as the study says. It is a chip-sealed road that is one lane in many parts.

It was not reported that when Supervisor Dan Gjerde asked why rehabilitation wasn't considered, Department of Transportation Director Howard Dashiell replied that someone checked the box in the form saying it couldn't be done. I find this shocking, both that the department accepts this and so apparently do the supervisors. This is not acceptable. The program these funds come from also applies to rehabilitating bridges, and everyone who spoke was supportive of this solution.

Dashiell is completely wrong that the replacement bridge design will not change people's driving habits. It is a well-documented fact that when roads are widened and straightened, people drive faster. The idea that designing for higher speeds is safer is an illusion. The bridge comes just before the narrowest, steepest, most curvy part of the canyon road in one direction, and a blind curve with a driveway entering from each side in the other. And ... the proposed 70-foot bridge is canted at an angle to facilitate faster speeds!

The replacement bridge may be only six feet wider, but because it is angled and the approaches are also wider it takes out about four times as much of the bank. Removing as many as 39 trees is a huge

Read the rest of **Letters**

Over on Page 11

COLUJMN | Well Mannered Mutts



Are you allowing your dog to be rude?

Recently I was at a public park working with a client whose newly adopted dog was showing leash aggression towards other dogs. This dog would lunge and snap at any dog that came across his path while on a leash walk. I explained to the client that we were going to try to turn this behavior around by pairing something pleasant (food) and insisting on polite behavior (sitting) when in the presence of another dog.

Sallie Palmer Columnist This is all done at a distance: what is called a comfort zone or "under threshold." This is a level where the reactive dog isn't reacting, but is aware of the other dogs. Slowly over time, we move the dogs closer and closer together, without a strong reaction.

All was going well with the training, and my husband was assisting by walking our very balanced German shepherd and Labrador by the client's dog. Then we all became keenly aware of a woman holding on for dear life to her rather large, unruly dog that was dragging her towards all of us. This woman was struggling to keep this dog under her control.

I saw the look of panic on my client's face as we heard the woman repeatedly ask "is he friendly?" I replied emphatically "NO!" But the woman continued to allow her dog to drag her towards us. I told my client to calmly move away while I repeated: "He's not friendly."

Finally the woman stopped and directed her attention towards my husband and our two dogs. Her dog was way ahead and already dragging her towards them. She called out to him: "Are they friendly?" My husband wasn't very polite and said: "NO! Stay away." With this response, the woman seemed offended and said: "Well, I guess I'll take him back to the car."

What's interesting here is that my client's dog that has the issue with other dogs approaching may have developed this leash behavior problem because of a similar encounter earlier in his life. There is no way to know for sure, but it would not surprise me to learn that a dog was allowed to rudely impose himself on my client's dog when he was younger.

What people don't realize is when a person allows their pushy dog to rush up to another dog and very rudely invade the other dog's space, the dog being invaded often feels the need to defend himself by taking some sort of offensive action. A good defense is an offense. It is usually in the form of growling, blustering, snapping and lunging at the rude dog.

In some cases the second dog will show extreme shyness/fear and attempts to flee, move away or hide behind the person holding the leash. In either case the dog feels trapped and cornered in the situation.

If the approached dog is successful in getting the rude dog to back off, the dog has learned that being offensive is a successful tool and will most likely use this behavior in future encounters. To make matters worse, when these situations occur, everyone tends to blame the second dog for the outburst. They say the approaching dog "is only being friendly." Wrong! That dog is being rude. That dog is imposing himself into the other dog's space. It only takes one unpleasant encounter for a dog to become reactive.

So, why do some people allow their dogs to pull them towards other dogs in this manner? It's because people in the dog world encourage and warn dog owners: "You must socialize your dog." The average person thinks this behavior is appropriate dog-dog socialization. Unfortunately, it's not.

I'm sure the woman in the park thought her dog and our dogs would just play with each other in the park. She obviously didn't know much about proper dog-dog introductions, dog body language, ranking among dogs, and a host of other dog social behaviors. I'm sure she thought the dogs would get along and have fun and that we humans were a bunch of killjoys.

When I have puppy class, participants are surprised when I don't allow all the pups off leash to run amuck. I explain to them that "free for all" socialization is a little bit like the "Lord of the Flies." The behavior of young dogs, all close to the same age, without adult dog supervision, can be detrimental to the shy, insecure and weaker dog's psychological development. Allowing dogs to gang up, chase or pin a shy, insecure pup can cause a lifetime of dog-dog issues. I tell people the goal is not that all dogs run and romp with each other, but rather that they tolerate the presence of other dogs without the need to feel that they should interact.

I'm not saying it's not healthy for dogs to play. I'm saying that matching compatible pups is required first. Monitoring their interactions is necessary. Being ready to step in and intervene is a must.

The American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Test requires that dogs be able to approach and sit calmly while in the presence of another dog. Training your dog as to when it's alright to interact, and when it isn't, is important.

If you have one of those dogs that likes to pull you towards other dogs, make sure you have the right training equipment that will help you control your dog better. A head halter that controls the dog's nose should work. Train your dog to walk calmly and not pull, no matter what distractions are present. Simply turning around and walking in the opposite direction over and over again should help your dog to realize he will not be allowed to reach his target. Teach your dog to sit and remain in a sitting position when in the presence of other dogs.

What should you do if a rude dog approaches? Tell the owner to please stay away from your dog. If they ignore you, step in front of your dog so you are between him and the approaching dog. Tell the dog to "go away." Yes, the other dog owner will think you are the rude, unfriendly one, but your dog will be protected.

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



WILLITS HARRAH CENTER PRESENTS

ROASTED CHICKEN DINNER TO GO

DINNER FOR 2 - \$25.00

Friday • October 4 • 5-7 P.M.

MENU:
One Half Roasted Chicken
Rice Pilaf • Cole Slaw
Dinner Rolls • Homemade Apple Cobbler

PRE-SALE TICKETS ONLY

Tickets available at the:
HARRAH CENTER
1501 Baechtel Road
707-459-6826



Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Above: Karen Smith smiles with Wingwood Farm TC Tisane
Photo by Maureen Moore



Above: Tammy Valley with 10'M SGCH Tamnis Farm Sapphire poses with close friends and fellow goat showers, Rachel Conway with GCH RDR Samson's Charisma and Rebecca Kracker with CH Olentangy Rainman's Trillium
Photo courtesy of the Valley Family

Showing the Does

Goat show at Boonville Fair comes full circle for Willits' Karen Smith

Wingwood Farm's Karen Smith is no stranger to showing at the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show, held last weekend at the Boonville fairgrounds.

A 25-plus year veteran, Smith's main passion is her herd of Nubian dairy goats, which she shows in the senior classes at the fair. This year, 17 does made the trek over the hill from Smith's picturesque farm in Willits to the fairgrounds.

Three titles were awarded to Smith's does this year: Reserve Grand Champion Nubian went to Wingwood Farm Tim's Althea, and Wingwood Farm TC Tisane won both the Junior Grand Champion Nubian award, as well as the overall Best Junior Doe in show against all the other breeder winners.

The ribbon bearing the Grand Champion Nubian title did not hang on Smith's pen this year; it did, however, get a home close to Smith's heart.

Arcata Bottoms 4-H alumni and current sophomore at College of the Redwoods Tammy Valley received the Grand Champion Nubian award for her doe Tamnis Farm Sapphire – whose mother is a Wingwood Farm doe.

Sapphire's mother, Wingwood Farm Tim's Toya, was the first doe Valley purchased at the start of her 4-H career some six years ago. The doe was shown by Smith at the Boonville Fair that year, and was picked up, with another doe, to go home with the Valley family and be the beginning of Tammy Valley's 4-H dairy goat project.

"If I was going to be beat out by someone this year, it was good to have it be Tammy," laughed Smith. "It's actually still like winning when one of the kids you mentored ends up with the Grand Champion title!"

– Maureen Moore



Above: left: two boys show in the junior goat show and right: two girls wait their turn to go into the show ring
Photos by Maureen Moore

NOVO THEATRE Willits, CA
Times for 9:20 - 9:26

RIDDICK
Run Time 1hr 58mins
Daily: 5:25 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun: 12:15 & 2:50pm

PRISONERS
Run Time 2hrs 25mins
Daily: 4:15 & 7:15pm
Sat/Sun: 1:15pm

WORLD'S END
Run Time 1hr 49mins
Daily: 5:00 & 7:30pm
Sat/Sun: 12:00 & 2:30pm

Tight Wed Tuesday Film:
WORLD'S END
with all tickets @ \$5.00!

Coming Friday 9/27
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2

2013 **ACROISIS** BY THE RIVER | MAY 17

September
13-14, 19-22, 26-29

A romantic comedy
Directed by Dick Graham

Tickets available at:
Goods' Shoppe
56 S. Main St., Willits
For info or credit card orders call: 707-459-0895

Coming Oct. 12th...
Swami
Beyond Anonda
with Steve Bhaerman

Willits Community Theatre
37 West Van Lane, Willits

Tires LES SCHWAB

Sponsored by **Les Schwab of Willits**

Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

In the Stars...

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Aries, the week ahead is looking pretty good, as you will find people are more sensitive to your needs. Work with those willing to work with you.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Taurus, your visions of how things should be might differ from how things really are. Work toward improving those things that need some work, and things will turn out just fine.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 2

Some surprises come your way this week, Gemini. But things will soon begin to fall into place. Just be patient before you make important decisions.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Things may seem a bit strained this week, Cancer. But all it takes is a little cooperation and an increased focus on teamwork, and things will quickly return to normal.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Leo, stay prepared and well organized and this week should fly by without a hitch. Feel free to try some things that go against the grain.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

Virgo, don't feel badly about the things over which you have little control. Go out and have a good time this week, and eventually things will run their course.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

Libra, it may prove challenging to sit still the next few days. People may be pulling at you from many different directions, and you will not know which way to lean.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Scorpio, try not to be overly protective of your secrets this week. A friend or family member is offering their help and guidance, and such insight will prove invaluable.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

Sagittarius, a seemingly insurmountable obstacle presents itself this week. Some creativity and quick thinking will be necessary, but you will enjoy the challenge.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

Keep your feet on the ground this week, Capricorn. Even if you prefer to have your head in the clouds, keeping your cool will pay dividends in the long run.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

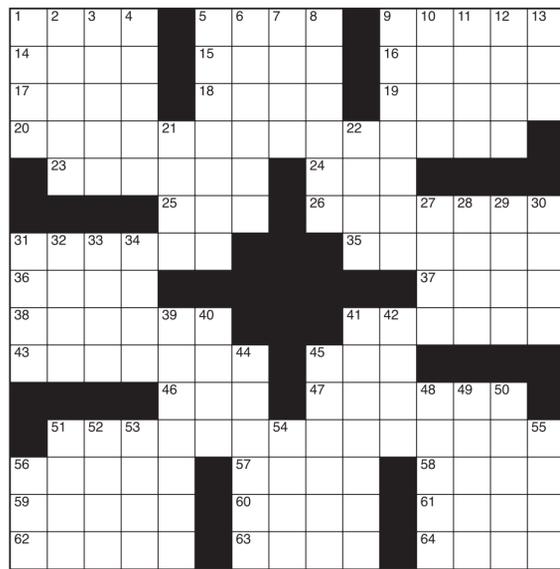
Aquarius, enjoy some quiet time so you can regroup after a hectic couple of weeks. You earned some rest and relaxation, and this time away will recharge your batteries.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces, you have a lot of good ideas, and it's time to share those ideas at the office. Your star will soon start to rise.

Crossword Puzzle

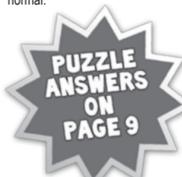


CLUES ACROSS

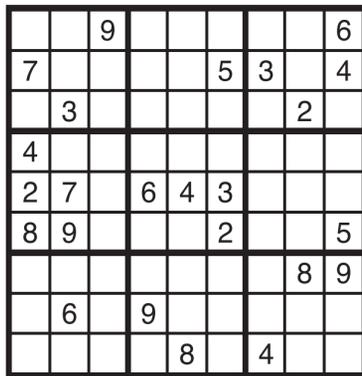
- Peruvian province
- Mama __, rock singer
- Elephant's name
- Yellow edible Indian fruit
- Arabian Gulf
- Lucci's Kane character
- Minstrel poet
- Huxley's fictional drug
- Atom-bombed
- Strangenesses
- Mortar's crushing partner
- Kilocalorie
- Very efficient light source
- Slow oozing
- Corpses
- Abounding in trees
- Total destruction
- About aviation
- Reveres
- Lymphatic throat tissue (1 of 2)
- Wild sheep of northern Africa
- Monarch seats
- Macaws
- Icahn's airline
- City railways

CLUES DOWN

- A French abbot
- Civil Rights group
- The third hour, about 9 a.m.
- Am. ventilation corporation
- A prince's fortified building
- Felt deep affection for
- A tractor-trailer
- Noshes
- British auto maker
- Sound of a clock or timer
- 2-wheeled transport
- Breezes through
- Radioactivity unit
- Neocortical temporal lobe epilepsy (abbr.)
- Frosts
- A design or arrangement
- The class of birds
- Pickled ginger
- Alkenes
- A spoiled child
- Arabic agarwood perfume
- Christian __, designer
- Japanese waist pouch
- Lures with desire
- Joined by stitching
- Locks of hair
- Solemn pledge
- Most wise
- Among
- Capital of Morocco
- Excessively fat
- Murdered
- Ireland
- Yuletide
- Sound of a clock or timer
- Freshwater mussel genus
- Amounts of time
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)



Sudoku



Level: Beginner

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!

More of Parrish | From Page 1

Officers were told, Denham said, "to give [protesters] every opportunity to leave the scene" and that arrest was a "last resort."

Parrish "refused to leave ... resisting arrest," Denham testified, adding Parrish was warned resistance "would be met with force."

Given "10 to 15 chances to leave," Denham said, "Mr. Parrish ... at some point yelling support to the tree-sitter ... still refused ... was put under arrest. He was cooperative ... did not resist arrest."

Officer Michael Hosford, an 18-year CHP veteran, testified he arrested Parrish on April 2 during a "Willits bypass perimeter control detail ... at the south gate entrance" during an action conducted by CHP and Caltrans to extract trespasser Senseman from the tree.

Hosford testified protesters had been allowed to gather on the west side of Highway 101, opposite the gate entrance where the CHP extraction was taking place. He "observed" Parrish "cross" the roadway and make contact with other officers.

Parrish was "warned to leave ... by administrators [CHP and Caltrans] at the scene, and the officers who intercepted him," Hosford said. "When I got to him, two officers went 'hands-on.'"

Hosford testified officers were ordered to "give [protestors] a request to leave, dispersal order ... if refused, then arrest. He was given all. He did not and was arrested."

Parrish "pulled away, struggled, resisted handcuffs, and was taken to the ground," Hosford said. "I told him I was taking him into custody."

After Parrish pulled away, Hosford said he used a "bent wrist" pain compliance technique to get Parrish's "arm subdued" and get him into handcuffs.

"Until handcuffed," Parrish continued to resist, Hosford said, and there was a "two- to three-minute struggle."

"Did he cry out in pain?" Figueroa

asked.

"I don't recall," Hosford replied. "For the entire two minutes he refused to comply...." When handcuffed, "he stopped resisting.... Several officers picked him up and carried him onto Caltrans property."

Officer Ty Lewis, a state traffic officer for five years, was one of at least 46 CHP officers on site July 1 when Parrish was taken into custody by a CHP SWAT team after being extracted from the tower of the wick drain stitcher Parrish had occupied within the Caltrans work zone for 11 days. Lewis explained he was chosen as the arresting officer rather than one of the Sacramento SWAT team members because "I live here in the area and wouldn't have to come back for court."

Lewis said he observed Parrish "getting himself prepared" as the SWAT team readied their approach to him in a "manlift" [a crane with a bucket].

"I saw him attach himself to the ['sleeping dragon' - a metal pipe device used by Parrish to lock himself to the construction equipment] ... moving his stuff around ... saw him put it on, take it off" [the sleeping dragon].

Following the extraction, Lewis told the judge, while he was escorting Parrish to the medical team before taking him to county jail, Parrish made the following statement: "Will you carry me? It's more dramatic. I'm trying to make a statement."

Lewis said "we talked a lot" during the transfer. He asked me a question, said he wanted it to last longer ... making a statement."

After the lunchtime break, courtroom seats were only half-full, and Judge Behnke addressed the "vindictive prosecution" motion filed by Parrish's legal team in response to the number of misdemeanor charges added against Parrish

Read the rest of **Parrish** | Over on Page 8

The rest of Food Truck | From Page 1

such requirements as parking distances from fire hydrants and the posting or visibility of permits and business licenses.

"I think it is important to have designated trash and recycling receptacles," King said.

Taco Ramirez, the only food truck now serving on Willits' streets, operates from a lot on Blosser Lane across from the Willits Redwood Company sawmill.

Committee member Tom Woodhouse said he had looked at the policies of Fort Bragg and Arcata, a town with food truck experience.

Arcata's policy "encouraged food vendors, and they like having a variety of foods," Woodhouse said.

Members of the committee hope to get the policy right. For example, a restaurant in the old Mendocino College building could complicate food truck parking on that street.

"We do not have time to do this over and over again," Woodhouse said.

Nancy Ellis-Bell wanted to know if someone with a VV van would count as a food truck. "Is there any definition of what constitutes a mobile food vendor?" she asked.

King's proposal establishes operating hours for food trucks and time limits for the truck's locations around town.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lynn Kennelly said trucks that stay in one spot have been problematic, like a taco truck that parked at the Scott's Appliance building.

"I do not think that is right," Kennelly said. "They are mobile, and they say they are mobile."

Proposed food truck policy looks to restrain trucks from parking near community events without a city permit.

But "we are going to have to define what a community event is," Mayor Holly Madrigal noted.

The committee has toyed with the idea of allowing food trucks at Bud Snider Park, similar to the Farmer's Market, but has not included that idea in a draft. "It seems to be a popular idea," city code enforcer John Sherman said.

Ellis-Bell said it could be a slippery slope for the city to begin allowing trucks in town.

But more food trucks in Willits could mean more choices for people spending their money in town. "It would actually improve the town," said business owner Linda Matz.

— Look in Willits Weekly's next issue for continued Revit-Ed coverage, as the town begins to plan for life after the bypass.

The rest of Mud | From Page 1

Event attendees came to watch the mower races and rodeo, to sample barbeque in the cook-off, to throw some horseshoes and to enjoy much more during the day-long event.

The main events, the mower races and ATV rodeo events, were quite a spectacle, as the frequently wet-down track made blaring through the mud fun for everyone — except those behind the first-place rider. Some had to even break from the track to de-mud their goggles before continuing their laps. Others were left identifiable only from the back sides of their colored shirts, as the solid brown fronts of wheelers and their riders made facial recognition difficult.

The ATV events (poles, barrels and the hide race) were divvied up into age groups and a "rancher" class.

Results for those classes are as follows: Poles: Ranchers: first place, Justin Oz, and second place, Tatem Heiken. 18 and over powder puff (girls): first place, Ginger Franklin, and second place, Stacie Swenzon. 18 and over (boys): first place, Robert Gallo, and second place, Nick Sanchez. 13-17: first place, Brandon Thorsberry, and second place, Jamie Jewel. 12 and under: first place, William Tucker, and second place Danielle Barry.

Barrels: Ranchers: first place, John Grandchuck, and second place, Justin Oz. 18 and over powder puff (girls): first place, Tracy Glentzer, and second place, Rockell Rutler. 18 and over (boys): first place, Matt Dales, and second place, Justin Oz. 13-17: first place, William Derekson, and second place, Kyle Loehr. 12 and under: first place, William Tucker, and second place, Danielle Barry.

In the hide race event, first place went to Justin Oz and second place to John Grandchuck.

Mower Race winners included first-place winner Regina Gardner and second-place winner Susan Smith in the 1st Main Race, and first-place winner Gary Gallo and second-place winner Dale Green in the 2nd Main Race.

Four of the main event planners, Billy Rutler, Fred Barry, Rod Cavanaugh and Kevin Pierachini, also took an exhibition lap for fun and gave the crowd a big show sliding around the tracks as fast as they could.

Willits Weekly | September 19, 2013

Community News

COLUMN | Willits Real Estate Today



Basic qualifications for a mortgage

One question friends and clients regularly ask me is, "What type of financing is available to purchase real estate, and what qualifications do I need?" This is a great question and a great time to be asking it.

In short, loan terms and programs vary and are ever-changing, but the information in this column will give you a general understanding of the "rules of the game."

There are numerous loans available to "qualified" buyers and properties. Government-backed loans offer some of the very best loan terms available, and may even include "\$0 money down." The qualifications are not as daunting as some may assume, as long as you understand the basic principles for qualifying.

To qualify for most owner-occupied residential loans you will need:

- a minimum 620 FICO score (FICO is the most widely used credit score). Special terms apply to those with a derogatory credit history.
- a minimum one-year employment history (two years if you're self-employed)
- money in a bank for a few months of mortgage payments
- an acceptable debt-to-income ratio (DTI).

Acceptable DTI ratios can range from lender to lender, but they generally never exceed 40 to 50 percent of the borrower's income. You may often hear a general calculation of this ratio described as the "total monthly debt service, including the prospective housing expenses, as 'X' percent of the applicant's income." You can roughly estimate that total monthly debt generally can't be more than 45 to 50 percent of monthly income.

For example, in Willits the current average house payment is approximately \$1,200 per month. So, the monthly income must be approximately at least \$2,700 (assuming no additional monthly debt).

Initial front-end qualifying ratios
Initial "front-end qualifying ratios" are calculated by adding all of the housing expenses, including:

- principal
- interest
- property tax
- hazard insurance
- flood insurance
- road association and/or homeowner association dues

The lender, loan agent, or underwriter then divides this total by the qualifying income. This calculation will give the percentage of the borrower's income being used for housing expense. Standard acceptable tolerances for front-end ratios range between 25 and 33 percent of the borrower's income.

Example (monthly expenses):
Principal and interest payment: \$730
Real estate taxes: \$125
Homeowners hazard insurance: \$34

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



Above: left: Robin Hough of Fleece to Garment, left, who purchased a fleece during the California Wool and Fiber Festival auction, and Nancy Finn, owner of Chasing Rainbows Dyeworks in Willits, whose idea it was to start the festival 13 years ago. Right: Fair-goers wander by the popular apple-tasting booth in the produce exhibit hall and sample the many varieties



Above: A fair official assesses the prize-winning pumpkin
Below: Carolyn Greenwood showcases her knitting skills in front of her yarn

The Best of Boonville

The Annual Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show held last weekend was a feast for the eyes, with displays of produce and flowers and fun for the family, with livestock shows and a carnival. The fair showcased many of the county's artisans and craftspeople in the exhibit halls.



Above: first-place tomatoes
Below: Willits' Chuck Roam helps set legs for exhibitors in the senior sheep show



Above: Apples adorned with red, white and blue awards
Below: left: One of the many beautiful cut stem flower entries in the floriculture building. Right: ER Energy staff pose with a pig-shaped barbeque at their booth in the main breezeway



See many more photos from this year's fair at <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/boonvillefair2013>

Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress.com

OWNER FINANCING HOME FOR SALE

Want Charm? This home is located in downtown Willits close to Main St. and Shopping. This is a 2 bedroom 1 bath home on an open and sunny lot that stretches between Monroe and Alameda. If your looking for a location within City Limits this is a Must See!

Listed: \$165,000

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

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

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

www.pondsun.com • tonysorace@pacific.net

HOME FOR SALE

95 West Valley Street in Willits

Cute 2 bedroom / 1 bath house, in town

Fully-remodeled with new windows, plumbing, electrical & roof
Upgraded kitchen & bath - move-in ready

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Owner Financing Available

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Saturday, September 21

Methodist Church Annual Yard & Bake Sale:

from 8 am to 1 pm, at the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, across from the Little Lake Grange. Info: 459-2855.

St. Anthony's Church Annual Flea Market/Yard Sale/Bake Sale/Hot Dog Barbeque:

9 am to 3 pm. 58 Bush Street, behind the church. \$15/space: contact Peggy at 972-2016 or Diana at 459-6260 for info. "Save gas, save time, sell (and buy!) your items locally."

Coastal Cleanup Day:

Willits volunteers' annual clean-up of the five creeks that flow through Willits: Baechtel, Broaddus, Haehl, Mill and Willits creeks. 9 am to noon; meet at City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. Bring gloves if you have them; otherwise bags, gloves and tools to pick up litter are provided. See article on Calendar page for more details.

Walking Tour of Ridgewood Ranch:

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

Jewelry Trunk Show: with jewelry designer Rebecca McNerney, who is bringing her fall line to Willits for a limited time. 11 am to 4 pm at Blue Sky Gallery, 21 South Main Street. Info: 456-9025

Willits Community Harvest Farm to Table Dinner

It's time to celebrate the harvest again at the Little Lake Grange, which has been serving Harvest Dinners since 1965. Featuring local garden-fresh foods, followed by music and dancing (Dirt Floor Band, The Raging Grannies, and Blue Sky Pie), and inspirational words (featuring Amanda "Warbler" Senseman and Will Parrish). "We will be serving rosemary chicken as well as a savory rice and beans vegan entree with special sauces, and encourage you to fill the menu out with signature salads, breads and side dishes from your own garden harvest and the local markets," said Granger Annie Waters. "Vegan offerings will have their own buffet table, and we will do everything we can to label wheat and gluten free dishes with your health in mind."

Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, 5:30 pm to midnight. To benefit Save Our Little Lake Valley and the Little Lake Grange. Dinner and Dance \$25: Bring a dish from your garden and get a reduced entry ticket; Dance only \$15, after 8 pm; Children \$10. Advance tickets at Goods' Shoppe. Info or to volunteer call 459-6362.

Willits Coastal Cleanup Day

Saturday, September 21: Volunteers will again clean up creeks in Willits as part of California's annual Coastal Cleanup day, this Saturday, September 21, from 9 am to noon. Meet at City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. Organizer John Sherman, building official for the City of Willits, says all are welcome: "We've got some edges of parking lots and other easy stuff to clean up," he said. Clean-up is set for all five creeks that flow through Willits – Baechtel, Broaddus, Haehl, Mill and Willits creeks – but three separate reaches of Baechtel Creek will receive the most attention this year. Sherman said he is expecting to see student volunteers from Willits High School and Willits Charter School join in the cleanup.

Sherman says he's not seeing "really heavy concentrations" of trash on the sides of the creeks this year. Thanks to clean-up efforts the last four years in a row, "it's definitely more of a maintenance thing at this point, rather than some challenging clean-up," he said. Four years ago, Willits won the "estimated volume" contest, taking more garbage to the landfill than efforts on the coast. "We were taking old water heaters and old engine parts out of the creek at that time," Sherman said.

"But we are seeing some build-up," he said. "So this is the right time, before heavy rains wash it into the creek." Bring gloves if you have them, but otherwise bags, gloves and tools to pick up litter are provided. Mendocino County Land Trust is the sponsor of Coastal Cleanup Day throughout Mendocino County.

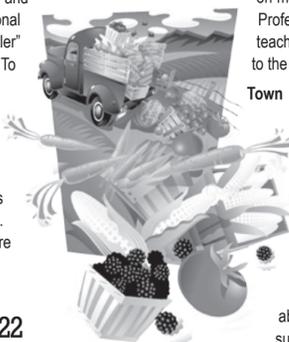
Info: 459-4601.

– Jennifer Poole

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Annual Willits Community Harvest Farm to Table Dinner: 5:30 pm to midnight at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Featuring local garden-fresh foods, followed by music and dancing (Dirt Floor Band, The Raging Grannies, and Blue Sky Pie) and inspirational words (featuring Amanda "Warbler" Senseman and Will Parrish). To benefit Save Our Little Lake Valley and the Willits Grange. Dinner and Dance \$25: Bring a dish from your garden and get a reduced entry ticket; Dance only, \$15, after 8 pm; Children \$10. Advance tickets at Goods' Shoppe. Info: 459-6362. See article on Calendar page for more details.



Sunday, September 22

Tree Care Blitz Work Party: 10 am to 2 pm at Brookside School Farm. Help care for the farm's fruit trees, no gardening experience necessary. Supplies, materials and refreshments provided. Spruce & Lincoln Way, in the back of the school field. Info: Wendy at 456-9429. See article on Calendar page for details.

Bon Voyage Reception for Frolic Shipwreck artifacts: a free program at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, from 1:30

to 3:30 pm. The museum is loaning the major part of its Frolic Shipwreck artifacts to Chico State University's Museum Studies program for study, conservation, and incorporation in a year-long student-designed exhibit on marine navigation. Featuring a panel discussion with Chico State's Professor Georgia Fox and Professor Thomas Layton, historian, teacher and author, whose excavation of an Indian village in 1984, led to the rediscovery of the Frolic shipwreck. Info: 459-2736

Town Hall Meeting: 4 pm at the Willits City Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street. The first of a series of Town Hall meetings, presented by the Willits Community Alliance. Topic for September meeting: "Community Revitalization," with presenters Adrienne Moore, Willits City Manager, and Alan Falleri, City Planner, with public discussion moderated by Carlin Diamond. "Everyone present will be encouraged to share what they would like to see happening in our community to create a better life for our children and grandchildren." These meetings "are designed to help us talk with our full community about topics of mutual interest in a respectful and supportive way." Info: Carlin: 459-4850.

Tuesday, September 24

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660. This week's Tightwad Tuesday movie is "World's End."



Wolverine Football Lift-A-Thon

Friday, September 20, 3:30 pm at WHS: Wolverine football players, who've been weight-training, are holding a Lift-A-Thon fundraiser, to raise monies for equipment, sideline apparel and travel needs. Community members are invited to pledge a player by the pound or as a flat donation. Each player will perform three lift – a bench press, dead life and squat – to achieve an average total weight of 750 pounds combined. Each player will attempt to raise \$200 or more. Please make checks payable to WHS with "Lift-A-Thon" on the memo.

Brookside School Farm Tree Care Work Party

Want to see fresh local organic fruit coming to a school cafeteria near you? Brookside Farm is getting ready to re-open with a new farmer and needs your help!

Volunteers are invited to the Brookside School Farm "Tree Care Blitz" Work Party, Sunday, September 22, from 10 am to 2 pm. Tasks include: fertilizing trees; laying Weed Guard; applying mulch; new irrigation installation; tree trunk painting, and general farm clean up. No gardening experience necessary. Supplies, materials and refreshments provided. The farm is

located at Spruce & Lincoln Way, in the back of the field behind Brookside School. PG&E has donated fruit trees to WUSD schools through a grant over the last three years through local PG&E vegetation management representative, Erin Creekmur, and Creekmur will present a plaque to Brookside Principal Olga O'Neill as part of Sunday's activities. The Brookside School Farm is partnering with Common Vision, "Dedicated to creating thriving producing school orchards," to help care for the fruit trees: visit www.commonvision.org or call Wendy Copperfield at 456-9429 for more info.

Brooktrails Candidates Forum

Thursday, October 3 at 6:30 pm

The Brooktrails Property Owners Association is sponsoring a Candidates Forum Thursday, October 3 at 6:30 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center, 24860 Birch Street.

Three of the five seats on the Board of Brooktrails Township are up for election in the November 5, 2013 election. Brian Weller will facilitate the meeting. This will be a highly interactive meeting with plenty of time for questions and answers, and all Brooktrails residents are invited. Info: Brian Weller 459-4499.

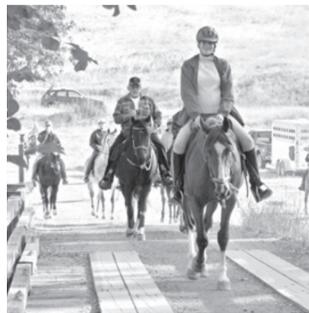
Back on the T.R.A.I.L.

Trail Ride, BBQ & Seabiscuit Tour: Saturday, October 5, on beautiful Ridgewood Ranch, to benefit Ridgewood T.R.A.I.L. Riders Association, a therapeutic riding program. Featuring three levels of rides. Check-in from 8 to 8:45 am with coffee and snacks; rides begin from 9 to 9:30 am. BBQ at 12:30 pm, featuring organic fruits and veggies from Ridgewood's organic garden. 2 pm: Seabiscuit Tour. Advance tickets/entry forms (must be received by October 1) available at www.ridgewoodtrail.org or (in Willits) at J.D. Redhouse. Ride & BBQ: \$50; BBQ only \$15; BBQ child under 12, \$10; guided Seabiscuit tour (optional): \$15. Riders under 16 must be accompanied by adult. Call or email for directions: 459-5640 or ridgewoodtrail@gmail.com. T.R.A.I.L. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to reach children with physical, developmental, emotional or social challenges by using horseback riding therapy.

Organizers are still looking for additional three-person teams to sign up for the event. A working knowledge of riding and roping is required, but all levels and ages of horsemen are welcome to sign up.

To sign up or for more information, go to www.willitsfrontierdays.com/yeararound.html or contact Marcy Barry at 272-5395 or Mary Fonsen at 354-0112.

– Maureen Moore



Top: Jacqueline Cooper leads a group across the bridge as they head off for their ride at Ridgewood Ranch

Below: Willits cowboy Gary Belvin gets ready to ride during a past year's T.R.A.I.L. event

Photos by Maureen Moore

Free Tire Recycling this week

Every day through Saturday, September 21, 9 am to 4 pm at the Willits Transfer Station, 350 Franklin Street. No dealers, no rims, 17 inch maximum, nine tires per vehicle per day. Sponsored by the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority, in cooperation with Solid Waste of Willits. Info: 468-9704.

Willits High School Back-to-School Night

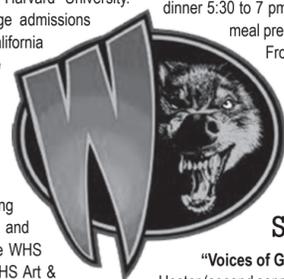
Tuesday, September 24, starting at 5 pm with a benefit Spaghetti Feast, including salad and bread, at the "Wolverine Café," also known as the WHS food center. \$8 adults; \$5 children. Come visit your student's classes and meet the teachers! We will post an update with further information. Go Wolverines!

Friday, September 27

WHS Homecoming Football Game/Parade: starts at 5:30 pm at Maize Field behind Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Info: 459-7700.

Saturday, September 28

Autumnal Vegan Potluck Celebration: Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience (L.O.V.E.) presents a plant-powered potluck at the Long Valley Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville. Setup at 5 pm; dinner 5:30 to 7 pm. "Come experience the joy and pleasure of eating a meal prepared entirely from an amazing variety of plant foods." From 7 to 9 pm: a screening of "May I Be Frank," about Frank Farrante's journey "from debilitating sickness to vibrant health through a plant-based diet." Please bring a vegan dish (no meat, dairy or eggs), and your own serving utensils and place settings. "All are welcome, no one turned away."



Sunday, September 29

"Voices of Grace" Ensemble: Charlene Larsen (soprano), Carole Hester (second soprano), Diana Ragan (alto), and Marla Bentien (soprano) will perform songs with "great harmony" and "old songs by outstanding arrangers set in today's sound," during the Sunday service at St. John Lutheran Church, 24 Mill Creek Drive, from 11 am to noon. Hester formed the group in 2010, she said, as "a place for these singers to be able to work on music and travel to churches and events to sing God's praises." Info: St. John Lutheran Church, 459-2988, or Carole Hester, 463-1231.



Voices of Grace members: Charlene Larsen (soprano), Carole Hester (second soprano), Diana Ragan (alto), and Marla Bentien (soprano).

Save the Date:

"Chicken Dinner to Go," Harrah Center, October 4
T.R.A.I.L. Benefit Ride at Ridgewood Ranch, October 4
Mendo College Fall Plant Sale, Ukiah campus, October 4
Poets John Trudell, Linda Noel, Dan Roberts, Area 101, October 4
Ranch Rodeo, Willits Frontier Days Grounds, October 5
Willits Kiwanis Oakland Raiders Football trip, October 6
15th annual Willits Walk for Wellness and Community, October 20

Ongoing Events

"Two Across": runs Thursdays through Sundays, 8 pm, at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, 37 W. Van Lane, through September 20. Written by Jerry Mayer, directed by Dick Graham, and starring Mike A'Dair and Kathy de Bané. Tickets are available at Goods' Shoppe or by calling WCT at 459-0895 and reserving seats with a credit card. See article on Calendar page for details.

"Quilts and Armadillos": new quilted art pieces by quilt artist Nancy Simpson plus Simpson's unique collection of armadillo miniatures. Willits Cultural Arts Center, 71 East Commercial Street. Show runs through September 29. Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday, 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1732.

Farmers Market at City Park: Summer produce, including tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant, watermelons and more from area farmers, plus live music, flowers, crafts, baked goods, dinner and more. Every Thursday at City Park, across from City Hall, from 3 to 6 pm. In the park through October.

Monday Playgroup: "for all of our little ones." 11 am to 1 pm, at the Rec Grove until fall; organizers hope to move inside after that. Bring a few toys if you like. Tell a friend. Call Olivia at 707-671-6260 for more info.

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

Open Mic at Shanachie Pub: Every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm.



The real deal

Second annual Ranch Rodeo showcases real-life-on-the-ranch skills

Though professional rodeos and area gymkhanas are flashy and fancy with their colorful chaps and manicured manes, the real ranching cowboys and cowgirls have different requirements for their day-to-day activities, some of which will be showcased at this year's Ranch Rodeo.

Held October 5 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds, the second annual event will focus on tasks more related to real-life situations for ranchers and their horses. The event is free for the public to attend and will start at 1 pm.

Calf branding, ranch doctoring, team sorting, ribbon roping, reverse team roping, saddle cow riding and kid's dummy roping will all showcase a more refined skill set for the horse and rider and provide event-goers with a different look at ranch life.

Events will be completed in teams of three; all teams must compete in all events to be eligible to win. First- and second-place teams will receive cash payouts, and the third-place team will receive headstalls embellished with braided hide knots made by Bobbie Yokum.

In the calf branding event, riders will have to rope a calf and mark it with a paint branding iron. The ranch doctoring event will require riders to sort and rope a steer, catch it, then mark it with an "x" to indicate where a shot would be administered. Team sorting shows the team's ability to select numbered animals from the herd and move them through a mock gate. Ribbon roping requires the team to rope, mug and remove a ribbon from the animal's tail.

Reverse team roping is similar to regular team roping, except the riders will start at opposite ends of the arena, making them run to the other end, re-orient with the steer, then catch a clean head and heel shot. Saddle cow riding is not necessarily a daily ranch-life activity, but gives the cowboys and cowgirls a chance to have some fun.

Top: contestants in the cow riding event burst out of the gates during last year's event

Bottom left: one of the 2012 teams works together working the steer

Bottom right: Mike Prescott and Marta and Chris Bartow of team Key Livestock wait for their turn during last year's Ranch Rodeo

Photos by Maureen Moore



Poll workers needed in November

Polling place workers are needed for the upcoming Tuesday, November 5 election, including at the Willits and Brooktrails community centers. "We are in desperate need of polling place inspectors and clerks for many polling locations around the county for the Consolidated District Election to be held," County Assessor-Clerk Recorder Sue Ranochak announced this week. "We offer a small stipend to work for the day." For more info, call the Elections Office at 463-4371.

when he rejected District Attorney Eyster's plea bargain offer. The plea bargain included several charges – only infractions – fees and restitution.

For the case to go to trial, which Parrish requested, the charges needed to be elevated to misdemeanors. Eyster not only elevated the three infractions, but additionally charged Parrish with a misdemeanor trespassing charge for each day he occupied the stitcher, a total of 16 misdemeanor charges.

Judge Behnke noted California Penal Code Section 555 "doesn't require, but doesn't limit" the number of charges.

Behnke added he was surprised to see the increase in charges, "but now that I've heard some of what happened over there...." He also acknowledged that following a plea rejection, the "DA is gonna naturally reassess the case. Is that vindictive?"

"If we're gonna have a trial, let's have a trial," deputy district attorney Hubley said in defense of the DA's actions. "We feel – let's give the jury the full scope. It might highlight the danger that CHP is in for an hour-and-a-half getting him out of there."

"The DA offered a very light way to approach this," Judge Behnke said, referring to the DA's plea bargain offer. "I can't get into his motivation, can't presume vindictiveness. In the absence of presumption, then I think we're muddling into prosecutorial discretion ... motion denied."

In a final bit of business, Parrish's attorney addressed an order issued by Judge Joe Henderson at one of Parrish's previous court dates that ordered Parrish to stay 100 yards away from the bypass construction site. Figueroa said that order prohibits Parrish from traveling on Highway 101 to Willits, since construction comes up and across the highway.

Behnke gave Parrish "permission to travel to Willits on 101."

Parrish's pre-trial hearing was continued until September 24 at 8:30 am.

Last week SOLLV put out a call to supporters for "an emergency rally to support the Ash Grove and its tree sitter, Condor," in anticipation of an extraction.

"The California Highway Patrol 'buzzed' the tree sit with a chopper last week in a likely prelude to an extraction by the CHP's now familiar Sacramento-based SWAT team, which extracted the initial five tree sitters and the wick drain stitcher sitter (Parrish) in April and July, respectively," the call to join the support rally stated.

Following Parrish's extraction in July there was a lull in overt bypass protest activity, but this month protester actions have picked up again with protesters locking themselves to trucks hauling fill dirt on Highway 101, causing traffic backups and delaying the truck convoys.

Two protesters reportedly were arrested Monday night after locking themselves to a fill hauling truck in the south end of the construction site, near the Haehl Interchange, obstructing traffic for about an hour-and-a-half before the contractor excavated a new roadway, freeing the backed-up trucks and traffic.

In two separate protester actions the previous week (Sept. 5 and Sept. 10), two protesters calling themselves "Feather" and "Earthworm" locked themselves to a truck, the first time in the intersection of Highway 101 and Commercial St., and the second time in the wick drain field on the north end of the construction route.

New firefighter

at Willits Fire Department

Eric Alvarez, the newest member of the Little Lake Fire Protection District, was officially sworn into active service Tuesday, August 13, by Deputy Chief John Thomen. In attendance were the current board of directors of the Little Lake Fire Protection District, as well as colleagues from the Little Lake Firefighters Association.

Alvarez joined the department on May 22, 2012 and has been a very active member of the department while going through the mandatory one-year probation period for all new firefighters. "I know by talking with Eric," Thomen said, "he and his family love their community and feel good to give back to it by serving as a volunteer firefighter."

Alvarez was sworn into service as a full-fledged volunteer – with all the responsibilities that go with that position – after passing his probationary service.

During his probation, Alvarez responded to 210 fire-rescue calls, leaving work and family to cover these calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In addition to the calls, Alvarez racked up 296 hours of fire rescue training. These hours include required drills and training by the department to maintain California state-mandated requirements. Alvarez went beyond the department's required training, as many fire department volunteers do, by attending state-certified courses, including: low angle rope rescue, Hazmat First Responder Operations, Hazmat First Responder Decontamination, and Fire Command 1A, 1B and 1C. The training Alvarez put in during his first year earned him a certificate from the State Fire Marshal's Office, certifying him as a state-certified Volunteer Firefighter. Alvarez is currently working on obtaining his Firefighter 1 certificate, which requires 370-plus hours of total training.

The Willits Fire Department currently has 12 Emergency Medical Technicians. Alvarez and two other firefighters have enrolled in an EMT class, which is a big commitment, as it will take 160 hours of classroom time and require hospital emergency room hours, ambulance ride along, and then a final exam by the National Registry. Once these are completed, Alvarez will spend one night a month at the EMT recertification class to stay current as an EMT. This will be in addition to the two nights a month of fire rescue training that the department does on the first and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Alvarez is currently employed by Black Bart/ Sherwood Valley Casino in Willits.



Eric Alvarez, the newest member of the Little Lake Fire Department



RECIPE | Late Summer Goodness

Tomatoes on Toast

Late summer is the best time for simple, but tasty dishes using all the flavors of harvest

INGREDIENTS

- 8 large tomatoes (an assortment of varieties works best)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 10 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- Salt, pepper to taste
- 10 leaves fresh basil
- Olive oil for pan
- Crusty fresh bread

DIRECTIONS

Heat olive oil in a heavy bottomed pan, and sauté chopped onion until slightly softened and brown. Add garlic, and stir until just fragrant. Reduce heat to low, and add in a heaping pile of chopped tomatoes. Don't bother peeling

or seeding them if you don't want to. It all cooks down wonderfully.

Once tomatoes have started to soften and reduce in the pan, add wine, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, pepper and basil, and stir to combine.

Let simmer uncovered on stove for 30 to 45 minutes or until tomatoes have reduced by around half. Stir occasionally, making sure nothing is burning on the bottom of pan. If there's anything sticking, turn down the heat. Once reduced, add fresh basil and stir.

Slice crusty bread and toast lightly in toaster, oven or broiler. Once at desired toastiness, drizzle on a small amount of olive oil, and top with a heaping spoonful of slightly cooled and reduced tomato mixture.

If you're daring – shave some Parmesan cheese over just before serving, and tell Fall to wait just a few more days.

The letter also included a lengthy list of bullet points detailing Ramming's responsibilities, including administrative duties. Both WHS counselors had already taken on extra administrative tasks, due to the retirement of WHS vice-principal Linda Jacobs who was not replaced this year.

Parents who also spoke joined teachers and staff in asking the school board and the administration to rethink Ramming's transfer.

Superintendent Pat Johnson said the move was necessary, due to an unexpected increase in enrollment at Baechtel Grove. A counselor was "absolutely essential" at the middle school, she said.

– Jennifer Poole

Classifieds & More

Addition / Decking / New Home
Are you looking to add a room, remodel, add a new deck or replace an existing one, build a new custom home or have pest work done? Local licensed contractor #386275 since 1979. Zanardi Construction. Andy: 707-459-6670

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2 bedroom, 1 bath, close to downtown. No pets. No smoking. Water/garbage paid. \$770/month. Arcco: 459-9601.

Garage Sale
Garage Sale, Sunday, September 22, from 9 am to 2 pm. 69 Northbrook Way. Good stuff! No early birds.

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Help Wanted
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Moving Sale
3001 Ridgewood Road (Pine Mountain). This Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm. Furniture, kitchen items and a ping pong table!

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Pinball Machines
PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

Flea Market
Flea Market / Annual Yard Sale / Bake Sale / Hot Dog Barbecue St. Anthony's Church in Willits. Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 am to 3 pm. 58 Bush St., behind the church. \$15/space fee. Contact Peggy at 972-2016 or Diana at 459-6260 for info.

Wanted
The Mendocino County Youth Project runs a free clothes closet for teens in Willits and surrounding communities. We are in need of clothes racks and hangers. If you have any you aren't using, we would love to have them. Please call Aurelie at 489-1258. Thanks.

the Little Lake Fire Department's job to clean up the mess, not the city's.

Burton said it is common for the fire department to "red tag" properties similar to the Franklin lot.

"This is something that the fire department has been doing for 40 years," Burton said. "I am a little concerned – it is not a new procedure for them."

Sherman said the fire department came to him when it could not contact the owners of the property, Plan A LLC.

"When it goes undone, we have citizens in the neighborhood that get upset and frightened, and that is when I stepped in," Sherman said.

Stranske said the lot has been a problem throughout his tenure on the council. "The fire department has to take this on; it is their business," he said.

Councilman Ron Orenstein said he wanted the city's involvement to be a one-time deal, and that the fire department should reassume responsibility.

The fire department and city code enforcement work closely together on inspections of buildings around town.

Willits' municipal code gives the city power to abate nuisances. Sherman said firefighters came to him for help with the problematic property at a time when their abatement enforcement officer was absent from duty.

143 Franklin by the numbers:
Administrative Fine: \$1,100 (11 days @ \$100/day)
Cost of Abatement by A-1 Brush Removal: \$300
Administrative Cost of Enforcement: \$216 (4 hours @ \$54/hour)
Certified Mailing Costs: \$12
Total: \$1,628

Total housing expense: \$889
Gross monthly income: \$3,000
Housing ratio = total housing expenses divided by gross monthly income = **29.6 percent.**

Back-end ratio (total debt-to-income ratio)
The "back-end ratio" is arguably the most important, and it's calculated by adding all of the housing expenses, plus the borrower's debt:

- proposed housing debt
- consumer debt such as car, boat, credit card, and bank loan payments
- child support and/or alimony
- job-related expenses
- negative rental income

The total of these obligations is then divided by the borrower's qualifying income. The percentage of the borrower's income resulting from this calculation is then used as the total debt ratio. Automated underwriting will often allow conforming debt ratios to exceed standard guidelines by balancing high debt ratios with strong assets and good credit.

Example (monthly expenses):
Principal and interest payment: \$730
Real estate taxes (monthly): \$125
Homeowners hazard insurance: \$34
Total housing expense: \$889
Credit card payments: \$280
Car loan: \$360
Total fixed monthly obligations (total housing expense plus debts): \$1,529
Gross monthly income: \$4,800
Housing Ratio = total fixed monthly expenses divided by gross monthly income = **31.85 percent.**

If you would like to know more please contact your local real estate professional. (The information, terms and conditions cited are subject to change.)

Jake McFadden is a Willits member of the Willits community and a second-generation real estate professional. He may be contacted at jakemcfadden.mendocinorealtor@gmail.com or by visiting him at his office at 36 South Street in Willits.

Puzzle Answers From Page 4

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

How can you properly introduce dogs? It is best to start with the dogs sitting first, then follow with a walk. As this is going on, look for signs of relaxation and mild curiosity. If either dog is overly excited, do not allow any contact.

Sallie Palmer is a certified dog trainer with the International Association for Canine Professionals. She has more than 25 years of experience in training people and their dogs. For more information about Sallie and her programs go to www.wellmanreemutts.com

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Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Four past masters attended the Little Lake Grange's 75th anniversary meeting. This photo shows, from left to right: current master Michael Foley, with past masters Karina McAbee, Hank Stroch and Ed Bruce. Not pictured: former master Erica Bruce.

Little Lake Grange

75 years of history in Willits

The Little Lake Grange #670 had a celebration of its first 75 years last Thursday night before its regular business meeting, with a potluck and a historical presentation gleaned from scrapbooks and meeting minutes. Grangers added some reminiscences of their own during the presentation.

Little Lake Grange was founded in 1938, and the first grange master was Walter Moore, according to a timeline prepared by Grange historian Richard Jergenson, and read by Grange secretary Annie Waters.

The Little Lake Grange first met at the Women's Improvement Club Building, now the Willits Center for the Arts. Other meeting places over the years included the Odd Fellows Building (now vacant, south of North Valley Bank) and the "Willits Farm Center," the Willits branch of the Farm Bureau (formerly in the white building kitty-

corner to O'Leary's Feed).

The current Grange building at 291 Pine Street was built in 1921 as a school, but was condemned and closed down in 1954. The Grange bought a lot on Holland Lane around 1953/54 to build their own new \$15,000 building, but were stymied when they found out they were required to have 10 foot ceilings, and the building plans only allowed for 8 foot ceilings.

In 1963, the Grange bought the old school building and property on Pine Street for \$70,000, and started renovating. "Nesting birds shared the space and flew in and out of the holes in the roof, but the enterprising Grangers soon fixed that and other ills befalling the aged building," according to the timeline. This first renovation was finished in 1979, when 239 members celebrated the "newly renovated Grange hall."

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com



Above left: The 75th anniversary carrot cake made for the Grange by Yvonne Wagenet. Center: The oldest active Granger, Hank Stroch, explains how Grange members used to enter the hall. Right: A spelt cake alternative.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

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COLJMN | Relationships



The four most toxic communication styles

In my first column I used a garden as a metaphor for a relationship, where you plant and nurture what you want to create and cultivate as a couple. I have already shared with you what some of the best "fertilizers" are. Today I will be discussing what is toxic and damaging to a relationship and what to stay away from.

Doris Wier
Columnist

Based on his research with thousands of couples in his "love lab," John M. Gottman, one of the most influential couples therapists of our day, discovered there are four communication styles that are most toxic for relationships, especially when used repeatedly. He calls them "the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse."

You are familiar with them in one form or another, because we all use them from time to time. Some of us overuse them and they become a habit that is difficult to break. They are 1) blame and critique, 2) defensiveness, 3) contempt (putting the other person down by making sarcastic comments or calling them names), and 4) stonewalling (not talking to your partner for hours or days).

All four of these communication styles cause a disconnection between the parties involved. Each person feels alone, misunderstood and hurt in the end. These communication styles usually come in pairs. For example, one person starts by blaming the other, which causes him or her to become defensive. It is easy to get sucked into these vicious cycles, even over small things, because our desire to defend ourselves gets triggered and, in turn, can trigger our partner's defense mechanism.

These toxic communication patterns also allow us to hide our needs that are not met or our disappointment about the relationship behind them. Instead of showing vulnerability by expressing our needs or dreams, we accuse, become angry or withdraw. I think for most of us, it is work to uncover our true needs or disappointed dreams. We also do not have enough good role models who show us how to do that.

For instance, if we learn that our planned weekend getaway is not going to happen because our partner has to work, it may be harder to share our disappointment and regret than it is to give into anger and hurt. Sharing our longing to spend more time together will allow us to stay connected, though. It also increases the likelihood of us finding another way to satisfy this need. Starting a fight might be easier, but the price is that we may sabotage our good connection with each other and end up having a lonely and miserable weekend.

In my work I often see couples getting stuck in those toxic communication cycles, hurting each other and their relationship more and more. Sometimes the relationship gets damaged beyond repair.

As with anything that you wish to change, the first step is to become aware of what is going on. Recognizing that you have fallen into a toxic communication cycle with one another allows you to make a commitment to each other that you want it to stop. Then you can explore - with curiosity instead of hostility - what actions and words trigger that cycle and how you "invite" each other to be part of it.

A note: When you first try this, it is best to practice with a conflict that is not hot any more. Make sure judgment stays out the door! It is about gaining perspective and objectivity, so you can see the dynamic and the patterns between you more clearly without getting emotionally overwrought.

Incorporate some lightness and humor. There is nothing more liberating than being able to smile or laugh about our own shortcomings. Last but not least, remember to celebrate your success, including the small victories! Until next month....

Doris Wier is a certified life and relationship coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples and teachers, and also offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution in partnerships. Info: 456-9246 or www.embraceconflicts.com

The rest of Letters | From Page 2

impact to the fish habitat. Trees keep the water cool, and provide food and woody debris for fishy hiding places. Trees may grow back, but not in my lifetime. Not when the mitigation says they can be replaced with any native tree (willow is cheapest), and they don't even have to be planted in the project area.

I was talking with a worker on the new Railroad Avenue bridge in Willits who was having a devil of a time getting coyote brush to survive! Re-vegetating a rocky canyon that gets little sun is not a piece of cake, no matter how much money you throw at it. How Dashiell thinks this is a plus for fish he never says. One of the new banks that is about 50 feet long replacing an 18-foot abutment is covered with rock slope protection. As the Watcom Conservation District in Washington state points out: "Rock-armored banks also negatively impact fish habitat by: providing minimal cover, creating turbulent conditions, and preventing bank re-vegetation."

Dashiell only compared the current replacement design to another replacement that had a pier in the middle of Baechtel Creek, not a rehabilitated bridge of the same size as the current bridge. This is not an environmental plus from a replacement design.

Pinches pointed out that zoning in the area allows two residences per property, suggesting that the population using the road can grow. However, building new houses has taken on unbelievable expense. The cost to build a new house now is far greater than what it will be worth. The population of Willits and the surrounding county area has declined significantly in the last 10 years. The building department is down to one inspector because there are so few houses being built.

The county is seriously strapped for money and not likely to see a lot more in the future. It is highly unlikely there will be other improvements to Muir Mill Road. The only reason the county is looking at replacing the bridge is because there is federal and state money. If you really think to the future, you will see we need to make the most out of every penny, not squander federal dollars on a few overbuilt bridges. Do a decent study that compares rehabilitation to replacement. Rehabilitate more bridges, preserve the fish population with less invasive building, and design bridges that encourage safe driving speeds on rural roads.

Rosamond Crowder, Willits

Unnecessary damage

To the Editor:

I agree with those who call for civility. We should listen and treat each other with respect, even when we disagree. At the same time, I need to acknowledge my strong emotions about this bypass - the frustration, sadness and regrets that sometimes keep me sleepless.

I'm very disheartened to hear of young people locking down to equipment or perching for months in trees, putting their bodies on the line for their deeply held beliefs, in what they see as a struggle between the earth and the machines that ravage her. That idea is not so simplistic or naive.

Of course humans and our machines exploit nature all the time - mining, modifying, harvesting - to serve our human needs. But to cause unnecessary damage to our environment is self-destructive. As Chief Seattle said long ago: "What we do to the earth, we do to ourselves."

The damage this over-built bypass is doing to our valley - our wetlands, streams, forests and wildlife - is indeed unnecessary. Having researched it quite thoroughly, I can document not only that future traffic does not warrant a four-lane freeway, but also that Caltrans repeatedly misrepresented and deceived in their claims to justify this project.

Some say the time to object was years ago. Many of us did so, but our objections fell on deaf ears. I regret I did not do more back then. I hoped the project would "die a natural death" (which seemed to happen at least twice).

Some say, whether it's justified or not, it's too late to change it now. True, much of the damage is already done, and Phase 1 of this bypass is, no doubt, getting built. I believe, however, that it is not too late to reduce the particularly egregious impacts of the planned northern interchange: a 40-acre, up to 40-foot-high, and 80-foot-deep underground dam on the valley's "little lake" wetlands. This I-5 style, costly interchange is clearly not necessary to connect a two-lane bypass to the existing two-lane highway north of town.

Unfortunately, local leaders bought into this project long ago. We needed a bypass, and this is the only one Caltrans would build. It's hard to buck the powers that be, or to change one's mind. I'm disappointed with the majority on both the Willits City Council and the county Board of Supervisors who are unwilling to support even a modest compromise.

That brings me back to the sad sight of young people (and others of all ages) trying to affect the outcome of this "earth vs. machines" struggle. Civil disobedience is a last resort. The politicians have failed them. The "system" isn't working for the public interest. It is heavily tilted to those with the most money and power. This is true at the global and national level, as climate change threatens the world and we do little to even begin the fundamental course-correction needed.

And here, in our own little valley, is a perfect microcosm. I would love to look back on this year and say, in our own small way, we made a difference. The idealism of our youth - even their survival - is on the line. I worry for our children and grandchildren's future.

Madge Strong, Willits

The rest of Planner | From Page 1

Retired Willits Planner Alan Falleri is on board for now to help City Hall, and to handle some of the planning work. But his hours at City Hall are irregular.

The city hopes that before he leaves, Falleri can guide the new planner. John Sherman, head of code enforcement, said: "If we get someone young and bright, the opportunity to be mentored by Falleri is huge. We need someone who is there consistently."

The position would pay from about \$45,000 to

The rest of Budget | From Page 1

budget and revenue projections that were very close to the actuals. According to Pinches, Ford and her staff came within one quarter of 1 percent of being, as the British say, "spot on." "After 11 years, this budget process is getting to be an exact science," Pinches said, "and I really appreciate it."

The county's administrative team views the 2013-2014 budget as the happy result of at least four major trends. First, county, state and nation are recovering from the Great Recession of 2008-2011. The state has its financial house nearly in order, and is now able to better shoulder its responsibilities to the counties.

Secondly, Mendocino County is continuing to persevere in its austere approach to governance. The hatches have been tightened, and all the fat and some of the muscle have been cut.

The county's workforce has been cut substantially. Of the 1,437 allocated positions remaining, only 73 percent, or 1,053 positions, are slated to be filled. Employees have not received a pay increase since 2009, and each year since then they have agreed to work under a permanent 10 percent wage reduction. According to Sandy Crawford-Madrigal, a business representative with SEIU Local 1021, the labor union for the largest percentage of county employees, the county's SEIU employees are essentially working for 2007-2008 wages.

Thirdly, Angelo has succeeded in impressing upon her department heads the necessity of sticking to the budget. This year, only five of the 58 departments, divisions and functions of county government came in over budget, saving the county \$7.52 million.

Finally, during the run-up to the approval of the 2013-2014 budget, the county received two large financial windfalls.

When the state decided to terminate California's redevelopment system, the county received about \$1.5 million. It also received \$1.6 million when the state finally made good on its long unfulfilled promise to pay off its 1991 realignment agreement.

Knopp told supervisors, these are one-time windfalls, and the county should not count on them happening again. But for this year, they have put a basketball-sized bonus loaf in the county's bread basket. In June, when the board approved the draft budget, the county had planned on a \$2.95 million carryover. These two payments have raised that amount to \$6.8 million.

In accordance with board policy, all of that one-time money is going into the county's general reserve fund, which now stands at \$8.79 million.

The rest of Grange | From Page 10

that's what Grange has always been about, helping people in the community." Bruce remembered using profits from the Grange's pancake breakfasts to buy eggs and potatoes for the Food Bank every month and donating money raised from selling pumpkins for cutlery for Our Daily Bread.

Starting in 1965, the timeline reports, "all the Grange meetings seem to make the paper, the drill team is famous" and 73 members attend meetings. "Permission from the city for operating a 57,000 square foot trailer park was granted, under opposition from the Chamber of Commerce."

The timeline reports "lots of harvest festivals, dancing and balls," and ends with a question: "What and when was 'dime a dip'?"

Granger Stella Bonnet was able to answer that question. "My memories of 'dime a dip' dinners go right to my heart, and then I burp," she said. "Lime jello casseroles, green bean casseroles, wild meats incorporated into mystery dishes," all available for

\$55,000, according to a report by City Manager Adrienne Moore.

Moore said new retirement laws limit post-retirement public employment, like Falleri's.

The proposed job description from the city describes how the planner will process current planning applications, work with zoning ordinances, and ensure the city's general plan is implemented.

According to Knopp, these developments have changed the tenor of the county's financial future from "Can the county survive?" to "How can the county thrive?"

During his presentation to the board, Knopp explained how the fortunes of the county have changed over the past five years.

"In the distant past, these budget crafting sessions have been focused on a recognition that a problem existed that needed to be fixed," Knopp said. "Once the problem reached a point of recognition, we were able to work on various strategies, such as deficit elimination strategies that tried to correct the problem and create new efficiencies. And more recently we've been talking about preventing layoffs by establishing reserves and creating some stability in the county system."

"Overall," Knopp said, "past budgets have largely talked about how we survive, that is, how the county survives as an organization, and whether we are talking about an inevitable bankruptcy process, or whether it's really a political issue that simply needs some momentum and some hard and difficult decisions to be made."

"Ultimately, those are the decisions the board made, so we are not here today talking about a bankruptcy process, but we are focusing on employee development, succession planning ... employee enrichment, selective capacity enhancement across the system and, in general, trying to work with the assets available to us to produce better outcomes."

Knopp's arguments don't carry much weight with Crawford-Madrigal, who in a recent interview argued that investments in the county's workforce were long overdue.

"When the county brought its budget presentation to Anderson Valley, [board chairman and Fifth District supervisor] Dan Hamburg was the emcee," Madrigal said. "He said the huge stash in the general reserve fund was called for because we had to be ready for the next financial crash. He said a crash could come because China's housing bubble was going to burst, or because students in the U.S. were going to default on their student loans, or because people were going to default on paying their credit card debts. Then Knopp said we had to put money away to get ready for the next big earthquake."

"So now they have a general reserve of \$8.8 million; their carryover is \$6.7 million.

"Meanwhile, county workers are barely surviving," she said. "A lot of the people in our union are on food stamps. So when is enough, enough?"

the choosing, for 10 cents a serving. The dinners attracted "a real eclectic mix of people who loved to visit and chat," she said.

Current grange master Michael Foley talked about the grange "reclaiming its mission." "We are going back to what the grange movement 150 years ago was doing," he said, "creating institutions that provided economic opportunities for local people."

The oldest active Little Lake Granger, Hank Stroch, reminisced about the more formal and ritualistic ways of the past Grange, detailing how the Grangers used to march in to every meeting, and "fall out" in their proper places after escorting the master and other officers to their stations. "Everybody stood in a row in position," Stroch explained, "and the steward would bang his staff on the floor, and everybody would turn at the same time...."

"It was a beautiful thing," he said, "and I think it will be forgotten, and it's a shame."

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Congratulations Column



Camdyn Turns 1!

Camdyn Charlie Ward would like to thank everyone who came to his birthday bash! Camdyn turned 1 year old on August 31st.

In Loving Memory

Anna Louise Murray



In Memory of Anna Louise Murray. May 14, 1960 - September 19, 2000. It has been 13 years since you left us, but you are in our hearts today and everyday. We love and miss you Mom. Love, Your Daughters

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Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



At left: Winners and judges of the Apple Pie Throwdown, front row: Kathy Shuster (won for perfect crust) and Brianna Tyler (won for best filling). Back row: Susan Jackson (overall winner), Evelyn Persico (People's Choice winner), Emandal hostess Tamara Adams, and judges Holly Madrigal, Kathryn Sterngold and Lori Dorholt. Not present: winner Blake Tiggerman (most aesthetically pleasing)

Below: the winning pies, from top to bottom, made by: Evelyn Persico, Susan Jackson, Kathy Shuster, Blake Tiggerman and Brianna Tyler

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Cowboy songs and apple pie

at Emandal – a Farm by a River

It was the perfect day in the country Sunday at Emandal Farm for the annual "Not Just Cowboy Poetry" event. A couple hundred people, locals and visitors, enjoyed the lovely weather, the gorgeous surroundings, and the great entertainment. Not to mention the delicious apple pie and homemade ice cream. Twenty-nine apple pies were entered in the 3rd annual Apple Pie Throwdown, by far the largest number so far, said hostess Tamara Adams of Emandal.

Musical headliners The Sons of the San Joaquin sang classic cowboy songs like "Tumbling Tumble Weeds," "So Long to the Red River Valley" and "Cool Water" in harmony. They started their first set with an original tune, "From Whence Came the Cowboy," a beautiful song about the multicultural origins and history of cowboys, with names of legendary and everyday cowboys "whispered" into the mike between verses.

"We're happy to be here," said Lon Hannah, who makes up the core of The Sons with his father, Joe Hannah, and his uncle, Jack Hannah. "We enjoyed the ride up here... until we got to Willits. Then we got lost." Emandal is 16 miles northeast of Willits, out at the Eel River.

"I'm just so grateful that were able to get the Sons of the San Joaquin," Adams said. "At 80 years old, they are getting up there. They really made an effort to get here, and they did such a lovely job."

Judges for the apple pie contest were veteran Kathryn Sterngold of SugarKat Kitchen, Lori Dorholt of Ardella's Downtown Diner, and Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal. The judging was not a quick process, with 29 pies to choose from for "the perfect crust," "most aesthetically pleasing," "most delectable filling," and "best over-all apple pie."

Susan Jackson (pie #26) won the overall award; Kathy Shuster (pie #18) won for the perfect crust; Brianna Tyler (pie #5) won the best filling award; and Blake Tiggerman (pie #9) won most aesthetically pleasing. Tyler and Tiggerman are both interns at Emandal this summer, and Tiggerman is the first male to win an award in the pie contest.

The coveted People's Choice Award winner was Evelyn Persico (pie #4).

"It was splendid," Adams said, "an incredible day in the country, in this beautiful Mendocino County: a celebration for the people and the place, our little haven by the river."

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Willits Public Library and Willits Daily Bread.



Above: The Sons of the San Joaquin

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HOLLY MADRIGAL
for Supervisor

I am pleased to announce that I will be seeking a Supervisor's seat next June. The 3rd District needs fresh leadership and energy. I look forward to addressing tough issues that the County still faces, like an unsustainable pension debt and the Brooktrails 2nd access road.

My current focus has been increasing manufacturing and business in Mendocino County. I plan to continue my work localizing our economy to strengthen our community.

The active campaign will be launched in December, and I remain extremely focused on navigating the City of Willits through this challenging and exciting moment in its history. I welcome your continued support. To reach me, call 707-841-0612

Paid for by Friends of Holly Madrigal for Supervisor

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Tour starts at 9:30 am rain or shine
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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT SEABISCUITHERITAGE.ORG