

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Notice of municipal election

To the Editor:

Notice is hereby given that a general municipal election will be held in the City of Willits, county of Mendocino, state of California, on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, at which election the following offices will be filled: Three Willits City Council members.

Nomination papers will be available at the Office of the City Clerk, 111 East Commercial Street, in Willits.

First day nomination papers will be issued: July 18, 2016.

Last day to file nomination papers (by 5 pm): August 12, 2016.

Last day to file nomination papers (by 5 pm) if an incumbent fails to file: August 17, 2016.

Future notice is hereby given that the polls on Election Day, November 8, will be open between the hours of 7 am and 8 pm.

Cathy Moorhead, city clerk, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

I want to thank the City of Willits Public Works Department as well as Solid Waste of Willits for the new trash/recycling receptacle on the sidewalk at the old Rexall building.

After a few months of being open, I noticed there seemed to always be trash on the sidewalks around the Rexall area. I also noticed the lack of a receptacle on that side of the street. After contacting the City of Willits, they had someone out to look at the area within a few days. I was assured that they would take care of it, and one of their guys kept me informed as to where things stood.

I was happy to see the new receptacle in place this morning! Thank you City of Willits and Solid Waste of Willits for your dedication to our community.

Evelyn Fisher, Nikos Gyro Shop

Thank you

To the Editor:

To the citizens of Willits, I would like to reach out and thank all of you for an amazing Hometown Celebration this year. We had a great turnout and a fun time for all. Thank you to the sponsors, the downtown merchants, food vendors, vendors, all of the volunteers, the Farmers Market participants, and all of the musicians.

A shoutout to Michael Foley, Farmers Market manager. Ian Fitzpatrick, Lisa Davis of Scoops, Linda Matz of Cat's Meow. Lynn Kennelly, Willits Chamber, and the core planning committee.

Thank you to the entire community for supporting all of the local businesses in downtown Willits. Making Willits the most charming and close-knit community in Northern California.

From the bottom of my heart,

Marie Blancas, owner, Moon Lady

Parade a terrific success

To the Editor:

With all the compliments we received, the 4th of July

Parade was a resounding success. Not only did the community celebrate our country's independence, we all celebrated the 90th anniversary of Willits Frontier Days.

It takes a multitude of volunteers to bring together all of the Willits Frontier Days events, including the parade. Though we try to thank each and every one of our parade volunteers personally, we feel it warrants a big public thank you to all of those who added their help. Thank you to all the people who helped out at the road detours, including the CERT volunteers, City of Willits public works workers, and the Willits police officers.

Thanks to those at parade check-in: Josh, Eric and Alysa Colvard; Johnetta Thomen, Jeanette Turner, John Turner, Jeremy Lippincott, Haily Findley and Taylor Buzzard. Car Judges: Bob Borba and John Yde. Thanks to Donna Thorton, our horse judge for many years. Our parade judges: Susie Holmes, Melody Harris and Cathy Moorhead. We send a special thank you to Flowers by Annette for the beautiful stage flower arrangements. We send a big thank you to Kathy Persico-Graves for co-announcing the parade.

Plenty of long hours go into getting the parade organized, and we welcome your comments, but if you really want to make an impact on the parade and its festivities, come volunteer: Get involved with your community. Yes, it is a great deal of work, yet rewarding. Thank you Willits.

Kera Colvard and Ron Moorhead, Willits Frontier Days Parade Committee co-chairs

Thank you

To the Editor:

The sky was blue and sunny, and the weather was warm on Memorial Day Weekend. It made for a perfect 35th Annual Community Festival and Car Show. This year, changes were made to include all years of cars, and motorcycles were added for the first time!

The festivities started off on Saturday, May 28 with the Classic Metal Mixer, hosted, once more, by Bob and Jan Rodriguez, owners of Baechtel Creek Inn & Spa. Over 75 locals and visitors enjoyed a lovely evening of camaraderie, tasty appetizers, and vintage wines from BARRA of Mendocino. There were beautiful classic cars, joined by a bevy of motorcycles, that were on display, giving everyone a "sneak peek" of the Car & Motorcycle Show the following day.

The Willits Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people, businesses and organizations that helped make this event a huge success! There are three organizations we would like to recognize for their long-standing support of our event:

The City of Willits has been a rock of support for 35 years! Throughout the years they have supported this event - from Public Works, Police, Administration, and City Manager to the City Council. We want to acknowledge the above and beyond continuing support from City Clerk Cathy Moorhead, and the Public Works crew, in particular, Bill Wilson for his usual hard work and attention to detail in making the park and facilities look great.

When the event was moved to Recreation Grove Park in the early '90s Willits Frontier Days Association stepped up and has provided an innumerable amount of support ever since, whether serving on our planning committee, or supporting and assisting at the event.

The Willits Lions Club has been providing their wonderful breakfast for our event for many years. They not only serve up a great breakfast, but are the embodiment of a solid

working relationship. Our hats are off to the Willits Shifters Car Club, and members of the Wild Bunch Motorcycle Club, whose members were involved in every aspect of the planning and execution of the event with us.

Our Master of Ceremony Tom Allman, sheriff of Mendocino County, did a fantastic job of announcing throughout the day. Tony Barthel of Sounds Like Fun DJ Service was spinning the "platters" and providing the sound this year.

The Memorial Day ceremony was as touching as it has always been as we paid our respects to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. The presentation of the flags was made by the American Legion Post 174 Color Guard. As the flags were lowered, Katie Mulhauser sang the national anthem.

There were many activities for everyone (young and young at heart) to enjoy and participate in this year. A huge thank you goes to Mike and Gina Gies, owners of Purple Moose Thrift, who ran the popular Arm Wrestling Contest. The Boy Scout Swinging Bridge Obstacle Course was another popular activity, along with the Scouts' Pinewood Derby demonstration. Let's not forget the food, which was provided by Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli, Taqueria Ramirez, and the Willits High School Class of 2018.

A special thanks goes to people who donated their time prior to and during the event. A huge thank you goes to Judi and Jim Montalvo, Jim Cunningham, Dan Frankum, Neil and Julie Orr, Jr., Harry and Katie Mulhauser, Terry Harvey, Lisa and Jay Epstein, Bob and Jan Rodriguez, Diana Bell, Katrina, Norm and Dillan Kessen, Chuck Persico, Rick Bockmann, Lisa Epstein, Rich and Kim Venturi, Tim and Gloria Westby, Jerry & Kat Harris, Shelley Revling, T.J. Jones, Norma Staley, Mylinda Knight, Todd Southard, Kevin Tyrrell, Josh Allman, Mary Horger, Colton Horger, Grace Horger, Jenna Nowlin, and Jon Kennelly.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the wonderful event, trophy and plaque sponsors, supporters, and raffle prize and door prize donors - without their generosity this event could not have happened: J.D. Redhouse, Little Lake Auto Parts/NAPA, PG&E, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Mendo-Lake Credit Union, Lisa Epstein, State Farm Insurance, Super 8 Motel, Willits Redwood Company, City of Willits, Perkowski Embroidery and Screen Printing, Solid Waste of Willits, The Willits News, Willits Weekly, Auto Mart, Alfred F. Kerr, DDS, AI's Redwood Room, BARRA of Mendocino, Bill & Lori Barker, Cat's Meow, D. Williams Jewelry, Gunnick's Harley Davidson, Coldwell Banker-Mendo Realty, El Mexicano Restaurant, Inter Mountain Mfg., LLC, Ken's Auto Repair, Kessen Family Trust, Jeff & Barb of Kustom's by Spence, Loose Caboose Cafe, Main Street Music & Video, Mendocino Roofing, Purple Moose Thrift, Round Tree Glass, The Pub Sports Bar, Willits Rental Center & Automotive Repair, Brewed Awakening, April May's Drive thru Express, Coast Hardware, 101 Trailer & RV, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Les Schwab Tire Center, Round Tree Glass, Wild West Express, Hidden Pearl, Northwest Sporting Goods, Willits Power & Hardware, Willits Rental & Automotive Repair, Cat's Meow, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, the Goods Shoppe, and Mazahar.

It was evident by the positive remarks overheard that everyone enjoyed themselves at the event. Once again, a good time was held by all at this year's Community Festival and Car & Bike Show. People loved the variety of classic cars, and the addition of the motorcycles, plus, the additional family-oriented activities. Once more we want to thank everyone that attended and helped make this event a success.

Carlin Horger, 2016 chairperson, Willits Community Festival and Car & Motorcycle Show



Above, from left: Jeff Daniels' hand-crafted saddle, owned by Sheila Fetzer, was a hit at the show. Jolene Carrillo and Lou Celaya stopped by on the 4th of July to see the "Americana, Sweet Land of Liberty" exhibit at the WCA. Jim Cowles has been creating hand-forged items, including these knives, at his Pookinney Forge since 1999. At right: Marjo Wilson and Sheila Fetzer share a moment by Wilson's paintings. At right, below: Laurel Miller, Rex Morgan and Teresa Robertson catch up and enjoy the beautiful art.



'Americana, Sweet Land of Liberty'

Artists focusing on rural living featured at July WCA show

Art steeped in American-inspired themes, locally created products, and classic American BBQ hamburger sliders, watermelon, macaroni salad, apple pie, and much more delicious food rounded out the "Americana, Sweet Land of Liberty" opening at the Willits Center for the Arts Friday night.

A pleasant surprise for the evening's art supporters was the newly rearranged reception area at the Art Center. The new design is very functional and allows more space for future displays of art for sale.

Featured artists Lorraine Toth, Marjo Wilson, and Nancy Simpson were on hand to discuss the techniques and ideas used to create their art. Bob Daley of Ukiah provided acoustical guitar music, both in the Art Center and outside on the patio, where the BBQ was set up to enjoy the warm evening.

Marjo Wilson showed her musical skills by

providing some entertainment using Daley's mini-guitar. Not only is she working on a new water-themed art series, but she also has a new CD coming out soon. Wilson describes her new CD "Cotton Dandle" as "music for the family" - it will feature sing-a-long music ideal for those long road trips.

Wilson said she grew up on a ranch in Covelo and has been doing art since she was a child. She has used themes to create her art throughout her career, and her popular cowboys and ranch theme is not only on display at the WCA show this month, but at the new Frank R. Howard Hospital. She shared she is currently working on a series that features rivers and creeks with an abstract quality. This busy woman finds it a challenge to balance her art and her music in her life.

Sculptor Lorraine Toth spent her evening discussing her inspiration for her "America's Rest of the World" series.

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



Photos by Jenny Senter



Above, from left: Artists Nancy Simpson and Ann Maglente discuss how the unique grain of the wood enhances Meadow Rose's photos. Take time to study this piece of Lorraine Toth's "American Family" series. Willits Center for the Arts curator Mary Kelly, in red, visits with art patrons at her first exhibit, "Americana, Sweet Land of Liberty." Below, from left: Musical moment with musicians Sheila Fetzer and Marjo Wilson. Nancy Rice is fascinated not only by Marjo Wilson's art but her framing techniques. Guests at the opening art reception talk to Nancy Simpson about her 1978 Sawtooth Sampler quilt.



The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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Willits Weekly

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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

Level: Advanced

How To Sudoku:

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17					18						19
20		21				22			23		24			
25					26				27		28			
29				30				31		32			33	
		34	35						36		37			
38	39										40			
41					42				43					
44				45		46			47			48	49	50
51			52		53			54			55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63				64	
65			66						67				68	
									70					

SUN PROTECTION WORD SEARCH

P H O T O S E N S I T I V I T Y I G O U
 Y E G A M E L D A N I N A M F H L Z H B H E V I
 E N T E R H P W N G F D L Z H B H E V I
 V A K I N P H T G R O W F I N G O A V R E I
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 I L S D R P D A N G E R O U S U Y I Z G
 N L Y L M N E E R C S N O U S A V W O R Z
 G E A N O I T C E T O R P E D K M D V R
 F C R F Z L G D M M N S U N L I G H T W

CLUES ACROSS

1. Acquired knowledge of
7. Brief appearances
13. Owns a ranch
4. Goes by
16. Potato state
17. Inappropriate
19. Millinery
20. Treasuries
22. Crony
23. Norse god
25. Accidentally lose
26. Allied H.Q.
28. Shiva's first wife
29. Earth System Model
30. Sandy island
31. Cam Newton's dance
33. Nigerian people
34. A ridge on nematodes
36. ___ Creed: profession of faith
38. Gulf of, in the Aegean
40. Expresses anger
41. Emerges
43. WWII battle
44. Wrestlers work here
45. Not happy
47. Measure of speed
48. A musical to communicate (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Madames
2. Printing measurement
3. Being in a position
4. Genus
5. Post-deduction amount
6. Champs get this
7. Single-___ organisms
8. Greatest boxer ever
9. Buddhist concept
10. Fencing swords
11. Operating system
12. Musical interval
13. Soldier's tool

CLUES ACROSS

15. Places of worship
18. Supervises flying
21. Offers help
24. Precaution
26. Car mechanics group
27. Devotee of sports
30. Detectives get these
32. Coming into existence
35. Loss of signal (abbr.)
37. Feline
38. Decorative tea urn
39. Native Americans from Colorado
42. Resembles a pouch
43. Type of home (abbr.)
46. Cut a rug
47. Devil rays
49. Simmer
50. Veranda
52. Outcast
54. Famed aircraft engineer
55. Realm
57. Chair
59. Music awards show (abbr.)
62. Did not starve
63. Was once liquid
66. Former Cardinal
- Taguchi
68. Trademark

AGE SPOT	MELANIN	SKIN
AGING	MELANOMA	STAGES
BASAL	OUTDOORS	STINGS
CELLS	OVEREXPOSURE	SUNBURN
DAMAGING	OZONE	SUNLIGHT
DANGEROUS	PEELING	SUNSCREEN
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The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 183 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

- June 25**
- 12:05 am: BENEVICH, Travis (26) of Willits was contacted during a traffic stop in the 500 block of East Commercial Street and subsequently arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (DUI).
- 2 am: PORRITT, Tyler (40) of Willits was contacted during a traffic stop in the 200 block of South Main Street. During their contact, officers determined Porrirt was unable to provide for his own care due to his level of intoxication and placed him under arrest pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication) and 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of Probation).
- 9 am: Officers responded to a reported contractor fraud in the 200 block of Margie Drive.
- 11:50 am: HEID, Karen (55) of Willits was contacted in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive and arrested pursuant to an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.
- 1:45 pm: Traffic collision reported in the 200 block of Margie Drive.
- 5:45 pm: Traffic collision reported in the 100 block of East Valley Street.

WPD Activity Report

June 25 to July 1

Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

- 7:45 pm: SHECKELLS, Patrick (27) of Willits was contacted during a traffic stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.
- June 26**
- 12:40 am: Officers contacted PAGE, James (55) of Willits after he was seen stumbling in front of oncoming traffic in the 1100 block of South Main Street. Officers determined Page was unable to provide for his own care due to his level of intoxication and placed him under arrest pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication).
- 3:30 am: Sexual Assault reported in the 300 block of North Main Street.
- 12:45 pm: SHINAULT, Robert (46) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street and placed under arrest pursuant to

- 11550(a) HS (Drug Influence).
- 7:35 pm: Vandalism reported in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.
- 10:30 pm: Officers responded to a family dispute at a residence in the 1600 block of South Main Street. During their investigation they determined the suspect, a 16-year-old female, became upset with her father because he'd shut off the internet connection. The juvenile suspect became angry and threw a telephone at the victim, striking him with it and breaking the phone. The suspect was arrested pursuant to 242 PC (Battery) and 591 PC (Disruption of a Phone Line).
- June 27**
- 4:50 am: Officers were dispatched to a disturbance in the 1600 block of South Main Street. Upon arrival, they contacted OVERCAST, Jennifer (37) of Willits and STEPHENS, Tony (37) of Willits. Officers determined Overcast and Stephens were both in violation of the terms of their probation and issued both citations for 1203.2(a) PC.
- 1:50 pm: A sexual assault was reported in the 1500 block of South Main Street. Following an investigation, Officers arrested the suspect, a 16-year-old male.

Read the rest of WPD | Over on Page B7

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What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, July 7

Summer Reading Program: The Willits Library Summer Reading Program offers a summertime of fun, with reading, special events and prizes, every Thursday, from 11 am to 12 noon, through August 11. July 7: Origami for Kids. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. 707-459-5908. Next week, July 14: Children's Drumming Program.

Power of Produce Club back at Willits Farmers Market: this free kids' farmers market program runs Thursdays at City Park from 3 to 6:30 pm through July 14. "The POP Club empowers children ages 5 to 12 to make healthy food choices by offering educational activities, cooking demonstrations, and food sampling, plus \$4 in special market "Green Bucks" that they can do their own shopping for veggies and fruit at the market and a "passport" book to keep track of the new foods they have tried. Info: Tarney Sheldon at North Coast Opportunities: 707-462-1950 or sheldont@ncoinc.org.

Friday, July 8

Willits HomeBREW Club: monthly meeting Friday, July 8, starting at 7 pm at the Willits KOA in their meeting hall (pull up to the gate, tell them you are here for the homebrew meeting and then drive straight back to the meeting hall). The beer style of the month is Summer Ales. Come and learn about all things fermentable! Visit <http://willitshomebrew.weebly.com/> for more info.

Shanachie Pub: Self Fulfilling Prophecies. 5-piece band featuring "Morgan Stocker (nacho the stockrocker) Buckminster West and Bodhi Idarius, who all grew up in Ukiah, formed a band, moved to Portland and came back to their hometown." 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.myspace.com/selffulfillingprophecies. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, July 9

Senior Center Flea Market: Saturday, July 9, from 8 am to 1 pm, at the center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Vendors: Please call to sign up: Lucy Stanley, 459-6826, ext. 113. 10x10 spaces are \$25.

Animal Party Dance: A fundraiser for the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County. With Mystic Sol, Funkacillin, Pick & Pull. Saturday, July 9. Doors open 6:30 pm. Music 7 to 11 pm. Advance tickets \$15 at J.D. Redhouse, Mazahar, Cat's Meow, Ardella's; \$18 at the door. Kids 12 and under are free. Food, wine, beer, raffle.

Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrisp & Friends: "many local talented musicians coming together for a night of original, improvised, and rare moments in music." 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of July 11 through July 15

Monday: Chicken/Apple Salad | **Tuesday:** Hot Dog/Bun | **Wednesday:** Turkey/Gravy | **Thursday:** Spaghetti/Meat Sauce | **Friday:** Cod/Tartar Sauce

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Willits City Pool schedule

The Willits City Pool is open Monday through Saturday through August 19. Lap Swim: 6 to 8 am (sometimes continued until 9 am if room) and from 4 to 6 pm (2 lanes dedicated to lap swim), Monday through Friday (\$4; \$70 for a 20-swim pass). Aqua Aerobics, Tuesday and Thursday from 12 to 1 pm, and Saturday 11 am to 12 pm (\$4). Infant/Parent Quiet Swim: 12 to 1 pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, \$4 for parent/infant; \$2 for additional child; for infants under 2). Open Public Swim, 1 to 4 pm, Monday through Friday, and 12 to 4 pm on Saturday (\$4; \$70 for a 20-swim pass). Swim Lessons: 9 am to 12 pm and 4 to 6 pm, Monday through Thursday. First session of swim lessons started June 14, late start registration is OK. A total of four 2-week sessions of ½ hour swim lessons (\$50 first child, \$45 second child \$40 each additional child) will be offered this summer. To pre-register, come by the pool or leave a message at 459-7125. Private swim lessons are also available, call for more info. Willits City Pool is closed to the public on Sundays, but open for rental for private parties or clinics on Saturday evenings and Sundays; call for more info. Main pool number: 459-5778. Keep up with happenings at the pool by visiting "Willits City Pool" page on Facebook.

Sunday, July 10

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: from 8 to 11 am at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Menu: Pancakes, with choice of ham, bacon or sausage, and eggs any style; biscuits & gravy with eggs; or ham & cheese scramble served with biscuit.

Meat sides: 1 slice ham \$2.50; 3 slices bacon \$2; 3 links sausage, \$1.50. Plus coffee, tea or milk. Adults \$7; Senior Center member with membership card, \$6; children under 8 years old, \$5. Info: 459-6826.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST
 July 10, 2016
 8-11a.m.

Adults - \$7
 Children under 8 - \$5
 Sr. Center Members - \$6

MENU CHOICES

1. Pancakes, with eggs cooked your style (Choice of sausage, ham or bacon) or
2. Biscuits & Gravy with eggs (Cooked your style) or
3. Ham & Cheese scramble served with biscuit
4. Meat Sides:
 1 slice Ham - \$2.50
 3 slices Bacon - \$2.00
 3 links Sausage - \$1.50

Willits Senior Center
 1501 Baechtel Road
 Willits, CA 95490
 no-appeal

a safe and supportive elder group." To sign up or for questions: Ruthanne Volz, MA at rav@pacfic.net or 707-354-3960. By donation.

Thursday, July 14

Summer Reading Program: The Willits Library Summer Reading Program offers a summertime of fun, with reading, special events and prizes, every Thursday, from 11 am to 12 noon, through August 11. July 14: Children's Drumming Program. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. 459-5908. Next week, July 21: Wheel Felling and Sheep Stories.

Power of Produce Club back at Willits Farmers Market: this free kids' farmers market program runs Thursdays at City Park from 3 to 6:30 pm through July 14. See Thursday, June 30 listing for more details.

Friday July 15

Shanachie Pub: Steep Ravine, "souful songs and fiery instrumentals take roots music in compelling new stylistic directions. Fusing elements of folk, bluegrass, jazz, rock and pop," AND Caitlin Jemma & The Goodness, "five piece string band from Eugene, Oregon ... original tunes that are influenced by tradition and delivered with soul." 8 pm. \$6 cover. Visit www.steepravineband.com and www.caitlinjemma.com. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, July 16

Shanachie Pub: Lantz Lazwell & Lantz Lazwell & The Vibe Tribe. "A powerhouse of talent and showmanship.... Lantz Lazwell & The Vibe Tribe bring the rock 'n' soul anthem back into your heart & rock you right." Visit <http://www.lantzlazwell.com>.

Wednesday, July 13

Willits Elder Circle: Second Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3 pm, at Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Commercial streets. "During the monthly meetings, participants are invited to explore their own attitudes and concerns about growing older in a safe and supportive elder group." To sign up or for questions: Ruthanne Volz, MA at rav@pacfic.net or 707-354-3960. By donation.

18th Annual Willits Rotary Phoenix Hospice Golf Tournament:

Enjoy a day on the greens under the redwoods. Willits Rotary is sponsoring a golf tournament to benefit Phoenix Hospice. Help support hospice. This event is open to all community members.

18th Annual Willits Rotary Phoenix Hospice Golf Tournament

Enjoy a day on the greens under the redwoods. Willits Rotary is sponsoring a golf tournament to benefit Phoenix Hospice. Help support hospice. This event is open to all community members.

When: Sunday, July 17, 2016
 8:00 a.m. Check-in
 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Where: Brooktrails Golf Course

RSVP: Tammy Long
 459-993-5755
 707-456-3244
tammy.long@ar.org

Dorian May Trio & Little Big Band: playing jazz classics July 17 at Willits Community Theatre at 7 pm. First set: Trio (Dorian May on piano, Dorothea May on bass, and Gabe Yanez on drums) with invited guests; second set: Little Big Band (Trio plus trumpeter Walter Kimmelman, saxophonist Sonny Cordell, and blues man Earl Oliver and The Real Sarahs' Sarah Ryan on vocals. "Look for classic tunes from the 1930s and '40s including "Take the A Train," "I'm Beginning to See the Light," "Mack the Knife," "Slow Boat to China," "Cheek to Cheek" and the immortal zoot suit anthem, "Jump Jive and Wail." Tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Friday July 15

Shanachie Pub: Steep Ravine, "souful songs and fiery instrumentals take roots music in compelling new stylistic directions. Fusing elements of folk, bluegrass, jazz, rock and pop," AND Caitlin Jemma & The Goodness, "five piece string band from Eugene, Oregon ... original tunes that are influenced by tradition and delivered with soul." 8 pm. \$6 cover. Visit www.steepravineband.com and www.caitlinjemma.com. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Animal Party!
 Fundraiser for Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County

Saturday, July 9
 Open 6:30 PM - Music 7-11 PM
WILLITS GRANGE

Tickets \$15
 JD Redhouse • Mazahar • Cat's Meow • Ardella's \$18 Door
 Kids 12 & Under Are Free!

Food • Wine • Beer • Raffle

Dance for the Critters!

Rep. Huffman: District Landscape Photography Competition

Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) announced Tuesday that he will hold a district-wide landscape photography competition starting Wednesday, July 6. Constituents who live in California's second congressional district should email their original landscape photograph to rephuffmanphotocontest@gmail.com and include their name, hometown, and the location of the photo in the body of the email with "photo submission" as the subject of the email. Submissions will be accepted until Wednesday, July 20, 2016.

"This photography competition will showcase what is without a doubt the most beautiful Congressional District in the nation," Congressman Huffman said. "I look forward to seeing what Northern Californians submit, from the Golden Gate Bridge standing sentinel at the San Francisco Bay to the remote beauty of the Lost Coast, to the ancient redwood forests."

During the contest, submissions will be posted in real time, and constituents will vote on photos by "liking them" on Facebook. www.RepHuffman.com and www.instagram.com/rephuffman/. The two winning photographs, as determined by most likes combined between Instagram and Facebook, will be announced on Thursday, July 21. Each photograph will be published as Congressman Huffman's official Twitter header photo, Facebook cover photo, and Instagram profile photo for one month apiece.

'The BFG'

The Story: Imagine a giant stealing through the London streets hours after midnight. Imagine a tiny, lonely girl in an orphanage dormitory who reads Dickens all night because she cannot sleep. Got it?

Because she's awake, she sees the giant who kidnaps her and whisks her off to the most enchanted land of the giants. It turns out he is a friendly, mostly squashing giant, but there are other, more carnivorous gargantua who love children very much

... to eat.

My Thoughts: Stephen Spielberg has made a wonderful and kind movie based on a Roald Dahl children's book. Dahl is the famous author of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "James and the Giant Peach." I found this movie, "The BFG," to be funny, visually fantastical and all around quite delightful - and why not when a plucky, very young girl saves the day?

Parents: I believe that 90 percent of the children who watch this movie will leave the theater smiling - adults too, most probably.

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



Across the top, from left: Willits City Council members Holly Madrigal, Larry Stranske and Madge Strong and Mayor Bruce Burton wave from their float. Halee Reed, the 2016 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart, in the custom chaps made by Mary Anne Underhill that will be passed down through generations of Sweethearts to come. Flowers by Annette made the arrangement behind the saddle. Erica Kroesen drives one of the vintage trucks supporting the Little Lake Grange, Little Lake firefighters Ray Campbell, Michael Wilder, John Thomen, Chad Leshar and Kristen Colvig pose together before the parade. These four were out to enjoy the barbecue, including 108-year-old Edith Ceccerelli, her nephew Donald Kennedy, her cousin Evelyn Persico, and friend Iris Comalli. Little Lake firefighter Mike Cornwall leans out of the truck for a wave and smile. 4x4 enthusiasts in the Main Street Parade.

At right, from top: A Junior Bear Ranch driver trots her mini horse and carriage down Main Street. Mike and Mary Fonsen and Lydia Senter Leser and Jenny Senter enjoy the barbecue. American Legion members ride on the float. Lauren Hosford and son Daniel, 15 months, smile and wave from the Room to Bloom Preschool float. A fancy horse and rider dance down the parade route.

Photos by Maureen Moore



2016 4th of July Parade Results

Float Results
Best Mechanical/Imagination
 1st place: Agape Church
 2nd place: Bible Baptist
 3rd place: Little Lake Grange

Best Patriotic
 1st place: Grace Community Church
 2nd place: American Legion Post 174
 3rd place: Adventist Christian School

Best Theme-Based
 1st place: Willits Rotary Club
 2nd place: Stay and Play Dog Care
 3rd place: Willits Kids Club

Miscellaneous Non-Float
 1st place: Nuestra Alianza de Willits
 2nd place: Room to Bloom Pre-School
 3rd place: tie: Blosser & Brookside PTO and Calvary Chapel, Willits

Equestrian Parade Results

Novelty Costume
 1st place: Lonnie Sloan

Fancy Dress
 1st place: Samantha Arms
 2nd place: Jasmine Blackwell

Family Group
 1st place: Junior Bear Ranch

Parade results provided by the WFD Parade Committee.

Pony Class – Novelty Mounted Group
 1st place: Vaqueros Mexicano
 2nd place: P/6 Ranch - Persicos

Mounted Color Guard
 1st place: Mendocino Sheriff's Office
 2nd place: Kelly Boesel

Automobile Results
1950-59 Original
 1st place: Shifters Police Car

1960-70 Modified
 1st place: Dan Lewis
 2nd place: Steve Quinliven

1960-70 Original
 1st place: Dan Ramsey
 2nd place: Neil Orr

Group of Cars
 1st place: Willits Harrah Senior Center
 2nd place: 4x4 Club

Group of Motorcycles
 1st place: Willits Wild Bunch
 2nd place: Kentucky Peacemakers

Decorated Car, non-year-specific
 1st place: MTA (Mendocino Transit Authority)

Truck Open
 1st place: Nor Crawl
 2nd place: McFarland Trucking
 3rd place: Yokums Body Shop

Main Street Parade and Beef Barbecue

Time-honored 4th of July events draw crowds on Monday holiday

Monday, July 4 was a perfect day for a parade! The pedestal at Savings Bank of Mendocino County was showing 78 degrees at 11:45 am, there was a breeze, and Main Street was lined with happy people – locals and visitors – enjoying Willits' classic 4th of July celebration.

This year's 90th annual Willits Frontier Days Parade was the last time Caltrans will close "Highway 101" for its hometown parade – next year, after the bypass opens, it'll be just plain old Main Street.

The American Legion Post 174 led off the parade with a color guard and a veterans' float, followed by a truck-full of Boy Scouts and a whole lot of fire engines, sounding sirens. Little Lake Fire Department, Brooktrails Fire and Cal Fire were all represented.

The parade continued with politicians, tractors, Sweethearts new and old, and plenty of horses from big Friesians to decked-out ranch horses and miniature horses drawing carts. Motorcycle riders made a lot of cheerful noise, followed by classic vehicles and hot rods. Dancers in colorful swirly skirts and in Aztec Indian costume drew cheers and applause, as did a number of the big decked-out floats.

The Willits Rotary Club's float featured live 1920s jazz music and showers of pink streamers and confetti, in keeping with the parade's "Roaring '20s" theme

See these and many more photos online at: <http://photographpress.zenfolio.com/wfd2016>

Stay and Play Dog Care's float was adorned by beautiful dogs and driven by humans in amazing, full-head German shepherd and poodle masks. Yokums Body Shop float was a 1920s Prohibition-era speakeasy, complete with beautiful flappers, a bar and crates of illicit booze.

Willits' new low-power radio station KLLG and the Little Lake Grange were also featured in this year's parade, as were Agape Bible Church, Grace Community Church, the Adventist Christian School, Calvary Chapel and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit.

The Crosby steam whistle on Roots of Motive Power's newly restored 1921 Kelly Springfield steam roller led off a triple entry from Roots, followed by a pack of rumbling and growling 4x4s from the Mendocino 4x4 Club and other off-road enthusiasts. A McFarland Logging truck bore some big, big logs with bark burned from the Valley Fire in Lake County last year, and Willits Police Department's Sgt. Mark McNeley brought up the rear in the WPD's canine unit truck.

"Give yourself a round of applause," parade announcer Ron Moorhead said, as the downtown crowd started to disperse, many walking down to the Rec Grove for the BBQ, as the parade continued down Valley Street.

There was a big crowd in the park for lunch, with families setting up picnic spots all over, and others waiting in

fast-moving lines for the special Frontier Days BBQ: big heaping plates of tri tip, salad, corn on the cob and beans.

A "Country Music Rodeola," featuring a line-up of local music on the Rec Grove stage, was well-received by the well-fed audience. Young kids danced around – and adults, too, enjoyed the original music of The Sheds, featuring Kyle Madrigal and Sarah Rose McMahon, followed by Pick & Pull's hard-driving old-time Americana numbers – just two of the bands that played.

The shade was sweet in the Rec Grove on Independence Day, and a good time was had by all.



At top: Torrey Blake donned a dog mask to complete the dog-driving scene on the Stay and Play Dog Care float; the business is owned by his mom, Donna Blake.

Above: Colorful dancers make their way down the parade route.

At left: Ashley Persico and her paint horse ride down Main Street.

At left, below: The sidewalks along Main Street were lined with excited parade-watchers on Monday morning for the 4th of July parade.

Far left: The Roots of Motive Power 1921 Kelly Springfield steam roller made its parade debut in 2016.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Above, from left: The Yokums Body Shop crew customized their float 1920s-style, complete with flappers in front. The Willits Wild Bunch, Chris Lamprich drives his big-wheeled Jeep. Below, from left: One of the cars in the Willits Shifters Club group. Sisters Lillian and Julia Hardy sing the national anthem at the Main Street Parade on July 4. Complete with goofy horn, this mini car was a fun addition to the parade.

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Photo by Jennifer Poole



Photos by Crystal Bowles

At left: Willits Area Cyclists and friends at the Willits Farmers Market, from left: Paul "Juice" Rogers, WAC President Adam Sherf, WAC Vice-President Chris Beebe, Marty Pardun, Tiffany Leigh-Logan, and Albert Hinkle. Above: A before picture of the new "Blackberry Trail" in Brooktrails, left, and an after picture, right. The "Blackberry Trail" goes between the Par Course and the Community Garden in Brooktrails.



Photo by Jennifer Poole

Willits Area Cyclists

New nonprofit seeks to encourage cycling and expand local bike trails

Members of the recently formed Willits Area Cyclists group are on a mission to improve and expand trails in the area, and to encourage and grow interest in cycling and recreation in general in the community. Earlier this year they became an official non-profit group, and are hoping they might eventually get grants for some of the many projects they have in mind. In addition to trail creation and expansion, these include cycling races and events, coordinated group rides, a bike park with a "pump track," and cycling skills workshops.

The group has already been running a "bike kitchen" booth at the Willits Farmers Market which provides free general bike maintenance and repair, and WAC president Adam Sherf, who's often there along with vice president Chris Beebe, said that it's been going really well. They recently had a bike stand and other tools donated by Walk and Bike Mendocino to help with their efforts. Anyone who passes by can get their bike checked out and get tips on general upkeep and basic fixes.

WAC also organized a successful "Trail Day" on Saturday May 14 in Brooktrails, with around 20 volunteers and members chipping in to make a path from the Par Course to the Brooktrails Community Garden which is now dubbed "Blackberry Trail." It allows people to avoid dangerous car traffic on Birch Street to get between the two locations, and even pick blackberries along the way. The project was done in coordination with the Brooktrails Community Service District and R&G Construction, who donated time and equipment.

Sherf said this was just the first step in the goal of creating and connecting trails in Brooktrails to allow people to more easily enjoy the outdoors it has to offer. He noted how with no sidewalks in the township, you often don't see too many people out and about in the area.

"The idea is that eventually the Par Course, the

Community Garden, the Ohl Redwood Grove, the two lakes and the golf course will all attach with trails you can walk (or bike) without using the roads," he said. "This was kind of one segment in the grand plan of things."

WAC arose out of a group of friends who had been going on rides together for years, including Sherf and Beebe. Around the beginning of 2016, they decided to make it an organized community group, and try to get non-profit status. It was a way to "make our voice official," said Sherf, "that there are people that live in this community that want to see a little more recreation. As more of an organization, we could maybe do a little more lobbying and attain our goals a little better."

One service the group has already provided is a new map of Brooktrails showing with the location of over 25 trails in the area. It's available to download on the group's website, wacrails.wix.com/ride, and on the "Willits Area Cyclists" Facebook Page. The map breaks down the trails into "unmaintained trails," "single track" and the larger "fire roads," as well as rating them from beginner to advanced in terms of their cycling difficulty. An advanced rating can indicate a challenging trail in terms of the physical fitness needed or the cycling skills that will help to navigate it.

While Sherf called it more of a "bike specific map," he said that basically all the trails were for any kind of outdoor enthusiast. "Our plans are to have everything be multi-use trails – for hikers, bikers, walkers, unicyclers and whatever else there is.... Just to get people out in the woods and enjoying it."

WAC also has a brochure that includes the map, and a recommended 10-mile mountain bike route going through several trails that, according to Sherf, "hits all the fun downhill stuff." The brochure is available at their Farmers Market stand (Thursday

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

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We are a smoke-free and pet friendly community. We boast a community center where activities are held like card games, Bingo, birthdays and socials. We also have a barbecue area for residents to get together for social functions.

Redwood Meadows is conveniently located adjacent to the William F. Harrah Senior Center with a thrift store, cafeteria and taxi service, and Howard Memorial Hospital is just blocks away.

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Senior Apartment Community

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WILLITS, CA 95490
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MON-FRI 10:00-4:00

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

the council authored by Orenstein, the primary purpose of the June 30 MSWMA board meeting was to discuss the purpose of the organization, "and what it should be (or not be) going into the future."

Orenstein listed "dissolving MSWMA altogether" as a possible future action.

MSWMA was created in October 1990 as part of a joint powers agreement between the cities of Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Willits and the County of Mendocino. Since that time, MSWMA has offered a host of waste removal services, such as collecting household hazardous wastes through the HazMobile, illegal dump cleanup, collecting Freon and mercury switches from appliances, and offering free used tire collection.

According to Orenstein's agenda report, "The current MSWMA budget totals about \$1 million, about \$352,000 coming from various grants to provide services."

According to Orenstein two factors prompted MSWMA board members to consider the organization's future: 1. the proposed Coast Transfer Station, which Orenstein identified as being a project between the county and City of Fort Bragg with no MSWMA jurisdiction in the matter; and 2. the eventual retirement of MSWMA general manager Mike Sweeney, who has held that position since 1994.

Despite listing dissolving MSWMA as a future possibility in his letter, Orenstein clarified to the council and the public it wasn't something he was openly supporting.

"I'm not in any way, nor is anybody else, advocating we disband MSWMA," Orenstein assured. "But there are certain things that are going on that deserve looking at."

Included in Orenstein's presentation to the council was a list of possible alternatives to the current MSWMA model compiled by Ward.

Ward suggests after Sweeney retires, local waste management companies could issue a request for proposals "to assume the tasks that are currently done by MSWMA."

Ward said "most of what MSWMA does, most of the [waste] haulers can do." Regarding hazardous waste, Ward noted, "Under the new arrangement, 10 existing transfer stations around the county would be able to accept hazardous waste any time during their regular operating hours."

Ward added the whole reason for the creation of MSWMA was focused on landfills. "And since all local landfills have been closed with collection being performed by the transfer stations, a major function and purpose of MSWMA has become obsolete."

However, Ward told the council there could still be a role for MSWMA. "I don't want to disband MSWMA, but it could be used more as an advisory committee," Ward suggested. MSWMA could get together with the various jurisdictions for advice "about different legislation coming up, like mattress recycling, plastic bag ordinances and things like that, to put that information out to the city managers, for the city councils and county

supervisors to implement those programs with the haulers."

Councilmembers voiced their concern about the prospect of a stripped-down MSWMA, especially one without a general manager. "It's important to have a public interest person who oversees what's going on," said Councilwoman Madge Strong. "I have found Mike [Sweeney] to be very helpful over the years, especially with how the state laws keep changing. I don't expect our staff and the city to be up to snuff on that, nor would I expect an advisory board of laymen who represent different jurisdictions to be up to that, either."

Mayor Bruce Burton noted the changes to MSWMA suggested by Ward and Orenstein would save the City of Willits \$16,500 annually, but for him, such a savings wasn't worth the tradeoff of reducing the powers of the oversight body.

"It's difficult to go in a different direction and maintain the same priorities and same goals," Burton said.

County Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, who also sits on the MSWMA board, shared his admiration of the organization, particularly its efforts of mitigating prescription drug waste and in dealing with the anticipated cannabis cultivation ordinances.

"All new marijuana laws coming down are going to have environmental priorities for us to clean up some of the mess out there," said Woodhouse. "MSWMA is perfectly poised to get the grants and clean up the damaged areas. It's an environmental nightmare out there."

While Woodhouse was adamant about not disbanding MSWMA, he communicated his openness in making specific changes to the organization that would make it more efficient and help save money.

MSWMA's Sweeney stressed the importance of the agency's capacity for tapping into the CalRecycle grant system.

"There's a large number of grants ranging from garbage containers, oil and illegal dump cleanups," Sweeney said. "And they're only offered to local governments."

According to Sweeney, MSWMA is presently working with approximately \$400,000 worth of grant money, and is expected to receive more regarding marijuana waste cleanup.

"There's a grant program, again offered only to government agencies, not private business. It addresses illegal dumps as well as marijuana grow sites," he said. "I'm working with [Sheriff] Tom Allman to try identify and put together a grant application that would potentially accelerate the work we can do and clean up after irresponsible marijuana operations."

No action was taken by the council. Orenstein is expected to report to the council and the public about the June 30 MSWMA meeting during the next WCC meeting.

For more information about MSWMA, visit www.mendorecycle.org.

For more information about Solid Waste of Willits, visit www.solidwasteservices.net.

Will Grist Creek rise again?

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

According to Mendocino County Air Quality Management District Air Pollution Control Officer Robert Scaglione, principals involved with Grist Creek Aggregates and the Mercer-Fraser Company have approached the air district to see if they can settle outstanding notices of violation in order to start up and operate the plant.

Scaglione confirmed Grist Creek Aggregates would like to secure a contract to provide Caltrans with asphalt for resurfacing work scheduled on Highway 162.

According to Lynn Talkovsky, a spokesperson for Friends of Outlet Creek, the contract is worth \$2.7 million.

Scaglione said so far the principals have only talked about talking. They have not actually gotten down to negotiating what GCA would have to do to be permitted to start up again. Scaglione said Tuesday he is waiting to hear from GCA and Mercer-Fraser to set up a meeting.

The potential rapprochement between the air district and Grist Creek follows an epic saga that resulted in five lawsuits and three hearings before the district's hearing board. When Scaglione last spoke before the hearing board in March 2016, he told board members he would not permit Grist Creek to return to operation until it settled its outstanding notices of violation and significantly upgraded the plant to the point where it could operate in conformance with air district regulations.

Currently, Grist Creek owes the district \$172,000 in fines. In April the air district filed suit against Grist Creek, seeking penalties ranging from a low number of \$250,000 to a high figure estimated to be in the millions of dollars.

Contacted by Willits Weekly on Tuesday, Scaglione said the plant owners and managers would have "a lot of work to do" before they could reopen the plant. "They would need to pay attention to those areas where they received notices of violation," Scaglione said. "They would have to pay attention to dust mitigation. There would have to be more frequent watering of the grounds. They would have to pay attention to tracking out dirt and mud onto Highway 162. They would have to do an extremely better job of plant operation, take care of fugitive emissions, that sort of thing. They have a lot of work to do."

After the close of a March hearing before the air district's hearing board, Scaglione told Willits Weekly he believed it would be possible to achieve a technological fix to the Longvale asphalt plant that would enable the plant to run in conformance with state and local air quality standards.

However, several neighbors who testified before the hearing board said the problem has more to do with the Longvale site's topography than it does with operating difficulties at the plant.

The plant is located 2.5 miles up Outlet Creek Canyon on Highway 162. The Longvale site sits a narrow canyon surrounded by hills on both sides. For long periods of time, there isn't a lot of air movement, and the plant's emissions hang over the valley. The sound of the operation, area residents claim, is deafening, and the smell from the plant is so powerful several neighbors complained they couldn't go outside while the plant is running.

"At this point it's hard to believe asphalt production can even be considered at the site after last summer's documentation of thick clouds of plant emissions trapped by the topography of the narrow canyon where workers, residents, and wildlife live and breathe," said Talkovsky.

Retired Judge King to hear school bus barn complaints

The Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees, at its June 22 board meeting, dealt with several topics that highlighted some of the more pressing problems facing the district.

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Two of them, the failure to include the goal of attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers in the district's Local Control Accountability Plan, and a decision by the board to extend a contract with the legal firm of Haight, Brown and Bonesteel for the next fiscal year, were dealt with in Willits Weekly's June 30, 2016 article, "School board meeting reveals district fissures, challenges." This week's article explores steps the board has taken to resolve a long-simmering employee dispute which, over the past six months, has been a source of acrimony at board meetings and which has left the district's Department of Maintenance and Transportation in disarray.

King hired to hear dispute

During the June 22 meeting, the school board approved a contract with former Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Jim King, currently in private practice, to serve as a hearing officer in a personnel matter that has been boiling over at school board meetings for the past six months, involving several district Department of Maintenance and Transportation employees' unhappiness with decisions made by department director Terry McEntee.

Employees went to former Superintendent Patricia Johnson with their complaints, but claim Johnson gave them no satisfaction. They then went to trustees, who retained the services of investigator Susan Daniel to interview the parties involved about the allegations. Daniel completed her investigation and submitted a report to the board on May 5.

In the meantime, Johnson issued a disciplinary notice to McEntee, based on her own investigation into the matter instead of the Daniel report, which had yet to be issued.

McEntee requested a hearing on the matter, and King has been retained to listen to testimony, weigh evidence, and make a recommendation to trustees concerning any disciplinary action which might be taken. Neary said the board will consider King's recommendation, but is not obliged to implement it.

The bus barn imbroglio has already wreaked considerable havoc within the Department of Maintenance and Transportation. Longtime bus mechanic Clarence Ryan resigned in March, saying he could no longer take the stress of working in the department. Transportation department employee Debbie Bean went out on stress leave some months ago. This spring, bus driver Dany Laurent was put on administrative leave.

Trustees have thus far declined to act as a hearing body on two occasions associated with the bus barn case. First it retained Daniel to investigate the complaints, and secondly it has retained King to hear the complaints and make a recommendation concerning them.

Asked why trustees declined to act as a hearing board in the matter, Neary gave three reasons. He noted King is independent. "The school board is made up of political people. We all have political ties," Neary said. "We know this person, who knows that person, and that person thinks that one of the people who are pushing this complaint procedure cannot possibly be wrong. So it all gets confusing and sort of muddy. With King in this role, that element is removed from the equation."

The second reason is that King has the legal and judicial experience to

Two held in Brooktrails Lodge burglary

Two Mendocino County residents were arrested after they allegedly broke into the Brooktrails Lodge sometime on June 26, taking electronic items, consumables and valuables, according to a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office press release.

Speaking with witnesses the following afternoon, deputies learned 37-year-old Ryan Ivey of Fort Bragg and 38-year-old Nicole Champion of Willits were staying at the lodge before the burglary, and a search warrant was authorized for their rented room, according to sheriff's Sgt. Quincy Cromer. Armed with the warrant, on June 28, deputies searched the couple's room and discovered "multiple

understand the legal aspects of the case, such as rules of evidence, rules of hearsay, and so forth. Neary said having an experienced person acting as a hearing officer will help protect McEntee's rights as a public employee.

Finally, Neary said King is thus far not informed about the case, so has no preconceptions about it.

Neary added it is very common for public bodies such as school boards to hire a highly trained expert to hear such cases. "Most of the time, public entities use outside judges to do it," Neary said. "Even an attorney can do it, really."

A Haight, Brown and Bonesteel attorney estimated King will likely work about 30 hours for the district in the capacity of hearing officer. In the unanimous vote approving the contract with King, the board simultaneously approved King's rate of \$300 an hour. Neary described it as relatively low for a person of his experience.

Trustee Harris said she was unhappy with how much this issue has cost the district. "We've already spent \$11,000 on [on the Daniel investigation and report], and now we're going to spend another \$10,000? I mean, come on."

Neary said when attorneys from Haight, Brown and Bonesteel are paid for their work on the matter, the bill could well run up to \$25,000.

In a separate conversation, Neary agreed the cost for the process was expensive, but added doing a poor job on it could be more expensive. "If you take an employee action, and it's not justified, there's a lot of potential risk there," he said.

Nunez wants board to hear grievances

Retiring Brookside teacher Paula Nunez said the school board ought to follow district regulations and act as the hearing body in the complaints process.

A brief section copied from Willits Unified's board policy handbook states there are four levels or phases of resolution in an employee complaint process. The first is that the aggrieved person should go directly to the person who has caused the grievance. In the second level, the aggrieved employee should take the grievance to the school principal. If a resolution of the grievance still is not reached, the person aggrieved should take the complaint to the district superintendent. If after all this, the aggrieved person still has not been satisfied, district policy states the person may go before the board of trustees.

Nunez read from Section 4, paragraph D, which states: "All parties to a complaint, including the school administration, may be asked to attend a board meeting or part of such a meeting for the purpose of presenting all available evidence and allowing every opportunity for explaining and clarifying the issue."

When Nunez read that "parties to a complaint may be asked to attend a meeting..." Neary interjected that "may" also means "may not." He told Nunez that, as an experienced attorney, he was an expert on the definition of the word "may."

Nunez encouraged trustees to bite the bullet and act as a hearing body the next time a similar situation arose.

She argued it would save money and encourage administrators to follow recommended timelines associated with the complaint process. It also would short-circuit a disciplinary practice used by former Superintendent Johnson, a practice which Nunez said had hurt the district.

"We've had more people go out on administrative leave in this past year than we've had in the past 40 years," Nunez said. "And the number of days lost because of administrative leave is just ridiculous. It would be much better if you would agree to hear these things."

Items of stolen property from the burglary inside, Cromer said.

An order for the pair's arrest was obtained, and deputies located and arrested took the couple into custody at a home in the in the 15000 block of Mitchell Creek Drive in Fort Bragg shortly before noon on June 30.

Ivey and Champion were booked into the Mendocino County Jail on suspicion of burglary and possessing stolen property. They were being held in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

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



Spirit Run

500 Mile Native American Spiritual Marathon stops in Willits again

For the third year in a row, one of the two 500 Mile American Indian Spiritual Marathon teams met in Willits for the last leg of their north-to-south run. The 25 runners and their supporters began on Saturday, June 18 at the Pitt River Reservation near Mt. Shasta, and finished up on Friday, June 24, meeting at the Willits City Park for ceremony, food and conversation.

student from San Jose, has been participating in the marathon since he was 12. He said that the grueling intensity of such a long run has helped to add purpose to his life.

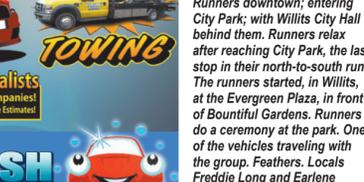
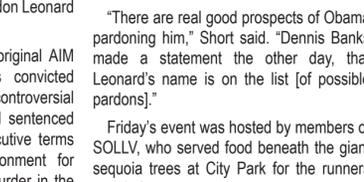
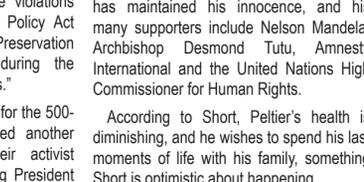
"It's hard, physically, but training helps prepare for it," Vivaldo said. "Everyone is welcome to join, there are many races and cultures that are part of it."

AIM leaders decided to add Willits to its list of stops three years ago to honor the ancestral Pomo villages that used to occupy Little Lake Valley, and in solidarity with the local Pomo who have been fighting Caltrans' destruction of sacred sites during bypass construction.

In October 2015, Coyote Valley Band and Round Valley Indian Tribes filed a lawsuit against Caltrans and the Federal Transportation Administration for what the tribes are alleging to be "violations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) that occurred during the construction of the Willits bypass."

This year, the AIM organizers for the 500-mile run added another cause to their activist belt: petitioning President Obama to pardon Leonard Peltier.

Peltier, an original AIM member, was convicted in a highly controversial 1977 trial and sentenced to two consecutive terms of life imprisonment for first-degree murder in the shooting of two FBI agents



The rest of Elections From Page 1

62.29 percent to 37.71 percent. Measure W, the county charter initiative, increased its support in the final count, but still lost: with 53.61 percent voting "No" and 46.39 percent voting "Yes." Initial results had 56.11 percent voting "No" and 43.89 percent voting "Yes."

Sen. Bernie Sanders also increased his winning margin in Mendocino County with the final count, winning 65.78 percent of the vote in the Democratic Presidential primary, with 12,259 votes, compared to Secretary Hillary Clinton's 32.46 percent, with 6,048 votes.

In the Republican Presidential primary, Donald Trump won Mendocino County with 71.4 percent, getting an even 4,000 votes, with second-place finisher John Kasich receiving 9.32 percent, or 522 votes. Trump's winning margin went down from 73.25 percent in initial results.

A total of 18,635 Mendocino County voters voted in the Democratic Party Presidential primary; a total of 5,602 voters cast ballots in the Republican Party Presidential primary.

A total of 28,056 of Mendocino County's 46,795 registered voters cast ballots in this Presidential primary election, bringing the turnout up to 59.95 percent – just barely over the 59.93 percent turnout in Mendocino County's 2008 Democratic Presidential primary election.

Assistant Registrar of Voters Katrina Bartolomie told Willits Weekly that of the 958 provisional ballots cast in the June election, 864 were found to be valid, and counted.

California Assemblyman Jim Wood, who ran unopposed, was re-elected with 95.85 percent of the vote, with 4.15 percent of voters casting "write in" votes. U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, who ran against three challengers, was re-elected with 60.75 percent of the vote.

All three incumbent Mendocino County

supervisors on the ballot were re-elected handily. John McCowen (2nd District) won with 96.32 percent of the vote and Dan Gjerde (4th District) won with 97.03 percent. Carre Brown (1st District) won with 75.29 percent, with her opponent Montana James Podva winning 24.07 percent.

The write-in vote was heavy in all of the third-party Presidential primaries. Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson was the only candidate to win his primary, with 40.51 percent of the vote (write-ins, 36.71 percent). Write-ins won the three other third-party Presidential primaries: in the Green Party (42.12 percent, compared to 38.59 percent for leading candidate Jill Stein), in the Peace & Freedom Party (62.86 percent, compared to 14.29 percent for leading candidate Gloria Estela La Riva), and in the American Independent Party (75.82 percent, compared to 5.45 percent for leading candidate Alan Spears).

Voter offices in California have 30 business days after every election to report the final, certified election results. Many offices provide a rolling update as ballots are counted each day, but in Mendocino County, the voter office waits until all ballots have been counted, researched and verified, then double-checked (California law mandates random double-checking recounts) before issuing its final, certified election report.

With more and more mail-in ballots being dropped off at the polls on Election Day – these ballots are counted after Election Day – the percentage of uncounted ballots as of the "Final Election Night Report" keeps on growing higher. In this year's June election, 59.65 percent of the total votes cast were counted after the Final Election Night Report was posted on the county's elections returns page.

Visit www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/current.htm to view the complete certified election results.

The rest of Marshall From Page 1

sex offender due to prior felony sex convictions in other county jurisdictions, stands convicted in Mendocino County of first-degree murder for the Halloween 2014 rape and murder of Willits resident Kayla Grace Chesser, age 25. The defendant was required by the terms of the negotiated plea to waive all of his earned pre-sentence jail credits. What that means is that the custody credits that the defendant may earn against his initial 50 years did not start accruing until Wednesday this week. Instead future changes to the current state of the law, medical parole, or compassionate release, the defendant will be eligible for parole consideration at age 96.

Also as part of the plea deal, Marshall was required by District Attorney David Eyster to waive his rights to any appeal, DA spokesman Mike Geniella said last month.

Marshall will be transferred to San Quentin State Prison at the end of the month for classification and housing assignment to a final Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation prison facility, where he will serve his sentence.

The prosecutor who handled this case, Deputy DA Scott McMenomey, was present at Tuesday's sentencing, Geniella said.

This report was based on a post on the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office's Facebook page.

The rest of Caltrans From Page 1

"Coho Mitigation at Ryan Creek," and "Geometric Upgrades at Sherwood Road."

Many of the deadlines for funding and construction of these projects have been pushed back considerably, with the relinquishment of Main Street set to be funded in fiscal year 2017-18, with construction commencing in 2018.

"As such, the city now has until early October [2016] to submit its preferred design plans, as well as working out the specifics of a cooperative agreement [with Caltrans]," stated an agenda report submitted by City Manager Adrienne Moore. The previous deadline had been set for August.

During its June 7 meeting, the council approved a \$1.5 million allocation for the city's Main Street Improvement Project, as it relates to the Caltrans relinquishment project, generated from the city's half-cent sales tax. The sales tax fund currently has a total of approximately \$2.6 million.

The best case scenario for Willits is that Caltrans will implement as many foundational designs during its relinquishment construction as possible, to match up with what the city has planned for Main Street. Examples include underground conduits for irrigation and lighting, bulb outs, and ADA-compliant sidewalks.

In the worst case scenario, Caltrans will ignore the city's design plans, undertake minimum pavement work, and then call it quits, leaving the city in a quandary on how to realize its ideal Main Street.

"We want the conduits put in place by Caltrans, so we won't have to tear [up the concrete] again," said Councilwoman Holly Madrigal.

Although Caltrans officials have repeatedly claimed a willingness to cooperate with Willits in coordinating their construction with the city's designs, there is a discrepancy in committed funds.

Currently Caltrans is allocating no more than \$3.4 million towards a street enhancement project estimated to cost just over \$9 million, with foundational work estimated by city staff at just over \$6 million.

"We think it's a \$6.2 million project, and so we're worried that our \$1.5 won't be used properly," said Mayor Bruce Burton.

"I'm really struggling with the integration of these two projects," Burton explained. "[How does] our augmentation funds with [Caltrans'] state-of-good-repair requirements match up?"

While the Main Street design team has yet to finalize the plans, according to Madrigal there is mostly broad agreement. Areas of contention include the intersection by the post office and the removal of the center lane in the downtown section of Main Street.

"Keep in mind this is a conceptual plan," said Moore. "[The design team] wants it to reflect the community's input, but at the end of the day, when it comes time [for construction], it will be the engineers that will design it. We're trying to get the concept plans as close as possible to what we think is doable."

Towards a cooperative agreement that works for all parties, an in-person meeting with Caltrans is being coordinated, with a tentative date of July 19 in place. The purpose of the meeting, according to Moore, "is to have a more substantive discussion with key agency staff regarding design plans, project coordination and the cooperative agreement."

Moore strongly recommended the council's Caltrans Relinquishment Project ad hoc committee meet before July 19 to provide input to staff for their meeting with Caltrans.

Before a cooperative agreement regarding the Main Street relinquishment project is reached with Caltrans, the city council will be requested to approve the following, according to Moore: "(1) A final conceptual design plan before submittal to Caltrans, (2) recommendations on how the \$1.5 million will be utilized, and (3) a final cooperative agreement."

All this must be done by October, when Caltrans is expected to submit its own construction plans for Main Street to the California Transportation Commission.

The latest Main Street corridor plans can be examined at the Willits Library and online at: <http://thecityofwillits.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/06-07-16-Agenda-Packet-Council-Special-Mtg.pdf> (scroll down to find pages with design images).

For additional information on the Main Street Plan, visit www.willitsmainstreetplan.com.

The rest of Americana From Page 3

Family" series of sculptures. You will find the more you look at these four sculptures, the more questions you will have. Toth said she started this series in 1995 when she was "angry with America." She decided to use her art to make light of her anger. She laughed and said she finds creating art like this series is therapeutic and helps her "deal with her rages." Toth said she is currently working on "a little trunk show to get out of my head and into my body."

Nancy Simpson's 1930s sewing machine was a great companion to her Sawtooth Sampler quilt. The sewing machine, artistically placed near her quilt, had many in awe that she actually used such a sewing machine to piece together her quilt. Her hand-quilting of the quilt also surprised many patrons who weren't familiar with this traditional method of quilting.

Jeff Daniels' saddle, donated for the show by Covelo resident Sheila Fetzer, drew people fascinated by the artistry and beautiful tooling of the leather. The gently worn leather is proof that this saddle is not just a work of art; as Fetzer shared, it has been used many times while gathering cattle on her ranch. Fetzer is also a well-known musician, and she joined Wilson in a few duets during the evening.

The thoughtful and artistic display of the art by WCA curator Mary Kelly created an inviting atmosphere where people felt comfortable pausing and discussing the various pieces of art. The addition of items from the Willits-owned Arabella Soap line was a surprise, but fit in well with the theme of artists that focus on rural living here in Mendocino County.

New gallery hours, Wednesday through Sunday, from 11 am to 6 pm, will give Willits residents plenty of opportunity to see this show, which runs through July 31. Visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org for more info on WCA and more upcoming events.

The rest of Cyclists From Page 8

WAC plans on having a lot more of these routes to recommend to cyclists in the future. One of the next things on their agenda is to study a very large and accurate topographic map to really see the landscape and plan out trails.

"That'll be a huge tool for planning," said Sherf. "We can see how we can easily connect what we have already to kind of make it more of a loop, and have less riding on roads ... which is a lot safer."

Sherf noted one of the main goals for the group was to map out and open up some easier routes for kids and novice riders. "Our plans basically are to start out with some more beginner trails," said Sherf, "it would be really nice to have just a couple miles of recreational or beginner trails where just the average person who knows how to ride a bike can hop on and progress as a rider and have fun and kind of get into it."

WAC is waiting on officially getting insurance before they can start doing things like coordinated group rides. Though a WAC race crew, including Sherf, Beebe and Simon Topp, did ride in the Boggs 8 Hour 3 Man Race on June 3 at Camp Wente outside of Willits. They had a great time and placed 24th in the competitive 45 team race.

WAC currently consists of about 35 members, including several board members. People who would like to join the group can sign up easily for free on the website. There's also a link for donations on the site, as well as a link to sell stuff on eBay for charity donations to the group. You can reach WAC by email at wactrails@gmail.com. Sherf said they welcome any and all who would like to be a part of the organization.

"We're looking for members, and we're looking for anyone who's interested," he said. "The more members we have, the bigger voice we have, and I think the more we'll be able to get done."

The rest of Cruce From Page 1

no further details will be provided at this time regarding the crimes and the victims involved," Gonzalez said, but he emphasized that at no time during the "complex, detailed" inquiry were the victims "at risk of the past incident(s) investigated."

"Hundreds of investigative hours [were] spent on this case, and the department was in continuous contact with investigators from the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office," the chief added.

The WPD also sought the assistance of the Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force, and "as the investigation continued into the forensic analysis of digital storage devices, child pornographic material was discovered."

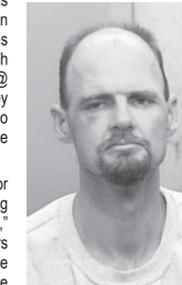
Cruce was arrested June 30 without incident.

"While Cruce was involved in a serious-injury collision the week prior to his arrest," Gonzalez said, that accident "had no relationship [to] the investigation conducted by the Willits Police Department."

Cruce and five young teenagers were injured June 23 when a 2014 Jeep Patriot left East Hill Road west of Eastside Road in Willits and plunged down a steep embankment into a creek bed.

"The [sex crimes] investigation is ongoing at this time," the chief noted, "and due to [its] sensitive nature, the release of information is limited at this time."

This report was based on a press release from the Willits Police Department.



Michael Scott Cruce

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Clockwise from top left: Runners with the Native American Spiritual Marathon pass under the Willits Arch. Runners downtown, entering City Park, with Willits City Hall behind them. Runners relax after reaching City Park, the last stop in their north-to-south run. The runners started, in Willits, at the Evergreen Plaza, in front of Bountiful Gardens. Runners do a ceremony at the park. One of the vehicles traveling with the group. Feathers. Locals Freddie Long and Earlene Gleisner help prepare lunch. Smudging after the last part of the run is over.

Photos by Mathew Cain

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Congrats Column



Happy 25th anniversary to the power couple of our lives! We can't wait to see you celebrate the next 25! Love, your children, Tito, Steph and Steven.



Happy 4th birthday, Hunter! You are such a special boy – Mom and Dad love you so much!



Redwood Empire Fair

August 4 to 7 2016 Entries due soon

The 2016 Redwood Empire Fair Entry Guide is out and can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce, Willits Library, J.D. Redhouse or Gateway Realty. You can get information online at www.redwoodempirefair.com. Click the "August Fair" link at the top to open the "2016 Redwood Empire Fair Entry Guide" with links to all the different categories, including non-livestock entry forms to print. Livestock entries must be done online. Most entry forms are due by July 8; make sure you check the links for individual category deadlines. To enter online: At www.redwoodempirefair.com, click on the "Online Entries" tab. Read instructions, then scroll down to "Livestock Exhibits online entries" or "Non-Livestock Exhibits online entries" links. You will be taken to the Blue Ribbon Fair page, where you will need to create an account. After logging in, follow the instructions on the Blue Ribbon Fair page to submit all your entries. See you at the fair!!!



Above: The 2015 'Best in Show' pie baked by Willits' Kathleen Grupp. At left: Jam, sweets and photos entered last year.

Wonderful Alfie

Alfie is a wonderful little lady that is waiting for just the right home.

When she first came to the shelter, she was scared and not interested in people, but now that she is in the

cattery, she is an outgoing love bug!

Alfie will tell you all about it with purrs, meows and head butts. She prefers to be an only cat, and at six years old, she deserves to live the way she wants. Who can compete with such personality anyway! Come meet Alfie today!



Alfie

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, where you can come visit, play with and/or adopt Gus or other dogs and cats, is open to prospective adopters from 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday, and from 11 am to 3 pm, on Saturday and Sunday. 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley (right down the street from the Broiler). Info: 707-485-0123 or hsimc@pacific.net or visit www.mendocinohumane.org.

COLUMN | Resendez Reads!

The art (and science) of memoir

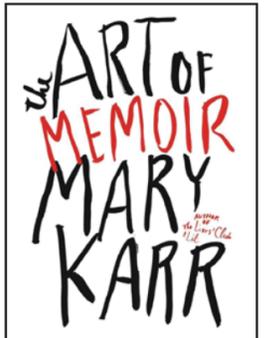
I'd like to recommend two recent books, both written by American university professors ardent about their fields of study. The first is "The Art of Memoir" (2015) by Mary Karr and the second is titled "Lab Girl" (2016) by scientist Hope Jahren.



Fran Resendez
 Columnist

If you are a grad student at Syracuse University, you might be lucky enough to get into professor Karr's course on writing your own memoir. You would get to drink in her colorful East Texas language, read and discuss books like "Speak, Memory" by Vladimir Nabokov, and attempt to turn some of your own childhood or adolescent experiences into crafted art. If you're not one of her students, your next best course is to read her latest publication. It may inspire you, if not to write your own memoir, then at least to read a few that she recommends.

I enjoyed her tone of intimacy throughout the book. Karr has written all her life, starting with prize-winning poetry and essays. After her 13-year marriage dissolved, she turned to the difficult but compelling process of telling the story of her own gritty upbringing. "The Liar's Club" (1995) soared to the top of the bestseller lists and seemingly launched a genre stream of confessional memoir.



You may not have psychological demons to exorcise. Perhaps, you just want to leave some stories behind for the next generation of your own family. Read this book to get a pep talk and guidance about finding your own writing voice, facing the risks of how your friends and family will react, and feeling free to tell the truth ... your own truth.

Along the way, you will get insight into the life, mind and heart of Mary Karr and possibly go on to read her other writings. I'm working my way through her required reading syllabus and will have future recommendations for you.

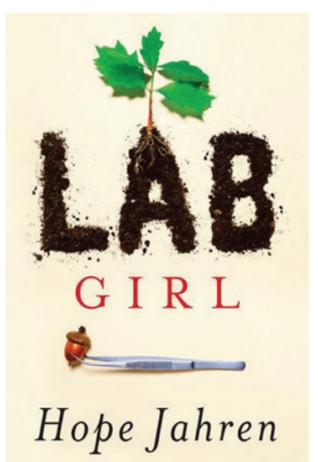
I'm hoping the book "Lab Girl" will be included in Karr's next reading list, because the writer is so engaging about her perspective on the earth, its fertile soils, and the green blanket of plants that creates the necessary conditions of life for all the rest of us. Hope Jahren's fields of expertise involve geochemistry and paleobotany. She has her own lab at the University of Hawaii, where she performs sophisticated tests on both living plants and their fossilized carbon remains.

In her memoir, she talks about being a science lover from childhood, and where that love has led her. She has not had an easy path, suffering from manic-depressive disorder. But, she has given her all to her students and done her utmost to advance our knowledge of the world of plants. She will tell you about this world from the point of view of these ancient life forms, and help you to understand why they are vital to our well-being.

She will also make you laugh out loud at the antics of her students (she wanted to print a T-shirt declaring "I am not your mother"), impress you with how difficult it is to find funding for independent research, and convince you that gender bias still exists in the scientific community.

Whether you read by page or device, please utilize our library system and patronize independent bookstores, both new and used.

Local poet Fran Resendez is retired from 20 years of bookselling at the former Leaves of Grass bookstore in Willits.



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COYOTE VALLEY



Photos by Maureen Moore

Above: Junior Rodeo riders compete in steer daubing, left, barrel racing, center, and goat tying, right. Below, left: Caleb Lovell is flung off his calf, making it over the line to earn a buckle. Below: Team ropers hope to catch the head and heels of the running steer during the Junior Rodeo.



Junior Rodeo Results

Willits Frontier Days held 45th annual event on Saturday, July 2

The shade made by the tall oak trees over the bleachers and across the arena and an agreeable afternoon breeze made the annual Junior Rodeo event a pleasure for riders, animals and spectators alike.

This was the 45th annual event for the littlest cowboys and cowgirls who compete in the Willits Frontier Days events. Many of those who start in the junior rodeo event work their way up to high school rodeo and some even eventually compete in the professional CCPRA division when they're old enough.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Willits Frontier Days events. Many of those who start in the junior rodeo

Events in this year's Junior Rodeo included

calf riding for kids aged through age 12; steer stopping for kids up to 18; steer daubing for kids aged 8 to 18; two divisions of barrel racing: one for kids aged 12 and under, and one for kids aged 13 to 18; steer riding for kids aged 13 to 15; boys and girls breakaway for kids up to 18; junior/junior team roping for kids up to 18; junior/senior team roping for kids and an over 18 partner; girls goat tying for kids aged 8 to 18; and finally bull riding, for kids aged 16 to 18.

Two All-Around titles were awarded to the cowboy and cowgirl with the highest overall score gained from competing in all the events. The All Around Cowgirl award and buckle went to Lucy Moore of St. Helena, and the All Around Cowboy went to Gunner Cogburn of Arcata. Cogburn also won the Bud Suttles Memorial

Trophy given to the overall High Point rider for the day. 2016 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Hallee Reed was at the junior rodeo to hand out the awards at the end of the day.

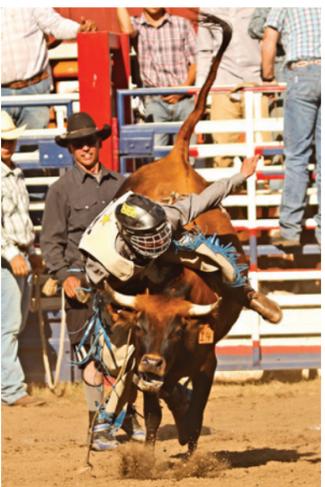
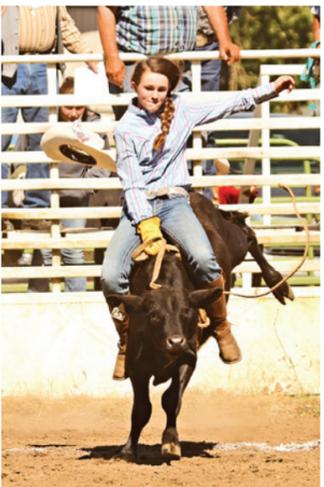
Several Willits, Laytonville and Covelo contestants entered, and family and friends were in the stands to cheer them on during their events. Riders from Willits included: Walker Klee, Clayton Cooley, Hazel Cooke, Sierra Mayfield, Caleb Lovell, Shanna Gayski, Claire Case Brackett, Samantha Arms, Danielle Barry, Alton Cooke and Amy Andrade. Laytonville riders included: Trystan Wheeler, Michael Wheeler, Preston Wheeler and Jimmy Whitley;

Read the rest of **Junior** Over on Page B2



Photos by Maureen Moore

Above, from left: All-Around winners Lucy Moore of St. Helena, left and Gunner Cogburn of Arcata, right, pose with 2016 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Hallee Reed. Cogburn also won the Bud Suttles Memorial Trophy given to the overall High Point rider for the day. A cowboy heads for the ground in the Junior Rodeo's bull riding event. Below from left: Cowboys and cowgirls try their hands at riding livestock including, from left, a calf, a bull and three steer. See these and many more photos online at: <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/wfd2016>.





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At right, and below: young steer riders hold on the best they can!



See these and many more photos here: <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/wfd2016>



Team ropers get ready to throw their loops.



A young new chicken owner carries his prize back to the bleachers.

A barrel racer heads around the right barrel.

The rest of **Junior** | From Page B1

and Covelo riders included: Wacey Vann, Noah Davila and Adrian Phillips.

Individual results, provided by Bobbie Tilley, follow:

Calf riding offers young riders the chance to ride the littlest of cattle. Riders must cross a chalk line just in front of the bucking chutes to receive a buckle, and to place, they must remain on the back of the calf for six seconds. Though there were no qualified rides, all eight riders crossed the line to receive a buckle. Local riders included Walker Klee, Clayton Cooley, Michael Wheeler, Hazel Cooke, Jimmy Whitley, Sierra Mayfield and Caleb Lovell.

Steer stopping challenges riders to rope a running steer and then stop their horse, effectively flipping the steer 180-degrees to then turn and face the rider. When both animals face one another, time is stopped. Two of the four riders were able to clinch a time, including first-place winner Gunner Cogburn of Arcata with a time of 3.62 seconds and second-place winner Shanna Gayski of Willits with a time of 5.54 seconds.

Steer daubing asks riders to carry a paint-soaked rag at the end of a long pole. Riders chase a steer and try to make contact with the paint and any part of the steer. Of the nine competitors, three placed with a qualifying time. First place went to Gayski with a time of 3.72 seconds, second to Gunner Cogburn with a time of 4.58 seconds, and third to Ashley Carr of Alderpoint with a time of 5.30 seconds.

Girls barrel racing has riders complete a cloverleaf pattern around three 55-gallon barrels set up across the arena. Riders have a choice of making two left turns and one right, or two right turns and one left. Electronic timer eyes are set up at the start/finish line, since times can be as close as a 100th of a second in difference.

Six riders competed in the 12 and under age group, and the three fastest times came in from Bella Colombini of Redwood Valley with a time of 19.20 seconds, for first place; second place went to Claire Case Brackett with a time of 19.65 seconds; and third place went to Kaylei Davis of Lower Lake with a time of 21.49 seconds.

Seven riders competed in the 13 to 18 age group, and the three fastest times went to Lucy Moore of St. Helena with a time of 18.38 seconds, for first place; second place went to Ashley Carr with a time of 18.50 seconds; and third place went to Kolby Thorton of Ukiah with a time of 18.52 seconds.

Steer riding is for those too big to ride a calf, and too young for the bulls. Steers are a little wiser and more experienced than calves and get the riders a little more prepared for the mean and motivated bulls, if they choose to go that path.

Of the six riders, four placed with qualifying times, which resulted in scores out of a possible 100 points. Half of the points are given for the efforts of the rider, and the other half to the bucking of the steer. First place went to Danny Chidester of Santa Rosa with a score of 72, second place went to Nolin Fish of Sebastopol with a score of 70 points, and third place was split between Adrian Phillips of Covelo and Clayton Carr of Alderpoint, who both scored 67 points.

Breakaway roping asks riders to simply rope a running calf with a rope that features a Velcro end. As soon as the calf pulls the slack in the rope tight, the rope breaks free from the saddle and time is stopped. Though the one entrant in the boys' breakaway was unable to catch, three of the six riders in the girls' event earned scores. First place went to Kaylei Davis with a time of 4.20 seconds, third to Ashley Carr with a time of 14.37 seconds, and third to Faith Field of Hidden Valley with a time of 42.26 seconds.

Of the four pairs of junior/junior team ropers, only one earned a time: Clayton Carr of Alderpoint and Gunner Cogburn of Arcata were able to rope the head and heels of a running steer in 52.34 seconds.

Two of the four junior/senior team roping teams earned times, including first-place winners Ron Suttles and Gunner Cogburn, both of Arcata, with a time of 17.13 seconds, and second-place winners James Moore and Lucy Moore, both of St. Helena, with a time of 37.42 seconds.

Eight riders competed in the goat tying event, and two earned times. Riders run their horses to the other end of the arena, dismount – usually on a quick pace! – and run on foot to a goat tethered to a stake and rope. The contestant must flip the goat and tie three legs together with a rope. The goat must remain tied for several seconds in order to give the contestant a time. First place went to Lucy Moore with a time of 18.62 seconds, and second went to Trystan Wheeler with a time of 28.15 seconds.

Bull riding finished out the day with three riders trying to stay atop a bucking bull for the full eight seconds. Caleb Blyleven of Lakeport was the only competitor to make a qualified ride and earned a score of 65 points.

There was another fun event for kids in the stands interjected between the official contestant events: the mystery scramble. Kids up to the age of 9 were welcomed from the stands into the arena. They were lined up at one side, and a few crates of chickens were set at the other. At the "go" mark, chickens were released from the crates, and the eager maybe-soon-to-be chicken owners were allowed to keep anything they could catch. A flurry of feathers, dirt and giggling kids followed, and many went home with the ultimate small-town-rodeo prize: pullets who were – hopefully! – hens.



Photos by Mathew Caine

A Roots 4th of July

Road rollers and free train rides highlighted at the holiday event

Roots of Motive Power joined in the 4th of July festivities on Monday, hosting a "steam up" event which included train rides, coloring for kids, a scavenger hunt, and raffle.

Having debuted the newly restored Kelly Springfield three-wheeled steam roller during the parade, Roots members kept the roller going around the loop at their East Commercial Street facility, along with two other machines also in the parade, including the 1928 Buffalo Springfield gasoline roller.

Roots of Motive Power has been collecting and restoring steam power machines for decades, having been incorporated as a non-profit in 1982.

Michael Hammang, Roots board member who oversaw the holiday event, explained the uniqueness of the locomotive museum.

"To see the old machines is nice," Hammang said. "But to actually see them do what they're supposed to do is fantastic."

The train ride was the most popular event of the afternoon, as the 44-ton diesel-electric 104 locomotive took its passengers around the mile-and-a-half loop of the Roots property. Lee Bryant

served as the train engineer, while Dave Sheber acted as fireman.

Henry Leal and Jeff Cowan of the Cowan Trio entertained passengers, performing blues renditions of classic rock songs as well as original material.

Other volunteers helping with the steam up included Danielle Smith, Kent Hinton, Lisa Aikin and Shyann Barney.

Roots volunteers and board members had some of the various restored and refurbished equipment running for display, including the Willamette steam donkey, as well as the steam and gas rollers.

The steam donkey was the first-ever machine that Roots members restored, back in 1982. The machine was a veteran of many years of service with Mendocino Lumber Company in Big River. According to the Roots website: "Built on John Dolbeer's patents in the 1880s, the vertical spool donkey represented the earliest attempts to mechanize logging."

For more information, including a list of Roots' extensive collection of old steam, diesel, gasoline and animal powered equipment, go to www.rootsofmotivepower.com.

Clockwise from top, left: Lee Bryant shows off his 4th of July spirit with his red hat. The inside of the passenger car is filled with eager riders. The train takes off around the loop. Antique trains on display in the Roots yard. The front of the Roots barn bears the organization's name. Wood gets loaded into the raging boiler. Patrons check out the antique equipment at Roots. Passengers ready to ride.



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Across the top, from left: A bull fighter gets ready to run now that he has the bull's attention. A steer wrestler slides off his horse onto the steer. A saddle bronc rider prepares for landing. A bull rider needs to get his wits back quickly after landing on the ground, or the bull might help him back up. A bareback rider comes out of the chutes and hopes to stay on for the full eight seconds.



Photos by Maureen Moore



At right, top: A saddle bronc rider gets bucked from the saddle. At right: Another cowboy stays on top of his horse as it prepares for another buck. Below, left: Danielle Barry carries the American flag. Below, right: A bull rider tries to make it to the eight-second mark.

July CCPRAs

Professional cowboys and cowgirls compete in two-day rodeo over 4th of July weekend

The main rodeo event of Willits Frontier Days spanned two days, July 3 and 4, as the professional riders of the CCPRA (California Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association) showcased their skills on horse – and bull! – back for the gathered crowd.

Riders become members of the CCPRA and compete in rodeos in and around the state in hopes of qualifying for the championships and winning at the finals rodeo.

Riders are split between the night rodeo on July 3 and the day rodeo on July 4. There was also a section of barrel racing and team roping at each rodeo for local riders only. Willits' Michelle McCord and Kelly Fonsen won the local team roping, out of 11 teams, with a time of 9 seconds. They each received a silver belt buckle; the header buckle was sponsored by Hollifield Construction and the heeler by Sparetime Supply. Dominique Penney of Ukiah won the local barrel racing award and took home a silver belt buckle sponsored by the Willits Junior Horsemen.



Above, from left: Lillian and Julia Hardy sing the national anthem in the arena. A saddle bronc rider comes out of the chutes. 2016 Sweetheart Halee Reed receives her new chaps made by Mary Ann Underhill. Below: Don Jerome, 2016 Heritage Award winner, is driven around the arena by a horse and carriage. At bottom, right: A saddle bronc rider gets a little air.



Photos by Maureen Moore

At the beginning of each rodeo, the 2016 Heritage Award recipient, Don Jerome, the 2016 Top Hand award recipient, Harold Potter, and 2016 Grand Marshal, the Boy Scouts of Willits, were announced, and Potter and Jerome were presented to the crowd in horse-drawn carriages.

Visiting royalty, including 2016 Potter Valley Rodeo Queen Julie Brown and Round Valley Community Rodeo Queen contestant Dalli Fonsen, were introduced as they showcased a Queen Run, as were the three Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart runners-up, Calayan Knight, Sierra Skinner and Cheyenne Walters, and of course, 2016 winner Halee Reed. Last year's winner, Caitlyn Forrester, also made her last run as Sweetheart on July 4, concluding her 2015 reign.

Reed was also surprised at the July 4 rodeo with a pair of custom-made leather fringe riding chaps that will be passed down, becoming a perpetual prize to the current Sweetheart winner. They were hand-crafted with over 76 hours of work and a custom design by Willits' Mary Ann Underhill, who also assisted Willits Frontier Days President Marcy Barry in presenting them to Reed at the rodeo. Reed gleefully made a galloping lap around the arena and showed the crowd the beautiful new chaps.

Willits' Danielle Barry and Samantha Arms were two of the young flag carriers; Barry proudly brought in the American flag at the July 3 rodeo and presented it for the singing of the national anthem.

Read the rest of CCPRA Over on Page B7



Above, left: Dominique Penney of Ukiah was the local barrel racing winner. Above, right: Kelly Fonsen and Michelle McCord, winners of the local team roping buckles. Below: A bareback rider holds on tight to the bucking bronc.



See these and many more photos online at: <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/wfd2016>



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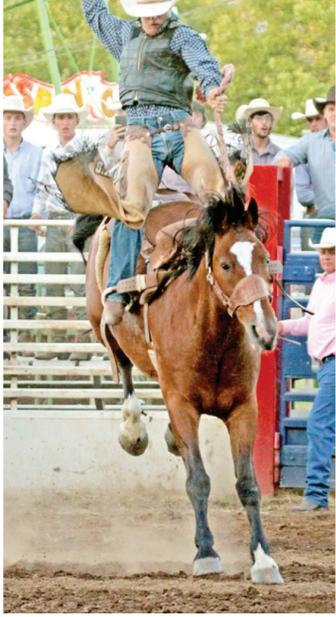
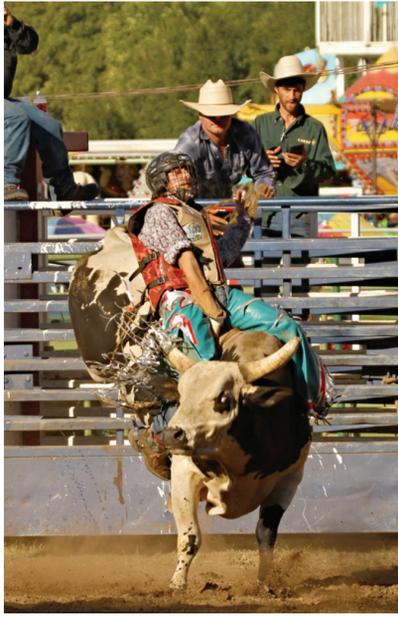


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Fun at the Carnival

At top, from left: Girls ride the merry-go-round at the carnival. In the dusk of evening, the lights of the carnival shine bright, welcoming everyone to come and have fun. This family holds a pink plush monster they won at the balloon pop booth. Below, from left: Two carnival attendees smile from behind a funny – and popular! – emoji plush prize. A plan is made at the top of the Super Slide. At left: The Spin Out spins riders around and around up and down and around and around....



The New Tin Can Saloon

Grain silo becomes beer booth dubbed "Tin Can Saloon" at Frontier Days grounds

Pinterest fans, eat your heart out: Willits Frontier Days has a new grain silo beer booth that is country arts and crafts in the best way possible. Recycled wood, recycled tin, a farm-filled history – and – out comes beer.

On April 16, Fred Barry, Jeff Duncan, Kevin Duncan, Willy England, John Thomen and a kid named "Cowboy" made a trek to Maxwell to pick up a 18-foot tall, 18-foot around grain silo with plans to make it the new beer booth at the Willits Frontier Days grounds.

After bringing it back home, Barry, Duncan and Thomen disassembled it, repaired and reassembled it, cutting windows, adding interior support and counters, a ceiling fan, solar lights and the trailer shed in back where the beer trailer can be easily accessed from inside the silo. The recycled materials were donated by Mendo Mill of Willits, and Metal/Fx created the sign on the front that reads "Tin Can Saloon." The bar will be a permanent fixture at the rodeo grounds and will serve beer to eventgoers for years to come.

– Maureen Moore



Above: The new "Tin Can Saloon" grain silo bar at the Willits Frontier Days grounds. At left: Fred Barry pours beer from the new bar while Bruce Cartwright watches.

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The rest of CCPRA | From Page B5

Julia and Lillian Hardy sang the anthem: The pair were named winners of the National Anthem Contest held last week, and they performed the song at both CCPRA rodeos, as well as the parade.

The event's stock contractor was West Coast Rodeo, and announcer Ted Dwyer kept the crowd informed and on schedule. Judges included Jess Hare and Willits' own professional bull rider, Jaron Nunemaker.

Results provided by CCPRA secretary Jennifer Val Alen for individual events are below:

In tie-down roping cowboys must rope a calf, dismount their horse, run to the caught calf, flip the calf, tie three feet together and then remount their horse to allow the calf some slack on the rope. If the calf stays tied for several seconds, a time is given. Out of 16 riders, first place went to Blake Hirdes of Turlock with a time of 10.2 seconds. Second place went to J. Cody Jones of Ukiah with a time of 11.1 seconds, third place went to John McGill of LeGrand with a time of 11.5 seconds, and fourth place went to Caden Farquer of Oakdale with a time of 12.4 seconds.

In steer wrestling, cowboys run alongside a steer that is sandwiched between their horse and a second rider, called a hazer. The hazer helps to try and keep the steer close and straight to the competitor who, when able, will lean over, off his horse, and fall onto the running steer. The competitor loops his elbows under the steer's horns and under the steer's nose and turns its head, causing the steer to flop over on its side. When all four feet of the steer are facing the same direction, time is called and the event is complete.

Out of 16 competitors, first place went to Tyler Mitchell of Chowchilla with a time of 4.1 seconds, second place went to Ory Lemons of Castro Valley with a time of 4.4 seconds, third place went to Casey Minton of Witter Springs with a time of 5 seconds, and fourth place went to Riley York of Loyalton with a time of 5.1 seconds.

The breakaway roping event had 20 contestants, who had to rope a calf with a rope featuring a Velcro end. When the calf is caught, and tension is applied to the rope, the Velcro end pops loose of the saddle and time is called.

First place went to Suzanne Williams of Gerber with a time of 3.6 seconds, second place went to Noel Hannon with a time of 3.7 seconds, third place went to Linda Johnson of Yreka with a time of 3.8 seconds, fourth place went to Julie Harvey of Dos Palos with a time of 5.3 seconds, fifth place went to Karri Jones of Ukiah with a time of 5.5 seconds, and sixth place went to Katie Wemple of Susanville with a time of 12.9 seconds.

In barrel racing, cowgirls must complete a cloverleaf pattern around three barrels, deciding to take two left turns, and one right, or one right turn and two left turns. The fastest time wins, and because of the speed of the animals and the necessity to record times down to the one-hundredth of a second, an electronic eye is used to start and stop the times.

Out of 34 riders, first place went to Vicky Cook of Willows with a time of 17.58 seconds, second place to Ronan Angelini of Fortuna with a time of 17.73 seconds, third to Julianne Montero with a time of 17.74 seconds, fourth to Angie Hardin of Cottonwood with a time of 17.77 seconds, and fifth to Lacey Lockard of Atascadero with a time of 17.80. There was a tie for

sixth/seventh place between Jessica McBain of Bakersfield and Ashley Smith of Covelo, who both had a time of 17.88 seconds. Kayla Nichol of Cottonwood finished eighth with a time of 17.98 seconds.

There were 17 teams competing in the team roping event, where a pair of riders tries to catch either the head or the heels of a running steer. If both do their job, the steer is caught between the riders, and time is called when both riders turn and face one another with the steer caught in between them.

First place went to header Blake Hirdes of Turlock and heeler Joseph Shawnego of Oakdale with a time of 6.5 seconds, second place went to header Casey Minton and heeler Brushton Minton, both of Witter Springs with a time of 6.8 seconds, third place went to header Tristan Ruffoni and Jason Joh both of San Luis Obispo with a time of 7.5 seconds, and fourth place went to header Tim Hansen and heeler Wyatt Hansen of Oakdale with a time of 7.9 seconds.

There were two sets of tied scores out of the 14 total riders in the saddle bronc contest, where contestants try to stay atop the bucking horse for eight seconds, with nothing but a modified saddle to sit in and one hand on a rope connected on the other end to the horse's head.

All roughstock riding events use the following point system: out of a possible 100 points, half are allocated to the skills of the rider, and half to the bucking of the horse. Higher scores are given on animals who buck harder and give the rider a tougher time, and riders who exhibit control and skill while atop the animal get higher scores than those just trying to stay on.

The tie for first/second place was between Paiden Gillis of Woodland and Jesse Williams of Paso Robles, who both earned a score of 77 points. The tie for third/fourth place was between Cameron Buckingham of Brentwood and John Reding, who both earned a score of 74 points.

Like saddle bronc, the bareback event also requires the cowboy to stay atop a bucking horse for eight seconds; however, this time, there is no saddle or halter. There's just a modified handle and rope centered just over the horse's withers for the cowboy to hang on to. Out of seven competitors, two were able to place with scores, including first-place winner Casey Meroshneko of Red Bluff who earned a score of 70 and second-place winner Blaine Davies of Corning who earned a score of 62 points.

Finally, 22 riders tried their luck for the bull riding event, where again, contestants are asked to stay on top of an animal who wants you removed for eight full seconds.

Three riders were able to stay on and earn a score, including first-place winner Jake Peterson of Livermore with a score of 76, second-place winner Colby Demo of Gerber with a score of 73 points, and Willits' own Tyler Miner, who took home third with a score of 63 points.

The rest of WPD | From Page 4

9:15 pm: Officers were dispatched to a business in the 1400 block of South Main Street to contact a female who was reportedly acting bizarre and disoriented inside the location. Officers arrived and contacted DAVIDSON, Joy (39) of Willits. During their contact, officers determined Davidson was too intoxicated to provide for her own care and placed her under arrest pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication) and 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of Probation).

June 28

11:15 am: Officers were dispatched to the 1700 block of South Main Street upon receiving a report of someone walking through a parking lot, slashing tires. A Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy was in the area and contacted NORTON, James (35) of Willits. Officers investigated the report and discovered Norton had punctured 11 tires in all. When asked why he slashed the tires, Norton told officers he liked the sound of the tires deflating. Norton was placed under arrest pursuant to 594(b)(1) PC (Vandalism) and 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of Probation).

June 29

10:20 pm: Officers were dispatched to a domestic altercation at a residence in the 10 block of Hillside Drive. Following an investigation, they determined STRATHMAN, Larry (61) of Willits had battered the victim. Strathman was arrested pursuant to 243(e)(1) PC (Domestic Battery).

June 30

12:40 pm: Traffic collision reported in the 100 block of North Main Street. 2:30 pm: JOHNSON, Dakota (19) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.

5:30 pm: Following an extensive investigation into allegations of sexual abuse, officers placed CRUCE, Michael (38) of Willits under arrest pursuant to 288.5(a) PC (Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child), 288(a) PC (Lewd and Lascivious Acts) and 311.11(a) PC (Possession of Child Pornography).

July 1

7 am: STEWART, River (32) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street and placed under arrest pursuant to 11550(a) HS (Drug Influence) and 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of Probation).

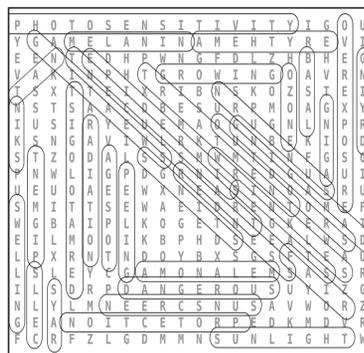
3:45 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street, where they contacted a subject and initiated a mental health commitment.



Current Job Openings:

Health and Human Services Agency
Nutritionist
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For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr EOE.



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NCO Head Start
Recruiting for Willits: Associate Teacher I, II-12 ECE core units req. Bilingual pref. Sal. \$11.26-\$15.73 DOQ. HS/EHS Aide - Bilingual pref. Sal. \$10.00-\$12.77/hr. For full job description details & app go to www.ncinc.org/about-us/jobs or 707-467-3200 x 302. Closes: 6/27 @ 5pm (Postmarks not accepted). EOE

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$40/hr. Tutoring \$20/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerjin@yahoo.com

Office for Rent
Office for rent. Includes utilities, \$350 per month. New carpet/paint on Main St. in central Willits. Well suited for business professional or medical/spa. 707-799-3380.

For Rent
Professional Office Space for rent, various sized offices. \$1.00 per foot. Madrone Professional Group, 459-6874.

For Rent
Room for rent. Beautiful, quiet, \$450/mo or \$200/week, plus \$200 deposit at move in. Located 10 miles out Sherwood. No pets, tobacco, extra storage, visitors on property. vendormre19@gmail.com.

For Rent
Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex in Brooktrails. All appliances, laundry room, central heat & air, garage. Incredibly nice! No smoking, no pets. \$900/month plus \$1,800 deposit. Call 984-6479.

Rental Wanted
Responsible, employed couple seeks reasonable rental in town. N/P, N/S, N/D. Good references. More info, call 707-354-1771.

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Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex in Brooktrails. All appliances, laundry room, central heat & air, garage. Incredibly nice! No smoking, no pets. \$900/month plus \$1,800 deposit. Call 984-6479.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$390 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tip>

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3 bedroom, 1 bath home. Fenced yard, garage, beautiful country setting. No smoking, \$1,400/month, \$2,800 deposit. 707-984-6479.

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707-367-6182, Willits.

For Sale
Bowflex Treadclimber TC3000 for sale for \$650.00. And a Kohler Jetted tub for \$500.00. Both are in good shape. Please call 456-9731 and leave a message.

Vendors Needed
Brooktrails Flea Market and Pancake Breakfast is coming, Saturday, July 16, 9 am to 2 pm. \$20 /space, and vendor spaces are limited! Call (707) 489-4726 to reserve your spot.

The Fruit Group
Pesticide-free fruit by the lug

Volunteers Wanted
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

Tomatoes, \$28 (30-pound lug-plus) Yellow and white freestone peaches & nectarines, \$28 Trucks every other week, or until fruit runs out. Order by the Sunday before. Willits: Brenda, 459-9335 Ukiah, Potter and Redwood Valley: Deanna, 391-7736 Laytonville: Heather, 984-7430 Lakeport: Linda, 279-8840 Fort Bragg: Karen, 937-4664 Covelo: Debi, 489-0742 Brooktrails: Len, 391-7687

Yard Sale
Yard sale. Friday, July 8, and Saturday, July 9, at 1481 East Hill Road.

Help Wanted
Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic is looking for a full-time medical records clerk. Physically demanding job. Will train. Bilingual preferred. Send resume to 1245 S. Main St. or fax to 459-3057. No phone calls, please.

Help Wanted
Ardella's Diner: Full-time line cook, full- and part-time dishwashers, and part-time wait staff. Will train right candidates. Perfect summer job for student. Apply in person. No phone calls.

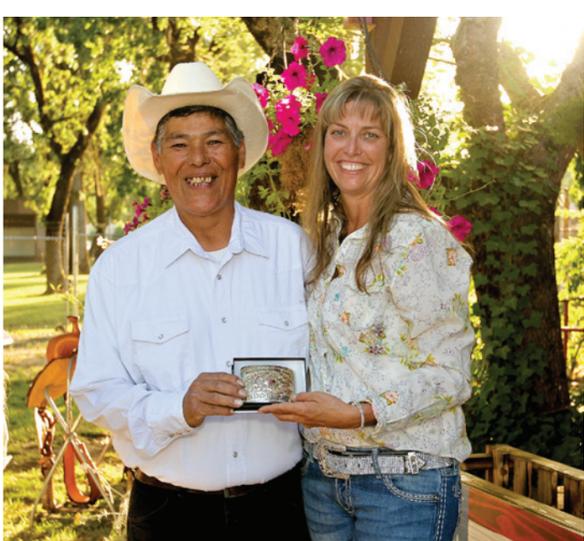
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Above: Event emcee Kathy Goss talks to the crowd during the Sweetheart dinner. 2016 candidates, including from left, Cheyenne Walters, Sierra Skinner, Calayan Knight and Halee Reed, sit at the front table, ready to hear the results of the contest. Below, from left: The 2016 Grand Marshal, the Boy Scouts of Willits, pose with their custom-made American flag table. Meat men Mike Frahm and John Thomen cut ribs and beef at the cook station. Table decorations this year included pastel Mason jar arrangements by The Flower Lady of Willits, pots of honey from Willits' Big Bee Man, and an eclectic mix of dishes and silverware – all helping to create a 1920s feel to go with this year's theme: "The Roaring '20s."



Sweetheart Dinner

Announcing the 2016 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart winner is just one of the events that happens at the Sweetheart annual dinner, held this year on Friday, July 1 and sponsored by J.D. Redhouse.

Dining tables were set with a mix of dishes, little pots of honey and farmstead pastel arrangements made in Mason jars by Flower Lady of Willits. The podium where event emcee Kathy Goss spoke was also adorned with a Flower Lady spray that was accentuated by potted blooming plants and greenery donated by Sparetime Supply.

Invited guests, friends and family came and gathered on the lawn in front of the WFD office and recognized the sponsors for the year, the award-winners – Top Hand, Harold Potter; Grand Marshal, the Boy Scouts of Willits; and Heritage award, Don Jerome – enjoyed a delicious meal, heard the Sweetheart candidates give their speeches, and of course, learned who was the winner of the coveted tiara and admission into the Sweetheart roster.

This year, accountant Bear Kamoroff noted that the four candidates raised \$46,658 in ticket sales, and with her percentage and scores from the other portions of the judging areas, Halee Reed was named the 2016 Sweetheart. She was crowned by Chuck Persico and accepted her spurs (sponsored by Soroptimist International of Willits), saddle (sponsored by J.D.

Redhouse), tiara (sponsored by the Willits Chamber of Commerce) and a sparkly dozen red roses (donated by Flowers by Annette), with glee.

The first runner-up was Calayan Knight; second runner-up was Sierra Skinner; and third runner-up was Cheyenne Walters. Each also received roses from Flowers by Annette and engraved silver gifts, sponsored by Willits Frontier Days: Knight received a bracelet; Skinner received stirrups; and Walters received a pendant.

As usual, past Sweethearts in attendance and the year's major sponsors were introduced and photographed, and for the first time, Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman and Mendocino County 3rd District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse read a proclamation issued by the county recognizing Willits Frontier Days. Though the City of Willits has issued proclamations before, this was the first county recognition, which was timely, as this was the 90th year celebration. The "Toms" joked that they always liked a 5-0 vote from the county – which unanimous support this proclamation received – which was met with a round of laughter from the gathered crowd.

All Willits City Council members were also in attendance this year, another mark of the importance of this year's celebration.

– Maureen Moore

At left, from top: 2016 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart winner Halee Reed poses with Chuck Persico. Darlene Bixler and Ashtan Bloomquist of J.D. Redhouse pose with WFD president Marcy Barry. Barry poses with June Sizemore, committee chair for the dinner, which fed some 350 people Friday night. Harold Potter, the 2016 Top Hand award-winner, poses with Barry and his custom belt buckle. Doug Goss, Margie Handley and Heritage Award winner Don Jerome pose together at the dinner. Below: Some of the Sweethearts of the past pose for a group photo with red roses donated by Flowers by Annette.



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