

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 118

Thursday, August 13, 2015



Willits bypass herbicides nixed 'for now'

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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The California Department of Transportation has decided not to pursue the use of herbicides on 1,772 acres of bypass mitigation lands in the Little Lake Valley, spokesman Phil Frisbie officially announced Friday.

Caltrans planned to use herbicides to try to eradicate non-native species, including Himalayan blackberries, yellow star thistle, and two kinds of non-native grasses, as well as to clear woody vegetation and weeds from the mitigation lands.

Read the rest of **Herbicides** | Over on Page 15

Muddy water's at water rights symposium

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Some 40 people attended a complex two-hour talk on the basics of water rights in the state of California held Tuesday night at the Willits Community Center.

In addition to being told: "There is no better time to register your water storage than now," the symposium offered four take-away messages: 1) if you are using water from a river or stream, you need to file for water rights; 2) it's better to put in a storage system than to pump from a stream with little or no water in it; 3) Trout Unlimited can help install low-cost storage; and

Read the rest of **Water** | Over on Page 15

Three held in tool, motorcycle thefts

Three Willits men have been arrested for suspicion of receiving stolen property following a series of power tool and motorcycle thefts.

Justin Arnold, 26; Christopher France, 19, and Harold "Buzz" Rogers, 48, were taken to county jail.

The saga began around 9 pm last Thursday when police were called to a South Coast Street home concerning the alleged theft of "numerous items," including power tools and motorcycles.

Based on information supplied by witnesses,

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

At right: Lilah Garman of Willits 4-H and the buyer of her market lamb, Jerry Nunn of Born and Raised in Mendocino County.

Far right: Jordan Luna of Long Valley 4-H shows his market hog in the auction ring.



Rodriguez won't seek second term

Mike A'Dair
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Child care provider, businesswoman and soccer coach Saprina Rodriguez won't run for a second term on the Willits Unified School District board. In addition, by the extended deadline of 5 pm Wednesday, August 12, no other person had filed to run for Rodriguez's seat. Therefore, her seat will be filled by an appointment made by the school district's board of trustees.

According to Katie Pearson, executive assistant with the Mendocino County Office of Education, if the school district appoints someone before the November election, that person will

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

Meeting the principal

Mike A'Dair
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The Willits Unified School District held a meet-and-greet in Superintendent Patricia Johnson's office last Friday afternoon for the two newly appointed assistant principals for Brookside and Blosser Lane elementary schools, plus Eileen Chapman Jones, who will serve as principal for both elementary schools and Sherwood School.

Jones is a veteran teacher and administrator with 25 years experience in education, most of that in Washington state and Idaho. She taught first-through ninth-grade for many years, and taught multi-age classrooms for six years.

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

DA's probe clears officers in jail death

Dan McKee
Reporter
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Neither Willits police nor sheriff's correctional officers are to blame for the June 11, 2014 in-custody death of a 55-year-old Ukiah man, according to a Mendocino County District Attorney Office review.

Steven Kellogg Neuroth, formerly of Laytonville, was arrested shortly after 10 pm on June 10 for suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance, and taken to county jail.

He was discovered unresponsive in his cell just

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



Above: Madison Forrester of Willits 4-H poses with her Grand Champion Market Goat and buyers Jason and Tracey Hartje of Mendocino Roofing, Inc.

Right: Stephany Brundage of Willits 4-H poses with Brock McDowell of Grocery Outlet - Willits, the buyer of her Grand Champion Rabbit Meat Pen.



Below, left: Willits FFA's Kayla Smith braces her lamb and gives a quick smile over the shoulder while in the auction ring. Smith also won the FFA Small Animal Round Robin Showmanship contest this year.

Below, right: Emma Braught of Long Valley 4-H poses with her market goat as she leaves the auction ring.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Laytonville: Grieving, but still a community

Cindy Norvell, M.D., a physician at Long Valley Health Center for 16 years, will take a one-year medical leave from the clinic, according to Executive Director Rod Grainger.

Grainger made the announcement at an emotional community healing circle Monday, August 3, at Harwood Hall in Laytonville, where more than 40 people gathered to share and sort out their feelings about the Norvell/Palmieri family tragedy.

Grainger said the clinic will hire a temporary replacement immediately and may seek another permanent physician even if Norvell, now discharged from the hospital, returns to work.

On July 19, Norvell, 54, and her brother Theodore Norvell, 52, a Newfoundland, Canada, professor of computer engineering, were attacked by 19-year-old Talen Clark Barton of Laytonville.

Barton, who was living at the Norvell/Palmieri home, pled "not guilty" on Tuesday, August 4 to the attempted murder of Norvell and her brother, as well as to the fatal stabbings of Norvell's son, Teo Palmieri, 17, and his father, Coleman Palmieri, 52. Barton was also charged with false imprisonment of two teenage girls - Norvell's daughter and niece.

This first community healing circle was hosted by Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center and Long Valley Health Center, which will hold similar circles every Monday night in August at 6 pm.

The gatherings will continue "for as long as people need and want to gather," said Traci Pellar, a Laytonville resident and KPFN FM radio host, who organized the event.

With pillows to hug, plenty of tissues, and dinner provided, people were able to share their shock and grief at the violent tragedy in a nurturing environment.

Counselor Ben Anderson, a social worker and primary care counselor from Mendocino Community Health Clinic in Ukiah, facilitated Monday's healing circle.

Anderson described as "fluid" the stages of grief outlined by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross - denial, anger, bargaining ("Maybe I'll wake up tomorrow and find out this didn't really happen"), depression and acceptance. If not expressed in a healthy way, Anderson said, suppressed shock and grief may lead to anxiety and depression. Connecting with others, he said, is an important part of recovery.

Anderson urged those gathered not to blame themselves for what happened.

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

Rocky fire relief fund

To the Editor:

As the Rocky Fire dies down, those affected can start to take stock of what has happened. Thousands of evacuees will go home to assess the damages. Fortunately for most, they will have a home to return to; for those who don't, it's the start of a long, painful and expensive road back to normalcy. Even for those without property damage, many evacuees spend their savings on hotels and eating out. For them, the process of rebuilding a safety net can take a long time.

In the wake of such a widespread disaster affecting so many Lake County residents, one question comes up over and over again: "How can I help?" The generosity of the human spirit is never more apparent than during a time of crisis. In the spirit of providing an outlet for that generosity, North Coast Opportunities, MendoLake Credit Union, and the Lake County Social Services Department have teamed up to create a fund for those affected by the Rocky Fire.

MCLU is an active presence in Lake County and is committed to the communities it serves. MCLU will match the first \$5,000 in donations, effectively doubling donors' dollars. "One-third of our membership base is located in Lake County, and our Clearlake office has already seen the need from members who have lost everything," said MLCU CEO Richard Cooper. "MLCU is all about people helping people, and our mission is to support the economic wellbeing of the communities we serve."

NCO is the "community action agency" for Lake and Mendocino counties, and part of its mission is to serve those in need during emergency situations. The fund was officially set up by NCO as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. "Our values as an organization and as concerned citizens compelled us to act," said NCO Executive Director Patty Bruder. "As soon as the fund was set up, word got out and donations started coming in. It's heart-warming to see people rallying around those affected by the fire."

The fund will be managed by a committee that is currently being formed. Although Lake County doesn't have a "voluntary organizations active in disaster" group, NCO is active in Mendocino County's VOAD and will apply those policies to creating the committee. It will include employees and/or board members of NCO, MLCU, and the Lake County Social Services Department, plus an equal number of Lake County representatives from other organizations and the general community. Those affected by the fire can apply for assistance, and the committee will determine how to distribute the funds once the fire has been fully contained and all impacts can be assessed. More details will be available about how to apply for the fund on both NCO and MLCU's websites and Facebook accounts.

MCLU Director of Marketing and Community Outreach Jamey Gill lives on Cobb Mountain, and has seen firsthand the effects of the fire on her fellow Lake County residents. "Several of our own team members live in the fire zone, so this is very close to home for all of us," explains Gill. She will serve on the committee tasked with administering and disbursing the fund.

During a town hall meeting in Lakeport on August 6, Senator Mike McGuire and several Lake County officials gave updates on the Rocky Fire, and MLCU was mentioned several times as a "safe place" to make monetary donations. Unfortunately, while most people want to help, there are always a few who try to capitalize on the misfortune of others. Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin encouraged people to donate only to reputable organizations, including the MLCU/NCO fund.

"It's important to note that 100 percent of funds collected will go straight to those affected," Bruder points out. "We will not use any of it to cover administrative costs." She also notes that all donations are tax deductible.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Rocky Fire relief fund can go in person to any MLCU branch, or send a check to MLCU with "Rocky Fire" in the notes field. There is also a

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.

Willits Weekly

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For advertising inquiries, please call 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

PayPal account set up to accept online donations, which can be found on the front pages of both the NCO and MLCU websites. For more information on how to donate, how to apply for funds, or how to apply to serve on the management committee, contact NCO Executive Assistant Elizabeth Archer at earcher@ncoinc.org or 467-3210.

North Coast Opportunities and MendoLake Credit Union

Bobcat trapping banned

To the Editor:

The ground shook on August 5, 2015. No, it wasn't an earthquake. It was a momentous decision made by the California Fish & Game Commission to end the long-held practice of bobcat trapping in the state of California.

Trapping and killing these magnificent wild animals for their fur pelts, once considered a proud part of California's heritage, is now considered a cruel blood sport for frivolous purpose by the great majority of Californians. Three of the five commissioners had the insight to recognize that times have changed, and had the courage to vote a ban on this barbaric tradition. That is a ground-breaking decision.

Today in California wild animals face tremendous survival pressures from the extreme drought we are all experiencing, habitat loss due to human development, and human predation. At this time in our history, it is imperative that we humans learn how to live with our wild animal neighbors rather than targeting them for fun and profit.

In Mendocino County, our board of supervisors persists in its policy of lethal wildlife control, even though a great majority of county residents want a policy that prioritizes non-lethal methods. Mendocino County supervisors need to take a lesson from the California Fish & Game Commission, and catch up with the changing times.

Jon Spitz, Laytonville

Voting rights for women

To the Editor:

Today, we honor the women who came before us. They toiled and suffered to achieve the same rights as their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. We – the League of Women Voters and the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition – are celebrating the 95th anniversary of women in the United States winning the right to vote, on Saturday, August 22 on the Kelley House lawn in Mendocino, from 1:15 to 4 pm.

On August 26, 1920, after three generations of an unrelenting, brilliant, courageous, political campaign, women in the United States won the right to vote. To honor and commemorate the historic date of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Congresswoman Bella Abzug introduced a Congressional resolution to ensure this date would be commemorated with the designation of "Women's Equality Day," which is celebrated on August 26 each year.

We will celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave American women the right to vote, with music by the Mendocino Coast Women's Choir, oral histories, poetry and speeches. This is a proud tradition which we have enacted in 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010. The League of Women Voters and the Cloud Forest Institute will join us in this celebration. Please join us.

We are preparing a program for this event. If you wish to be acknowledged in the program, please send \$25 to MWPC, Box 1140, Ukiah, CA 95482, including your name and business name. For more information, check the

Ginger Pohlsen, for the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition

Move to Amend

To the Editor:

Northern California Move To Amend leaders from Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma counties are traveling to Sacramento to meet with District 2 legislators Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblyman Jim Wood on Wednesday, August 19, in their capitol offices to explore how the California Senate and Assembly can support the effort to pass the We The People U.S. Constitutional Amendment (HJR48).

The amendment was first introduced in the House of Representatives in 2013, was reintroduced in April 2015, and is cosponsored by North Coast Congressman Jared Huffman.

The amendment clarifies that Constitutional rights are for natural persons only and that political spending is not free speech and can be regulated. The Supreme Court's Citizens United decision of 2010 overturned most of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law and reaffirmed earlier rulings that corporations, as artificial persons under the law, have the same Constitutional rights as human beings.

Move to Amend's supporters are eager to help California join other states that have either passed or are in the process of enacting resolutions urging Congress to pass such an amendment. Many California cities, counties and organizations and several states have passed resolutions and endorsements supporting the We The People amendment. More information about Move to Amend is on their website, movetoamend.org. For further information contact Susan Nutter at snutter@mcn.org, 707-964-3711.

Margaret Koster, Willits

Watercolor classes

To the Editor:

Do you like to travel or want to keep a sketchbook/journal to record your thoughts and observations? Watercolor is quick, clean and portable. Vibrant colors make it one of the most exciting and expressive mediums. There is nothing like painting with fluid watercolor!

Check out the Fall 2015 watercolor class I am teaching here in Willits, available through Mendocino College, starting August 24 and running through December 18.

It will be a combined beginning and intermediate class, Monday and Wednesday, from 1 to 4 pm. The beginning level will teach basic sketching and drawing skills, and no experience is necessary. The intermediate level will include study of light and shadow, and portraying water.

Classes are held in Room 2 at the Willits Little Lake Grange, School and Pine streets.

There are still openings in the class. Come join us! Don't have supplies? Your class material fee will provide you with paints and paper, and brushes are available locally. Come to the first August 24 meeting, and see why watercolor is one of the most exciting mediums. Materials provided for the first class, so you can try it out.

To sign up, go to "Mendocino College" on the Internet and then Web Advisor, to sign up for Art 222A (beginning) or Art 222B (intermediate). You can also go to or call Mendocino College's Willits Center on East Commercial Street to sign up (459-6224) or the Ukiah campus (468-3000). There is also an easy-to-fill-out fee waiver available.

Questions? Contact me at 984-6747 or greengables@wildblue.net.

Ann Maglinte, Willits

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

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"Mendocino Women's Political Coalition" page on Facebook.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights..." – Elizabeth Cady Stanton, The Declaration of Sentiments, Seneca Falls, 1848.



Awards Ceremony

Redwood Empire Fair honors youth exhibitors at end of fair

After the auction animals are loaded early Sunday morning, all that's left is to break camp, pack up the pens, and attend the Awards Ceremony which concludes the youth exhibitors' week-long festivities at the Redwood Empire Fair.

The seats at the Willow Tree stage are filled with exhausted and excited exhibitors who come to receive their auction checks, awards for grand champion, clean stall and other achievements, and most importantly, hear the announcement of the winners of the Round Robin showmanship contest.

The event was emceed by Lane Norvall of Fort Bragg Future Farmers of America and Tanner Whetzel of the Ukiah Shamrocks 4-H club. Kenzie Kornegay of Ukiah FFA and Ukiah Shamrocks 4-H sang "The Star Spangled Banner," Casey Looney of Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H gave the Pledge of Allegiance, Emma Braught of the Long Valley 4-H led the 4-H salute, and Sierra Skinner of the Willits FFA led the FFA salute.

Six exhibitors received scholarships from the Mendocino



At left: The winners of the Round Robin Contest pose with Bob Demple, center. Winners included, from left: 4-H Small Animal winner Wyatt Gaskell of Cole Creek 4-H, FFA Small Animal winner Kayla Smith of Willits FFA, FFA Large Animal winner Caitlyn Forrester of Willits FFA, and 4-H Large Animal winner Chancelyn Johnson of Potter Valley 4-H.

Below: Tanner Whetzel of Ukiah Shamrocks 4-H poses with Michael Braught as the crowd cheered for all Braught's hard work and dedication over the last four years.



The exhibitors of the grand and reserve champion market animals receive a plaque and their names on the perpetual trophies. This year, a new class was added, market turkeys, and grand champion went to Annabelle Hallman of Potter Valley 4-H and reserve to Kaylee Novo of Willits FFA.

The grand champion market steer went to Casey Looney of Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H and reserve to Katie Brown of Potter Valley 4-H. The grand champion market lamb went to Chancelyn Johnson of Potter Valley 4-H and reserve to her brother Cooper Johnson of Potter Valley FFA. The grand champion market hog went to Scott Dailey of Potter Valley FFA and reserve to Kevin Amundson of Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H.

The grand champion market goat went to Madison Forrester of Willits 4-H and reserve to Claire Case-Brackett of Willits 4-H. The grand champion poultry meat pen went to Alexis Madrigal of Anderson Valley FFA and reserve to Christian Kuny of Anderson Valley FFA. The grand champion rabbit meat pen went to Stephany Brundage of Willits 4-H and reserve to Mackenzie Portlock of Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H.

A perpetual sportsmanship trophy is also awarded to someone who "cheerfully follows the rules of their respective organization, is helpful to others, especially newer and youngsters members and shares their knowledge learned in the club. Whether winning or losing, they exhibit a good attitude and follow their projects to completion through the end of the fair." This year, the award was given to Willits 4-H's Keely Ahders who, despite a challenging situation that disqualified her rabbits from auction, helped fellow members show and sell their pens, aided with showmanship practice, and more. Her composure and great attitude was

Read the rest of Awards Over on Page 6



At top, left: Keely Ahders of Willits 4-H hugs Leader of the Year winner Kim Pinson at the awards ceremony.

At top, right: The CloverBud Primary members who were recognized and welcomed to the ice cream social following the event.

At left: All the FFA and 4-H members who participated in the large animal and small animal Round Robin contest this year. They are all winners in their species category and competed with other winners for the overall title.

Above: Claire Case-Brackett of Willits 4-H, winner of the Grand Champion Reserve Market Goat, poses with presenter Sierra Skinner of the Willits FFA.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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Sudoku

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

How To Sudoku:

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

Crossword Puzzle

		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9			
10	11								12					
13									14					
15									16					
17									18					
19			20						21					
22				23	24	25	26		27					
28									29	30	31	32		
				33								35		
					36							37		
						38						39		
									40			41	42	43
44						45	46	47						
48								49						
50														

CLUES ACROSS

- Molten rocks
- More (Spanish)
- Artists' workrooms
- Radiant light around an object
- More threadbare
- Moses' elder brother
- Become aware of
- Exclamation of relief
- Swiss river
- Mimics
- Colored fabric
- A bunch of bills
- Despised
- "Today's" Roker
- "Twilight Zone" host
- Three-toed sloth
- Actor
- Lawyer's organization
- Maldives capital
- In bed
- Wedgelike metal fastener
- Winglike structures

CLUES DOWN

- Unkind
- Vestments
- A denusive remark
- Japanese apricot
- They ___
- Soviet Socialist Republics
- Arad river
- Lined up one beside another
- Diego, Francisco or Anselmo
- One who analyzes metals
- To that place

CLUES ACROSS

- Mesoamerican resin
- Glasses
- Green
- Large South American burrowing rodent
- Shoulder blades
- Noah's boat
- A female ogre
- Expressed pleasure
- Fills with horror
- Find a sum
- Cognizant
- Female making debut in society
- Members of U.S. Navy
- A group of three
- And, Latin
- Fall back time
- What was that?
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- American/Canadian falls
- North Palestine region
- Bird beak
- Manila hemp
- Smart
- Three-banded armadillo
- Short cloak
- Scops owl genus
- 100 = 1 afghani
- A health resort
- Equal, prefix
- Microgram
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OBITUARY |

Jacky Deaton

Jacky Darrel Deaton, age 61, passed away July 29, 2015 at his home in Willits, with family at his bedside.



Born to John and Audie Deaton on December 1, 1953 in Garberville, he was the youngest of 13. He graduated from Willits High School and worked in the lumber industry. Jacky loved watching and going to Nascar races. His favorite driver was #3, Dale Earnhardt.

Jacky is survived by his wife of 29 years, Deanna Marie Deaton; two daughters by a previous marriage: Diana Deaton (and her daughter, Bonnie), and Vanessa (Frank) Nordhagen (and their children, Hayly and Gabriel); five siblings: Johnny Deaton, Betty James, Jean Holmes, Bessie Crane and Kaye Gartemaker; sister-in-law, Myrtle Deaton; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 10 am Friday, August 14, 2015 at Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel.

It's time for another round of

Willits Weekly's 'Phrase Find'

Match the phrases below to their specific advertisement in this edition for a chance at a prize!

Every month, a random week – or multiple weeks – will be chosen for Willits Weekly to run our Phrase Find contest. The contest will feature five phrases that can each be found in an ad in the current edition. Each phrase will match only one advertisement. The first person to EMAIL the correct answers to willitsweekly@gmail.com will win a prize.

For this week's prize, you can win TWO FREE TICKETS TO NOYO THEATRE

Answers will only count as correct if they include the COMPLETE NAME OF THE BUSINESS, as shown on the ad where the phrase is found. Winners will be replied to via email and will receive instructions on how to get their prize at that time.

Winners will also be publicly announced in the next round of Phrase Find. Phrase Find will be run on random weeks at random intervals, so make sure to check often to see if the current edition contains the contest.

Phrases will only be pulled from regular display advertisements: not from classifieds, news stories, letters to the editor, Calendar or other editorial content. Facebook posts, messages, texts, phone calls, personal conversations or any other form of communication will not be counted as entries.

All entries must be emailed to: willitsweekly@gmail.com only. Email time stamps/order in inbox will indicate the winner in the event of a tie.

- Where will "Canning Demonstrations" be held?
- Where should you "Call Joe"?
- Where is "Single Ply" an option?
- Where can you get a great "CAR WASH"?
- Where is there an "EVENING SESSION"?

Willits Weekly's Phrase Find – August 13, 2015
EMAIL answers to willitsweekly@gmail.com

Previous Contest Winner:
Melodee Scofield

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Willits Weekly
willitsweekly@gmail.com

CORNER

Groceries
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Pay at the Pump
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459-4854
1799 So. Main St.
P.O. Box 428

7 am to 11 pm
365 Days a Year



Above from left: The aisles at Willits Power & Hardware are filled with new items. Fun Mason jar add-ons like this piggy bank make great quick gifts. The Pratt & Lambert paint display at the center of the store.

At right: Owner Mike Garrity, at left, with mechanics George Thom and Rocky Stansberry in the service shop just next door to the main store.

Far right: Misty Gonzales with Rascal, at left, Emily Patterson, Rosanna Franceschini, Grady and Mary Fonsen, and Jose Lara.

At right, below: Hoses, shovels and other garden tools now available. At right, bottom: The Carhartt section at Willits Power & Hardware.

Photos by Maureen Moore



The New Willits Power & Hardware

Hardware store added to equipment service and rental shop

Almost one year ago, changes were set in motion for Willits Power Equipment to grow to include a fully stocked Do It Best hardware store. Today, the shelves are filled, and owner Mike Garrity invites everyone to come see the new space.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photography
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Garrity invites everyone to come see the new space.

"We wanted to give the south end of Willits a hardware store option so people didn't have to drive across town or go to Ukiah for their shopping needs," explained Garrity. "We've expanded from our power equipment sales and service shop to also include all the hardware essentials – plumbing, electrical, paint, kitchen supplies, pet food, gardening tools and much more – we're happy to be a one-stop shop."

Being a partner with Do It Best also allows customers to shop online and have orders ship to the store for free. Their website www.DoItBest.com

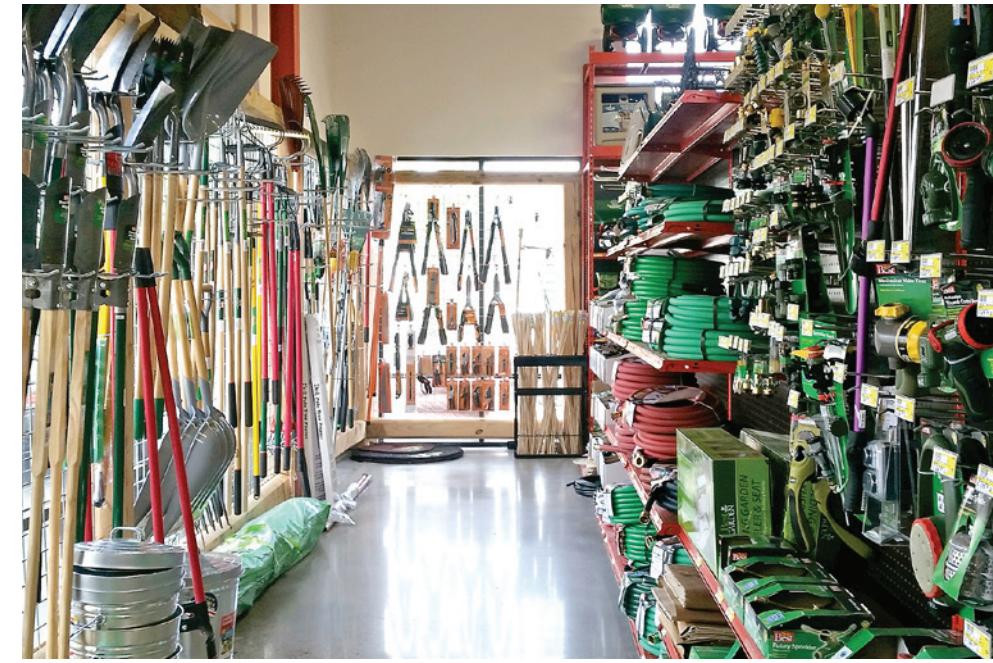
has 67,000 items available to purchase, right through Willits Power and Hardware.

But the in-store, instant-gratification selection is great, too, and the staff wants people to come in and see everything that's in stock. Pumps and pipe fittings, ice chests, canning jars, hoses, Pratt & Lambert paint, key-making services, and Taste of the Wild and Blue Buffalo pet food are just some of the new items available at Willits Power & Hardware.

That's not to say there's not still a plethora of power equipment, chain saws, mowers, weed eaters, generators and much more that you can still purchase, or rent.

Equipment rental, servicing and sales are still a huge focus of Willits Power & Hardware. They are proud to offer a price match guarantee on Honda, Husqvarna and Stihl items – from other stores or from online retailers – even Amazon. Bring in

Read the rest of **Hardware** | Over on Page 6



SATURDAY

SLOT TOURNAMENTS

August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

EARLY SESSION

1ST PRIZE...\$100 CASH
2ND PRIZE...\$50 CASH
3RD PRIZE...\$30 CASH
4TH THRU 6TH...\$25 FREE PLAY (EACH)

Registration starts at 11A
Tournament Starts at 1P
-40 Points redeemed (points must be earned on the particular Saturday)
-Limited space available
-3 Minute Tournament

EVENING SESSION

1ST PRIZE...\$200 CASH
2ND PRIZE...\$150 CASH
3RD PRIZE...\$100 CASH
4TH THRU 6TH...\$50 FREE PLAY (EACH)

Registration starts at 6P
Tournament starts at 8P
80 Points redeemed (points must be earned on the particular Saturday)
-Limited space available
-3 Minute Tournament

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

100 Kawi Place, Willits 707-459-7330 www.svrcasino.com

Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter any promotion with little or no notice.

The rest of
Awards
From Page 3

a shining example of good sportsmanship.

Each winner of their species' advanced showmanship class participated in the Round Robin competition, where they had a chance to compete against all the other winners in their large or small animal groups. Small animal includes cavy, dog, pygmy goat, poultry, rabbit and turkey. Large animal includes beef, dairy goat, horse, meat goat, sheep and swine.

The best showman who is able to handle all the species the best wins the overall award and an embroidered jacket sponsored by Bob Dempel and family. There are four winners: large and small animal FFA and large and small animal 4-H.

The small animal 4-H winners included: first place and cavy-qualifier Wyatt Gaskell of Cole Creek 4-H; second place and dog-qualifier Emma Farrell of Cole Creek 4-H; third place and poultry-qualifier Briley Penry of Potter Valley 4-H; fourth place and rabbit-qualifier Keely Ahders of Willits 4-H; fifth place and pygmy-goat qualifier Grace Croskey of Willits 4-H; and sixth place and turkey-qualifier Annabelle Hallman of Potter Valley 4-H.

Large animal 4-H winners included: first place and sheep-qualifier Chancelyn Johnson of Potter Valley 4-H; second place and meat-goat-qualifier Emma Braught of Long Valley 4-H; third place and beef-qualifier Casey Looney of Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H; fourth place and swine-qualifier Trenton Williams of Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H; fifth place and horse-qualifier Samantha Arms of Willits 4-H; and sixth place and dairy-goat qualifier Hannah McMenomy of Potter Valley 4-H.

Small animal FFA winners included: first place and rabbit-qualifier Kayla Smith of Willits FFA; second place and dog-qualifier Caitlyn Forrester of Willits FFA; third place and poultry-qualifier Alexis Madrigal of Anderson Valley FFA; and fourth place and turkey-qualifier Kaylee Novo of Willits FFA.

Large animal FFA winners included: first place and sheep-qualifier Caitlyn Forrester of Willits FFA; second place and beef-qualifier Julie Brown of Ukiah FFA; third place and horse-qualifier Jacob Crowhurst of Ukiah FFA; fourth place and dairy-cattle-qualifier Morgan Riley of Willits FFA; fifth place and meat-goat-qualifier Romario Espinoza of Anderson Valley FFA; sixth place and dairy-goat-qualifier Mackenzie Vest, an independent exhibitor; and seventh place to Ethan Reed of Anderson Valley FFA, who represented FFA in the Round Robin swine showmanship class.

The event concluded with the announcement of the clean stall winners who, along with the young Cloverbud Primary members, are invited to attend the ice cream social hosted by Jay Epstein Insurance of Ukiah. Clean stall winners included: Long Valley 4-H, Ukiah FFA and Willits Independent for beef; Willits FFA for dairy cattle; Ukiah Shamrocks 4-H and Willits FFA for goats; Potter Valley 4-H and Anderson Valley FFA for poultry; Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H for rabbits; Willits 4-H and Willits FFA for sheep; and Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H and Anderson Valley FFA for swine.

Results provided by Redwood Empire Fair.

The rest of
Auction
From Page 1

own stock to fair," explained Braught.

"We were proud to buy Madison's Grand Champion goat last year, too," said Jason Hartje of Mendocino Roofing. "We enjoy goat meat, and like to support the kids in the community. It just depends on the judge, how the animal shows, and sometimes the luck of the draw, but if you win Grand Champion goat, I want to buy it! It's like getting the golden ticket, and we are happy to support kids getting out and doing things, getting sweaty and dirty, and working on these animal projects. I want to support that any way I can."

Though Mendocino Roofing is based in Redwood Valley, Hartje's Willits connection runs strong, as his grandfather started the company back in Willits in the 1970s. Now a third-generation business owner, Hartje noted he likes to support Willits in return, and buying Willits animals at the fair is a nice way for Mendocino Roofing to do just that.

Helping provide the exhibitors with a nice check also creates a connection with being a part of the kids' futures.

"I have a stake in their schooling, can help set them up with getting a vehicle.... It creates a great connection with a family that you get to be a part of helping those kids move forward with their education or life," explained Hartje. "We are always excited to come to the fair. Usually I come for the goat show on Wednesday, and meet and greet the exhibitors on Thursday, but this year I was on vacation, so I cut it short to make sure to be here to attend the auction and bid on the animals these kids have worked so hard to raise."

Between the 237 lots, a grand total of \$628,595.51 was raised. The nine poultry meat pens contributed \$11,675 to the total, with an average price per pound of \$1,297; the 30 steer lots contributed \$200,731.25 to the total, with an average price per pound of \$5.33; the 33 lamb lots contributed \$69,043 to the total, with an average price per pound of \$15.94; the 130 hog lots contributed \$294,467.26 to the total, with an average price per pound of \$8.56; the 30 goat lots contributed \$46,679 to the total, with an average price per pound of \$17.70; and the five rabbit meat pens contributed \$6,000 to the total with an average price per pound of \$1,200.

The seven grand champion animals alone contributed an impressive \$43,825 to the overall total. The 274-pound Grand Champion Market Hog raised by Scotty Dailey of Potter Valley FFA sold to Thurston Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram for \$26 per pound; the 100-pound Grand Champion Market Goat raised by Madison Forrester of Willits 4-H sold to Mendocino Roofing, Inc. for \$56 per pound; the 1,322-pound Grand Champion Market Steer raised by Casey Looney of Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H sold to Thurston Auto Plaza for \$15.50 per pound; the 137-pound Grand Champion Market Lamb raised by Chancelyn Johnson sold to Ukiah Grocery Outlet for \$30 per pound; the Grand Champion Poultry Meat Pen raised by Alexis Madrigal of Anderson Valley FFA sold to Ukiah Taco Bell for \$1,700; the Grand Champion Rabbit Meat Pen raised by Stephany Brundage of Willits 4-H sold to Willits Grocery Outlet for \$2,300; and the Grand Champion Market Turkey raised by Annabelle Hallman of Potter Valley 4-H sold to Friedman's Home Improvement - Ukiah for \$2,500.

There were 96 exhibitors representing FFA chapters or 4-H clubs from Willits, Laytonville and Covelo, and they are listed below in lot order with their animal, price and buyer. Great job to all the 2015 exhibitors, and a big thank you to all the buyers who came to support the auction.

Madison Forrester of Willits 4-H sold her 100-pound Grand Champion market goat to Mendocino Roofing, Inc. for \$56 per pound; Stephany Brundage of Willits 4-H sold her Grand Champion Rabbit Meat Pen to Willits Grocery Outlet for \$2,300; Claire Case-Brackett of the Willits 4-H sold her 80-pound Reserve Grand Champion market goat to Renner Petroleum for \$22.50 per pound; Kaylee Novo of the Willits FFA sold her Reserve Grand Champion market turkey to Willits Grocery Outlet for \$1,600; Timothy Buzzard, Jr. of the Willits FFA sold his 262-pound FFA Reserve Champion market hog to Sherwood Valley-Early James for \$8.50 per pound; Kayla Smith of the Willits FFA sold her 143-pound FFA Reserve Champion market lamb to Sparetime Supply for \$20 per pound; Hannah Deshiell of the Willits FFA sold her FFA Champion rabbit meat pen to Ukiah Taco Bell for \$950; Ian Seymour of the Willits FFA sold his 1,310-pound FFA Reserve Champion market steer to Noyo Trawlers Association for \$5 per pound; and Lilah Garman of the Willits 4-H sold her 122-pound 4-H Reserve Champion market

The rest of
Hardware
From Page 5

a print ad or show online pricing on your smart phone, and Willits Power & Hardware will help you keep your dollars local.

If you already own a machine that may need a little upkeep, their four on-staff mechanics are available seven days a week to help you with your machinery.

Rentals are available for all kinds of items, from small saws all the way up to huge excavators, plus log splitters, post hole pounders.... The list is long.

The Carhartt clothing section is still filled to the brim, too, with high-quality pants, coats,

lamb to Born and Raised in Mendocino County for \$19 per pound.

Jerladine Hoagglen of Round Valley 4-H sold her 233-pound Champion Duroc market hog to Hidden Oaks Casino for \$9.25 per pound; Justin Nelson of Round Valley 4-H sold his 268-pound Champion "all other breed" market hog to Keith's Family Food Store for \$8 per pound; Emma Braught of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 93-pound market goat to Wine Country Termites for \$29 per pound; Christian Erickson of the Willits 4-H sold his 268-pound market hog to Les Schwab Tire Center of Willits for \$7.75 per pound; Kassandra Basler of Long Valley 4-H sold her 79-pound market goat to Dan Campbell for \$15 per pound; Honey Bienvenu of Round Valley 4-H sold her 280-pound market hog to Covelo Western Auto, Inc. for \$7 per pound; Jordan Luna of Long Valley 4-H sold his 280-pound market hog to Sparetime Supply for \$8.50 per pound; and Taylor Drew of Willits 4-H sold his 280-pound market hog to Acme Rigging for \$8 per pound.

Kodan Fryman of Willits 4-H sold his 258-pound market hog to Mendocino Animal Hospital for \$7.50 per pound; Destiney Gamez-Webb of Willits FFA sold her 68-pound market goat to Friedman's Home Improvement for \$16 per pound; Macy Hurt of Round Valley 4-H sold her 255-pound market hog to Cold Creek Compost for \$7.50 per pound; Ethan Ferguson of Willits 4-H sold his 237-pound market hog to Safeway of Willits for \$8.50 per pound; Joshlyn Tuttle of Round Valley 4-H sold her 280-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Housing Authority for \$8 per pound; Haily Findley of the Willits FFA sold her 280-pound market hog to Savings Bank of Mendocino County for \$8.50 per pound; Kyleena Amador of Willits FFA sold her 280-pound market hog to Sparetime Supply for \$9.50 per pound; and Devin Heiken of Willits FFA sold his 229-pound market hog to Dr. Jeremiah Dawson, Dr. Ted Dawson & Dr. Crosby for \$8.50 per pound.

Ryan LaCount of the Willits FFA sold his 112-pound market goat to Sky Rock Ranch for \$12.50 per pound; Colin Doak of the Willits FFA sold his 280-pound market hog to Shuster Transportation for \$9.50 per pound; Taylor Buzzard of the Willits FFA sold her 280-pound market hog to Mendo Mill & Lumber for \$8 per pound; Hunter Brackett of the Willits FFA sold his 257-pound market hog to Sparetime Supply for \$10 per pound; Ben Branscomb of the Willits FFA sold his 232-pound market hog to Vic Weaver for \$8.50 per pound; Mariah Ochoa of the Willits 4-H sold her 100-pound market goat to Mendocino County Farm Supply for \$15 per pound; Hazel Bowes of Round Valley 4-H sold her 280-pound market hog to Hidden Oaks Casino for \$6.75 per pound; and Ashtan Weeks of the Willits 4-H sold her 250-pound market hog to 101 Trailer and RV for \$8.50 per pound.

Cruz Erickson of the Willits 4-H sold his 280-pound market hog to Willits Redwood Company for \$9.25 per pound; Matt Edwards of Covelo FFA sold his 1,261-pound market steer to Ukiah Taco Bell for \$4.50 per pound; Jessica Buzzard of the Willits 4-H sold her 254-pound market hog to Weathertop Nursery for \$9.25 per pound; Elizabeth Rountree of Willits FFA sold her 1,158-pound market steer to Nor-Cal Recycled Rock and Aggregates for \$3.25 per pound; Jacob Arms of the Willits 4-H sold his 271-pound market hog to Yokum's Body Shop for \$8.50 per pound; Tyler Bruno of Round Valley 4-H sold his 262-pound market hog to Hoppers Corner Saloon for \$8 per pound; Lance Burgess of the Willits FFA sold his 145-pound market lamb to Garman Family Land Company for \$14 per pound; Jocey Thiemann of Round Valley 4-H sold her 1,262-pound market steer to Ukiah Taco Bell for \$3.50 per pound; and Kayla Lyon of Willits FFA sold her market lamb to Sky Rock Ranch for \$9 per pound.

Jacobi Smith of Willits 4-H sold his 280-pound market hog to Gravier's Chevron - Laytonville for \$6.50 per pound; William England of the Willits 4-H sold his 280-pound market hog to Nor-Cal Recycled Rock and Aggregates for \$11.50 per pound; Kirsten Britton of Round Valley 4-H sold her 273-pound market hog to M&M Feed for \$7.25 per pound; Wyatt Silva of Long Valley 4-H sold his 1,311-pound market steer to Eel River Fuels, Inc. for \$3.75 per pound; Tanner Drew of Willits 4-H sold his 267-pound market hog to 101 Trailer and RV for \$9 per pound; Paige Whitcomb of Long Valley 4-H sold her 261-pound market hog to Anderson Logging for \$9.25 per pound; Darrell Buzzard, Jr. sold his 280-pound market hog to Peterson Tractor Co. for \$6.75 per pound; Morgan Riley of Willits FFA sold her 88-pound market goat to Anker-Lucier Mortuary for \$17 per pound; and Quade Smith of Round Valley 4-H sold his 280-pound market hog to Northern Aggregates for \$7.50 per pound.

Grace Croskey of Willits 4-H sold her 89-pound market goat to Mendocino County

shoes, socks and jackets. Men's, women's and children's selections are found throughout the store. Work boots by Redwing and Georgia Boot line the walls, and Keens and BOGS can help keep your toes wet in the river or dry in the rain.

The Rascal's Rescue table is located across from the front register and offers a selection of hand-crafted goodies and fun trinkets to help fundraise for the animal charity.

After her own dog, Rascal, had to endure a pricey surgery several years ago, Willits Power Manager Misty Gonzales decided to create an account that could be used to help pay for emergency veterinary bills for people

Farm Supply for \$25 per pound; Hailey Riley of Willits FFA sold her 145-pound market lamb to Willits Power and Hardware for \$21 per pound; Emma Garman of the Willits 4-H sold her 124-pound market lamb to Geiger's Long Valley Market for \$16 per pound; Brandon Mendenhall of Willits FFA sold his 263-pound market hog to Bud Garman Construction for \$8 per pound; Samantha Arms of the Willits 4-H sold her 141-pound market lamb to Mendocino Forest Products for \$15 per pound; Tyler Thornsberry of Willits FFA sold his 223-pound market hog to Coastal Mountain Business Services for \$8.50 per pound; Cody Pedersen of the Willits FFA sold his 85-pound market goat to Alfred Kerr, DDS for \$15 per pound; Lakota Hoaglen of Covelo FFA sold her 280-pound market hog to M&M Feed for \$7 per pound; Emmy Heiken of Willits FFA sold her 271-pound market hog to Alisha Roysum for \$8 per pound; and Jaden Doak of Willits 4-H sold her 1,350-pound market steer to Sparetime Supply for \$4 per pound.

Jonah Lindsey of Covelo FFA sold his 280-pound market hog to Keith's Family Food Store for \$8 per pound; Dante Gray of Willits FFA sold his 249-pound market hog to J&M Sheetmetal, Inc. for \$7 per pound; Chah-lahl Whipple of Covelo FFA sold her 280-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$7 per pound; Jasmine Mendoza of Willits 4-H sold her 140-pound market lamb to Chase Vineyard for \$10.50 per pound; Clayton Tuttle, Jr. of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 278-pound market hog to M&M Feed for \$6.75 per pound; David Mann of the Willits 4-H sold his 87-pound market goat to Shuster Transportation for \$9 per pound; Dylan Guerra of Round Valley 4-H sold his 1,195-pound market steer to Hidden Oaks Casino for \$4 per pound; Marquita Want of Round Valley 4-H sold her 248-pound market hog to Uptown Mercantile for \$7.50 per pound; and Grant Forrester of the Willits 4-H sold his 96-pound market goat to Donahoo, Inc. for \$25 per pound.

Maiya Escalera of Round Valley 4-H sold her 241-pound market hog to Uptown Mercantile for \$7.25 per pound; Grace Horgor sold her 1,350-pound market steer to Selzer Realty for \$3.50 per pound; Nadia Davila of Round Valley 4-H sold her 94-pound market goat to Rainbow Ag Services for \$16 per pound; Evan Flamer of Willits 4-H sold his 280-pound market hog to Digger's Bar and No Grill for \$9.50 per pound; Keegan Reed of Willits 4-H sold his 273-pound market hog to Round Tree Glass for \$7.50 per pound; Hunter Guerra of Round Valley 4-H sold his 1,268-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$4.50 per pound; Angelica Pete of Round Valley 4-H sold her 254-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Housing Authority for \$7.75 per pound; Antonia Whipple of Round Valley 4-H sold her 250-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Health Center for \$6.75 per pound; Leviathan Bowes of Round Valley 4-H sold his 247-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$7.75 per pound; Sarah Compa of Willits FFA sold her 280-pound market hog to Shuster Transportation for \$6.50 per pound; Gracie Bauer of Round Valley 4-H sold her 1,350-pound market steer to Hidden Oaks Casino for \$4.25 per pound; and Konner Reed of Willits FFA sold his 280-pound market hog to Shuster Transportation for \$6.25 per pound.

Caitlyn Forrester of Willits FFA sold her 1,330-pound market steer to Ukiah Taco Bell for \$5 per pound; Sierra Mayfield of Willits 4-H sold her 275-pound market hog to Ukiah Waste Solutions for \$7.50 per pound; Kaiden Britton of Round Valley 4-H sold his 1,308-pound market steer to Round Valley Indian Health Center for \$4.50 per pound; Frank Nunemaker of Willits 4-H sold his 270-pound market hog to Sparetime Supply for \$7 per pound; Haley Whitcomb of Long Valley 4-H sold her 1,109-pound market steer to Anderson Logging for \$5.50 per pound; and Justin Verdort of Willits FFA sold his 256-pound market hog to Sparetime Supply for \$10 per pound.

Bailey Ferguson of Willits FFA sold her 277-pound market hog to Round Tree Glass for \$7.25 per pound; Lucas Branscomb of Willits 4-H sold his 280-pound market hog to Sparetime Supply for \$7.25 per pound; Carmen Davila of Round Valley 4-H sold her 87-pound market hog to M&M Feed for \$16 per pound; Leila Escalera of Round Valley 4-H sold her 256-pound market hog to Hidden Oaks Casino for \$7.50 per pound; Charlie Nunemaker of Willits 4-H sold his 280-pound market hog to 101 Trailer and RV for \$8 per pound; Lawrence Taylor of Long Valley 4-H sold his 265-pound market hog to Weathertop Nursery for \$7.25 per pound; and Laney Hendry of Willits 4-H sold her 123-pound market lamb to Barra of Mendocino for \$14 per pound.

Results provided by Redwood Empire Fair.

and animals in need. Partnering with Dr. Chana Eisenstein of East Hill Vet Clinic, Rascal's Rescue now helps with these unexpected bills, as well as helping to sponsor animal's adoption fees who are staying at the shelter to help find them homes.

Willits Power & Hardware is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm, Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. They are located at 1600 South Main Street at the south end of Willits.

Check them out on Facebook under "Willits Power & Hardware," for special sales and information, or give them a call at 459-6420.



Assemblyman Jim Wood makes a stop in Willits

Jim Wood stopped in at Willits' Brickhouse Coffee for a chat with Willits Weekly Tuesday afternoon, during a visit to Mendocino County, part of the 2nd Assembly District Wood represents in the California legislature.

The legislature is on summer recess. Wood was accompanied by aide Paul Ramey and Mendocino County constituent representative Ruth Valenzuela.

Wood visited constituents and organizations in Fort Bragg and Ukiah, as well as in Willits on this trip.

Conversation touched briefly on the wildland fires in Lake, Humboldt and Trinity counties, the recent fires in Willits, inmate firefighting crews (Sacramento's Capital Public Radio reported last week that of the 10,000 firefighters working fires in California at that time, 40 percent were inmate crews), the Willits bypass (bypass construction and its future impact on Willits), Main Street Merchants, and marijuana cultivation's effects on North Coast watersheds.

Wood was pleased that Gov. Jerry Brown, on Tuesday, signed Wood's AB 143 "Food in Small Wineries" bill, which will allow wineries to serve more packaged snack foods without having to get a local food permit.

Wood's AB 243, the "Marijuana Watershed Protection Act," which passed the Assembly on June 3, has been heard and passed in Senate committees, and will be heard on August 17 in the Senate Appropriations Committee.



Congrats to Sheriff Tom Allman

Congratulations to Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman, who was awarded the Western Fairs Association's "Blue Ribbon Award" by the Redwood Empire Fair Board of Directors this year. The "Blue Ribbon Award" is given to those individuals who have provided outstanding support to the fair industry.

Sheriff Allman and the other REF award winners were honored at the August 6 Redwood Empire Fair Directors Dinner held at the fairgrounds. Other awardees

were: Mel Grandi and Sheryn Hildebrand, each receiving an "Exemplary Service Award"; Walt Stornetta, "Agriculturist of the Year"; and Mendo Mill and Lumber Co., "Business of the Year."

From the REF brochure announcing the 2015 award winners: "Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman has spent the last 35 years as a law enforcement officer. He began his service in 1981 with the Fairfield Police Department in Solano County.

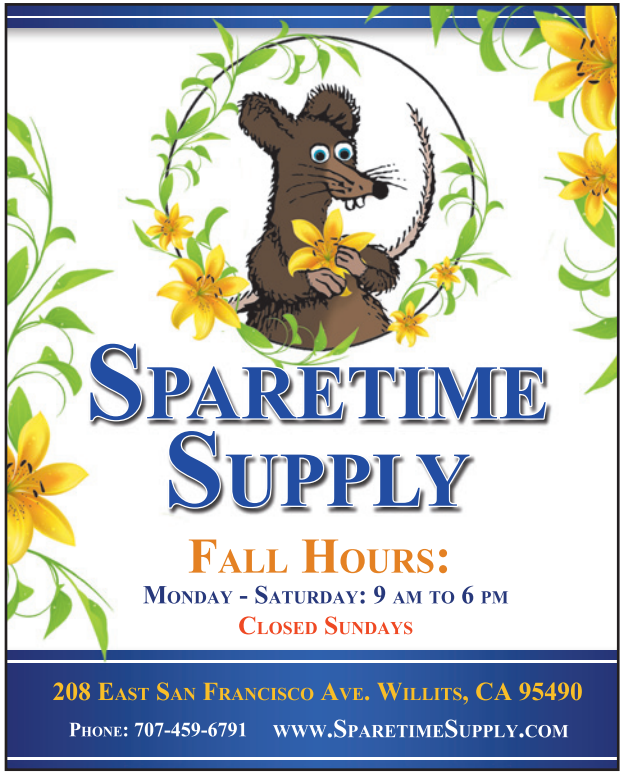
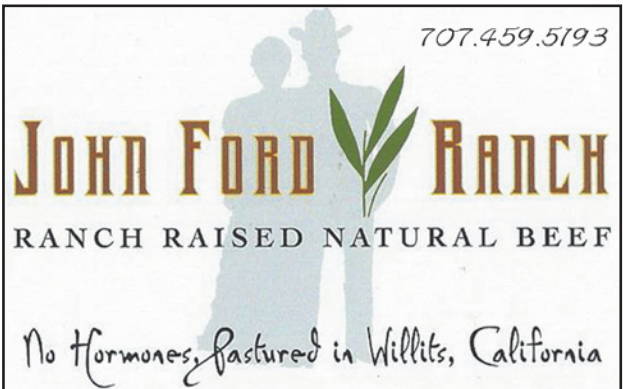
"From that time forward, he has worked in different areas and positions with Mendocino County, spending one year as a civilian peace keeper with the United Nations in Kosovo in 1999. He has



Read the rest of
Allman
Over on Page 11



\$20 Each - Buy now or order today!



Thursday, August 13

'The Cannabis Hour' on KZYX: host Jane Futchter and guests Noel Manners and Josh Artman (from Covelo) and Julia Carrera, all of the Small Farmers Association, will talk about what they're doing locally and in Sacramento to protect small farmers and promote sustainable farming practices.

Library Summer Reading Program: Today's "Every Hero Has a Story" program is "Dance Around the World".

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

WHS Boosters Club Meeting: The monthly WHS Boosters Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, August 13 at the Willits High School Food Center.

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly Jazz Night with local musicians. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming.

Public Meeting on Herbicide Use: Caltrans has announced it has pulled use of herbicides on bypass mitigation lands "off the table" for now, so has cancelled its scheduled meeting tonight, in this meeting, but locals opposed to herbicide use will host a public meeting anyway.

Friday, August 14

Close-E-Nuf: return to Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street. "Come listen and jam with seasoned musicians who love to entertain with good, classic rock n' roll."

Dancing at the Grange: An evening of dancing, with DJ selections of electronic music+ at the Little Lake Grange, 291

School Street. "Come and enjoy with friends." 8 pm. Free, or a small donation gladly accepted.

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

Saturday, August 15

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

WELL Garden Tour: This year's annual Willits Economic Localization garden tour will be "even more eco-friendly than ever," featuring home gardens all within easy walking distance in Westside Willits, and also featuring drought-tolerant "water wise" garden methods.

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly Jazz Night with local musicians. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming.

Summer Reading Awards and Party: The Willits Library's "Every Hero Has a Story" Summer Reading Program finishes up with a party: "Come be recognized for being summer reading heroes! Get some yummy treats and a free book from the Friends of the Willits Library."

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

Close-E-Nuf: return to Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street. "Come listen and jam with seasoned musicians who love to entertain with good, classic rock n' roll."



What's Happening Around Town

Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the event; if you are interested in helping with this 78-year-old tradition, contact Nikki Waldon at 707-984-8089.

Stand-Up Comedy at WCT: Internationally known comedian Marc Yaffee will bring his humor to Willits for a one-night show at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. 8 pm. "A comedy joyride that explores his multi-ethnic roots and the culture clashes that fill his world."

Frankie J Live in Concert: Pianist Frankie J. plays the Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street. 7:30 pm. "During the first half of this amazing evening, he will be featuring songs from his new album. His band members will join him for the second half of the performance."

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

Sunday, August 16

St. Anthony's Church Mexican Food Sale: 10 am until gone at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Tacos, Al Pastor, Carne Asada, Chorizo, Menudo, Pozole and Tamales....

Animal Care-a-Van Vaccination Day in Laytonville: Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency is offering low-cost vaccines for cats and dogs through their Care-a-Van, which will be at the Laytonville Feed Store, 400 Branscomb Road, again on Sunday, August 2, from 10 am to 2 pm.

Close-E-Nuf: return to Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street. "Come listen and jam with seasoned musicians who love to entertain with good, classic rock n' roll."



Ina Romeo

Willits Dances of Universal Peace: Celebrate the song of unity in the world's mystical traditions, through chant & dance. New location: Cultivate Wellness Studio, Room 4, Little Lake Grange, School and Pine streets. 7 to 9 pm.

Tuesday, August 18

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Fantastic Four" and "Mr. Holmes."

Healthy Harvest Workshop: Join seasoned cook and gardener April Cunningham of North Coast Opportunities, and farmer and jam maker Caroline Radice of Black Dog Farm, for this Healthy Harvest Workshop, 2 to 5 pm, at the Little Lake Grange, School and Pine streets.

Wednesday, August 19: Book Study: The Sage's Tao te Ching: Ancient Advice for the Second Half of Life by William Martin. Three meetings, August 19, 26 and September 2, 1 to 3 pm. St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Commercial streets.

Thursday, August 20

Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrisp & Friends. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, August 21

Shanachie Pub: Kinetic Carnivale Kick-Off Party, with The CruX. 9 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, August 21

Shanachie Pub: Kinetic Carnivale Kick-Off Party, with The CruX. 9 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Senior Center Flea Market & BBQ: Low prices on kid's clothes. Root Beer Floats & BBQ Hot Dogs available. 8 am to 2 pm. "Want to get rid of all the stuff you don't use anymore? Rent a space at our flea market, and turn your unwanted items into cash!"

St. Anthony's Annual Parking Lot Sale: 9 am to 2 pm. St. Anthony's Hall, 58 Bush Street. For more info, or to donate, call 459-5052.

Free Canning Demonstrations: Free canning demonstrations at 10 am at Willits Power & Hardware, 1600 South Main Street. Plus 20 percent off canning supplies purchased that day. 459-6420.

4th annual Kinetic Carnivale: "The Mendocino County Museum is pleased to announce an all-star lineup of performers and entertainers - as well as an impressive list of hands-on exhibits - at the 4th annual Kinetic Carnivale, set for Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23. Performers include Dgini, Diego's Umbrella, The CruX, DJ Bryce Bones, El Radio Fantastique, plus two marching bands, the Hubbbub Club and the Garberville Town Band, plus Dr. Solar and the Gypsy Time Travelers, plus Circus Maximus and more.

33rd annual Round Valley Blackberry Festival: The 33rd Annual Round Valley Blackberry Festival will be held this year on Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23 at the festival grounds in downtown Covelo. Admission is free. Mickey will be Master of Ceremonies and will kick off the festivities at 10 am on Saturday.

8:00 a.m. Saturday, August 22nd, 2015. Covelo's (33rd) Annual Blackberry Festival Library "Fun Run". No Registration Required! Donations are Welcome! Refreshments Provided!

Willits City Pool closes August 22 for season. Willits City Pool, just north of Willits High School, is open Monday through Friday, through August 22, with lap swim from 6 to 8 am, swim lessons from 9 am to noon, open swim from 1 to 4 pm, and water aerobics offered noon to 1 pm, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (closed July 4).

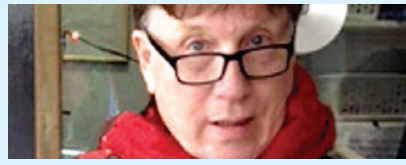
Sunday, August 23

4th annual Kinetic Carnivale: See Saturday, August 22 listing for details.

33rd annual Round Valley Blackberry Festival: See Saturday, August 22 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Bonnie Blackwell Memorial Celebration, with music from The High Five Swing Band. 4 to 7 pm. For info, call Marie at 671-3822. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

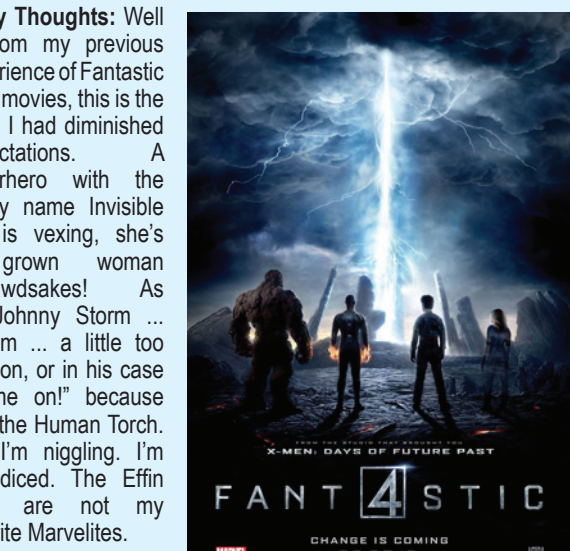
COLUMN | At the Movies



'Fantastic Four'

Daniel Essman Columnist. Caveat: On my sky-high ladder of characters and weirdos in the Marvel Universe, the Fantastic Four wobble tippy-toes on a low rung.

The Story: Five 20-somethings travel to an adjacent dimension to another Earth-like planet. A stormy, landscape of lightnings and green fire... a fire that transforms our protagonists into super-powered beings.



My Thoughts: Well... from my previous experience of Fantastic Four movies, this is the third. I had diminished expectations. A superhero who the soggy name Invisible Girl is vexing, she's a grown woman fergawdsakes! As for Johnny Storm... hmmm... a little too spot-on, or in his case "Flame on!" because he's the Human Torch. But I'm giggling. I'm prejudiced. The Effin Four are not my favorite Marvelites.

Ignore the previous paragraph. "Fantastic Four" is a good movie. The alien planet in this flick is operatically strange and compelling. The pseudoscientific dialogue is not stupid. Miles Teller as Reed Richards is solid, actually one of my favorite young American actors (think "Whiplash" or "The Spectacular Now").

Parents: There are exploding heads and blood splatters. This is too violent for little children... 11 or 12 would probably be okay...

Note: All you critics out there in the blogosphere who trashed this flick: It ain't high art, it's just a movie... and it's fun!

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

Benefit Plant Sale

Plant Sale to benefit the Willits Center for the Arts, extended through August 23. Gardener Devi Chase has raised \$488 so far, and is still selling annuals (including cosmos, columbine and herbs, with chocolate and pineapple mint, sage, Italian parsley and sweet marjoram) and perennials (including hollyhocks, asters, wallflowers, tweedia, rose campion, sweet annie, California native fuschia, sedums and self-heal).

Claws for a Cause

The Willits Rotary and South Ukiah Rotary Clubs are combining efforts to plan a fundraiser benefiting T.R.A.I.L. (Teaching Riding as an Access to Independence and Learning). T.R.A.I.L. is a therapeutic riding program dedicated to providing horseback therapy to improve the lives of those who are challenged physically, developmentally, socially and emotionally.

A live Maine mobster and filet mignon dinner is planned for the evening of September 5, 2015. This event, a combined effort of the Ridgewood T.R.A.I.L. Riders Association, Willits Rotary Club and South Ukiah Rotary Club, will be an evening to remember. The evening will feature dinner, live music by "The Bassics," appetizers, local wines, beer, live and silent auctions, site tours and a heartwarming video. The setting is at the charming Charles Howard House lawn, with tables surrounding the life size bronze statue of the legendary racehorse, Seabiscuit. All proceeds will benefit T.R.A.I.L.

Tickets for this exceptional event are \$80 per person and are limited. Tickets are available at Willits Furniture Center, 775 Central Avenue in Willits, 707-459-4224, and at The Mendocino Book Company, 102 South School Street in Ukiah, 707-468-5940. If you would like to be an event sponsor or if you would like to make a donation, contact Willits Rotarian Mike Smith, 707-972-2471 or South Ukiah Rotarian Beth Schwarz, 707-391-7049.

FEA Alumni Fundraiser Dinner

The Future Farmers of America Willits Alumni "Blue & Gold" Fundraiser Dinner is set for Saturday, August 29 this year, 5 pm at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. "Bring your family for food and fun." Tickets \$25 a plate. Info: 459-6588.

Raising a Healthier Generation. Tuesday, Sept. 1 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Willits Senior Center 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits in the Lakeside Room. FREE to public; donations appreciated. Refreshments will be served. Call 459-2777 for information.

Calling All Cooks: Healthy Harvest Workshops

Join seasoned cook and gardener April Cunningham of North Coast Opportunities, and farmer and jam maker Caroline Radice of Black Dog Farm, for one of two upcoming Healthy Harvest Workshops at the Little Lake Grange, set for Tuesday, August 18 or Tuesday, August 25. Cook with local, seasonal ingredients, and learn how to preserve the incoming harvest.

Seasonal cooking is a wonderful way to eat healthier, celebrate our community, and support local farmers. Gardens are bursting right now. You can expect to make jams, pickles, pestos, dressings, soups, and vegetable entrées. You will also learn how to process, clean and store produce. There will be plenty of food and produce to take home, and recipes so you can repeat!

Each class is unique and based on what is available that week from the farmers. The produce used in the workshops thus far has been sourced from local farms such as Covelo Organics, Lovin' Mama, Cerro Negro, Sky Hoyt, Russian Creek, Grange Farm School, Irene's Garden, and Green Uprising Farm.

Healthy Harvest Workshops are designed to develop food self-reliance. They are part of the Food PREP program at North Coast Opportunities, a California Department of Food and Agriculture grant-funded program that is cultivating connections from field to plate. These workshops will help you to cook simple, healthy meals. April's abundant experience and passion in the culinary, nutrition and gardening worlds will be sure to inspire and leave you feeling nourished.

The next Healthy Harvest Workshop is Tuesday, August 18 from 2 to 5 pm and again on Tuesday, August 25 from 2 to 5 pm at the Little Lake Grange, School and Pine streets. The workshop is just \$20, which covers the cost of the local farmers' produce; all other material is provided. Ask about getting a special class together for your group or organization. Contact April Cunningham to get on the mailing list or register for a workshop at acunningham@ncoinc.org or call 467-3212.

Kinetic Carnivale volunteer work parties

"The 4th Annual Willits Kinetic Carnivale is set for August 22 and 23. We need volunteers to help with a number of projects leading up to the event. We will have work parties at the Mendocino County Museum on the following dates: Wednesday, August 12, Monday, August 17, and Wednesday, August 19 from 4 to 8 pm, and Friday, August 21 from 10 am until it's all done.

"We have all kinds of different projects, from stage building to spray painting to package opening and string light testing.... All skill levels welcome! Meet at the museum workshop around the left side of the museum building. Come enjoy friends and food, and earn hours towards a Grand Ball ticket! See you there! Questions? Contact Neeka at akeen476@gmail.com or 760-715-2144."

WELL Westside Garden Tour - Saturday, August 15

WELL's 9th annual garden tour is set for Saturday, August 15, beginning at 10 am at the Brookside School parking lot, Spruce Street and Lincoln Way. This year's garden tour will be even more eco-friendly than ever, featuring water-wise gardens within easy walking distance in Westside Willits.

WELL (Willits Economic Localization) hopes to inspire everyone to grow some of their own food, even with limited space and water. The nine gardens on the tour include features such as water catchment, water retention, inter-plantings (layers), drip systems, and other water-wise techniques.

The nine gardens in the eight-block circuit

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast

Breakfast at the Little Lake Grange, Sunday, August 30, 8 to 11 am. With live music! Choose Sourdough Wholegrain or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$7; \$6 seniors; \$4 under 10. Extra sides of organic fruit in season or Amish maple syrup, \$1. 291 School Street (two blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of 101).

Senior Center Lunch

During the fair volunteers are needed to lead children's activities and games for the Whimsy Rotary, to help with crafts at Make & Take Stations, and in the areas of beverage service, first aid, information and ticket booths. No skills are necessary! Volunteers are asked to work a four-hour shift or more on either Saturday, August 22, or Sunday, August 23. There are perks for volunteering, including free entry into the daytime fair and access to the Kinetic Crew Cafe. Volunteer for 20 hours and earn a free ticket to Saturday evening's Grand Ball!

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

The tour range from very modest to more ambitious, from brand new to well-established. Gardens are always works in progress. Some plants thrive; some don't. Fledgling gardeners, learn from your neighbors and take heart!

The tour will end with lunch and music at the Brookside School Farm. The cost for the tour and lunch - and a WELL membership through 2016 - is \$15. (The tour is free for current WELL members.) We recommend you bring some water and a shade hat or parasol.

Check our website, www.well95490.org, or contact Madge at 459-1493 or Kimbal at 459-9128 for more information.

- Madge Strong for WELL

Senior Center Lunch

Monday: Lemon Tilapia Tuesday: Pork Chops Wednesday: Ranch Chicken, Bacon Pizza Thursday: BBQ Beef on Bun Friday: Baked Chicken

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 p.m. 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.



At top, left: The Best in Show canned green beans entered by Suzen Ingle of Willits.

At top, right: The Best in Show dipped chocolates made by Pat Sprinkle of Willits.

At right, from top: One of Keely Ahders' first-place entries in the Junior building, a photo of a bunny in a basket.

Evelyn Persico of Willits, a long-time fair entrant, won third place for her peach jam entry this year.

Sharon Blackwell of Willits won first place for her tote-painted "Mallard Welcome Sign" in the Home Arts building.

At bottom, left: The jewelry case displayed many artisans' work in the Fine Arts building.

The impressive underside of Robert Sizemore's carved wooden eagle.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Redwood Empire Fair Results

Exhibit buildings: Willits, Laytonville and Covelo

Dozens of carefully created exhibits graced the halls of the Fine Arts, Home Arts, Floriculture, Horticulture and Junior buildings during the annual Redwood Empire Fair held last weekend at the Ukiah Fairgrounds.

Best of Show award winners from the north county included Josephine Lockner of Willits for her "Cut Out Contest" entry, Gretchen Moore of Willits for her

intermediate pieced quilt, Suzen Ingle of Willits for her green beans and pickles, Kathleen Grupp of Willits for her white yeast rolls and cream pie, Pat Sprinkle of Willits for her dipped chocolates, Robert Sizemore of Willits for his wood sculpture and decorative wood object, Steve Eberhard of Willits for his creative presentation framed landscape/marine photography entry, Stephany Brundage of Willits for her pen and ink entry, Keely Ahders of Willits for her Junior building entry, Hailey Musgrave of Willits for her Junior building entry, Sierra Mayfield Unangst of Willits for her Junior building entry, Emma Garman of Willits for her Junior building entry, Mariah Ochoa of Willits for her Junior building entry, and Dava Reynolds of Covelo for her giant cream yellow gold zinnia.

Willits winners included Grace Aguilar, who won four first-place ribbons in the Junior building. Keely Ahders also entered into the Junior building and won seven first-place ribbons and three second-place ribbons. Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman won a first-place ribbon for his rhubarb entry into the Agriculture/Horticulture building. Jade Arbayo won a first-place ribbon in the Junior building, and Samantha Arms won a first-place and a second-place award in the Junior building, too.

Michaela Barlow made an impressive showing in the Agriculture/Horticulture building, winning 15 first-place awards for her veggies and herbs, which included basil, rosemary, bush and pole beans, beets, carrots, garlic, pickling dill cucumbers, yellow crookneck squash, Indian ornamental corn, plums, blackberries and more. She also took third place for a "Gardener's Delight" mixed veggie variety entry.

Decorative painting in the Home Arts building was Sharon Blackwell's focus, and she won five first-place, four second-place and two third-place awards for paintings featuring animals/birds, flowers, Rosemaling/Bauernmalerei-style works, stroke work and more. Michele Briggs won five second-place awards for her Agriculture/Horticulture entries that included herbs and rosemary, an "unusual shape" entry, and a bird and fish creation in the Produce Characters division.

Mary Brodien won seven first-place awards, six in the Home Arts building for her intermediate quilt square set, intermediate crocheted entry, advanced/professional infant sets, apple/crabapple and blackberry jellies, and zucchini quick bread, and one in the Floriculture building for her African violet potted plant. She also won a second-place and third-place award for additional African violet entries, as well as five other third-place awards for another potted plant in the Floriculture building and a whole cloth, quilted by hand, entry, apricot fruits, nectarine jam and plum jelly all in the Home Arts building.

Kathryn Brundage won a third-place award for her jewelry in the Fine Arts building, and Stephany Brundage won four first-place awards, four second-place awards and four third-place awards in the Junior building. Lisa Burgess took first place in the Floriculture building with her fair-themed dried arrangement. Peter Byrne's perennial cut stem won him a third-place award, and his red hybrid tea rose won him a second-place award in the Floriculture building.

Bonnie Cook had five first-place awards in the Floriculture building for her hydrangea, dahlia, daisy and hybrid tea rose entries. Sarah Coon's yeast bread won a first-place award in the Home Arts building, and she won another first-place award in the Fine Arts building. She also won a second-place award in the Horticulture building for her "Gardener's Delight" entry and a third-place award in the Home Arts building for her cheesecake entry. Steve Eberhard won a first and a second-

Read the rest of Results | Over on Page 13



MENDOCINO COLLEGE

Classes Start August 24th

Register now at mendocino.edu

- Two year degrees or certificates
- Transfer to a 4-year university
- Job skills training
- Numerous online classes

NORTH COUNTY CENTER
372 E. COMMERCIAL ST.
WILLITS, CA 95490
707.459.6224

COLDWELL BANKER MENDO REALTY INC. PRESENTS

Homes For Dogs Project

Our Realtors...Helping Your Find a Home, and Helping Shelter Dogs Find a Family

Meet Patsy

Patsy has lived in Willits for 40 years, and joined the Coldwell Banker Mendocino Realty, Inc. family in January. She is ready to work for you with the same integrity and dependability that has always been a part of her work ethic. Patsy has owned dogs and cats since she was in college, and is currently in the search for her new dog partner since her sweet Mugsy died. The new dog will need to be approved, though, by her 14-year old cat Cessna!

Meet Maggie

Sweet Maggie is a Labrador mix, about 2 years old, and is a total sweetheart. She is an active dog who will need a home where she gets plenty of exercise and love! She has a super friendly disposition and would be an amazing addition to a family with kids.

To adopt, or learn more information about "Maggie", please contact the Human Society of Inland Mendocino County

707.485.0123

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County

The rest of Rodriguez

From Page 1

serve on the board for a four-year term. If trustees appoint after the election, that person will be on the board for two years, and then the seat will be up for re-election in 2017.

Incumbent school board trustee Alex Bowlds has filed to run for re-election to his seat, and with no challenger, will automatically be appointed to another term.

In other local district races on the slate for this November's off-year election, incumbents stepped into the breach in three contests, leaving a horse race in the election for the Trustee Area 1 seat on the Mendo-Lake Community College District board. In that race, incumbent Paul Ulberhart has filed to run, as have challengers Rick Kale and Perri Kaller, both of Willits.

In the election for three seats on the Brooktrails Board of Directors, all three incumbents filed to run. That means Ralph Santos and Tim Ramming will continue serving in two available four-year seats, while Ed Horrick, who was appointed to the board in 2014, will serve again in the short-term, two-year seat. Horrick was appointed to the board when former Brooktrails director George Skezas resigned and moved to Alabama.

Three incumbents, Gerry Gonzalez, John Bixler and Tony Madrigal, have filed for the three available seats on the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors, so will continue to serve another term. Incumbent Charlene Ford filed for the Willits area seat on the Mendocino County Board of Education.

The election will take place Tuesday, November 3.

The rest of Thefts

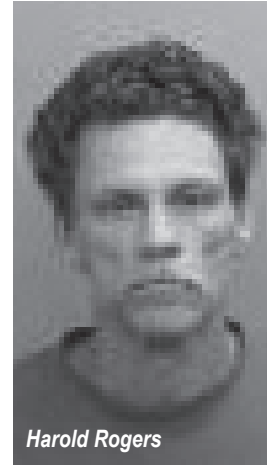
From Page 1



Christopher France



Justin Arnold



Harold Rogers

officers were able to locate a vehicle matching the description of the one used in the theft at a residence on McKinley Street, says Willits Police Sgt. Mark McNeley.

Police contacted Arnold and France at the home, and recovered a large quantity of the stolen items on the property, McNeley said.

The following day, officers received a separate report regarding the theft of power tools from a Bush Street resident, and recalled seeing the power tools at the McKinley Street address the prior evening. Police returned to McKinley Street and learned the stolen power tools had been moved to a Redwood Avenue address.

When they arrived at the Redwood Avenue address, they discovered Rogers attempting to hide, police said.

Witnesses told the officers Arnold, France and Rogers reportedly had moved the stolen tools from the McKinley Street home to the Redwood Avenue address.

Both the victims from the Bush Street theft and the South Coast Street theft were able to retrieve a large portion of their stolen property, McNeley said.

Investigation into the crime continues, and anyone with information involving this incident is requested to contact the Willits Police Department at 459-6122.

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

The rest of Allman

From Page 7

been a resident deputy, a patrol deputy, a patrol sergeant and a patrol lieutenant. In 2007, he was elected to his current position of Mendocino County Sheriff-Coroner.

"Tom serves on the boards of the Mendocino Community College Foundation, the Mendocino Public Safety Foundation and the California State Sheriff's Association. He is also involved with local service organizations including the Elks, Lions, Masonic Lodge and Rotary. His honors include the 2000 United Nations "Medal of Peace" and the 2010 Governors "Medal of Valor."

"Raised in Garberville, Tom is married to Laura and has two sons, Adam and Josh. When not attending the many Mendocino County festival and events and serving the public of Mendocino County, he enjoys time in his apple farm crafting fresh and hard cider." Sheriff Allman is a resident of Willits.

The rest of Jail

From Page 1

before 1 am and rushed to Ukiah Valley Medical Center at 12:46 am where he was pronounced dead.

Steven Neuroth's brother, James, of Laytonville, and sister, Joan Nygren, have filed a wrongful death suit in federal court against Mendocino County, Sheriff Tom Allman, California Forensic Medical Group, Inc., company medical director Dr. Taylor Fithian, nurse Jennifer Caudillo and jail deputies.

The family's attorney, Michael Haddad, of Oakland-based Haddad and Sherwin, had filed a claim against the county in late December 2014 claiming Neuroth's death was a result of "improper and excessive restraint." That claim was rejected by the board of supervisors in January.

Haddad claims Neuroth previously had been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, schizo-affective disorder and depression.

According to Haddad, Neuroth had no physical injuries prior to his jail booking, but an autopsy revealed widespread blunt force injuries, a fractured rib, organ injuries and other serious physical injuries.

The lawsuit also claims the county, Allman, CFMG and Dr. Fithian failed to staff the jail with a qualified medical and/or mental health professional "to evaluate the mental health for incoming inmates," suggesting the jail and its medical provider allowed un-credentialed staff, such as licensed vocational nurses, to "perform intake medical assessments and or mental health assessments on patients without any appropriate clinical supervision by a registered nurse, or physician."

The suit also alleges Sheriff Allman "failed to ... train deputy sheriffs in the proper and reasonable use of force, [failed] to

implement and enforce generally accepted, lawful policies and procedures at the jail, and [allowed] excessive and unreasonable force and restraint, and deliberate indifference to the serious medical and psychiatric needs of inmates."

CFMG, a for-profit medical company, provides correctional health care to at least 27 California counties. According to the Sacramento Bee, several lawsuits have been filed against the medical provider, alleging improper jail medical and mental health care. Company attorneys have disputed the allegations, the Bee noted.

Caudillo, a CFMG nurse working at the jail, allegedly made a medical assessment of Neuroth when he was booked into county jail the night of his death. But "due to her qualifications, failed to follow appropriate protocols in assessing his medical and mental status," according to the lawsuit.

Both Caudillo and jail staff, the suit claims, "knew Neuroth was in distress and in need of emergency medical or psychiatric care upon his arrival at the jail."

Instead, jail staff used force, taking Neuroth to the ground, "using control holds and putting restraints on his legs."

Deputies then placed Neuroth in a safety cell, where the lawsuit claims they "continued to use unjustified force against him, and with information and belief, committed multiple strikes, blows and control holds."

It was the use of "extreme and deadly force" that led to Neuroth's death, Haddad claims.

Mendocino County "is outsourcing medical care to inmates, and in the long run [that] doesn't save money," the attorney stated. "It results in deaths and lawsuits."

According to the federal lawsuit, Neuroth



New assistant principals Rocky Johnson and Linda Jacobs, at left, with new elementary school principal Eileen Chapman Jones, center, and Superintendent Patricia Johnson, at right. Photo by Mike A'Dair

The rest of Principal

From Page 1

Jones was the principal and director of curriculum for a school located in a small rural logging community on the Olympic peninsula in Washington.

Jones moved from running one small school to working for the Olympic Peninsula Regional Educational Services District, which she described as very much like the Mendocino County Office of Education. According to Jones, she did very nearly everything for the 14 school districts which received services and materials from the RESD.

Later, she worked for Pivot, a firm of educational consultants based in San Francisco. While there, Jones was a coach and consultant in educational strategies for school districts in Lake, Napa and Mendocino counties.

Jones said she was excited about her new assignment in Willits: "We're starting something new," she said.

Backing up Jones will be veteran school administrators Linda Jacobs and Rocky Johnson. Jacobs has been living in the Willits area for 34 years, having moved here in 1981. She worked in the special education department at Willits High School for 20 years, and followed that up as a vice principal at Willits High for five years. She retired from her position as WHS vice principal in June 2013.

Jacobs will be the assistant principal at Brookside Elementary School.

Rocky Johnson, the husband of Superintendent Patricia Johnson, recently was employed as dean at Baechtel Grove Middle School. Like Jones and Jacobs, Johnson has had a long and varied career in education, working as a teacher at both middle school and high school levels. He was a middle school principal at Lakeview

Middle School in Victor Valley, located in San Bernardino County, for 11 years.

After retiring from education, Johnson was hired as CEO of One to One Mentors, which he described as a nonprofit dedicated to working with children. "It was kind of like the Kids Club," Johnson said.

Johnson moved to Willits with his wife, and was drafted into being dean at Baechtel Grove Middle School in the 2014-15 school year. "I had a great time working with [Baechtel Grove Middle School Principal] Maria Munguia," he said.

Rocky Johnson will be the assistant principal at Blosser Lane Elementary School.

When asked how the three will work together to cover all the bases at three elementary schools, Rocky Johnson said they are in the early stages of discussing that topic. Jones was only hired August 5, the day she arrived in Willits.

"We're a team, obviously," Rocky Johnson said. "Communication will be the main thing. We're going to have to communicate to make sure everything gets covered and nothing gets left out. Eileen will be the curriculum leader. We will be the managers."

"Our job will be to do the stuff that has to get done so that we can free her up," Jacobs said.

"There's a lot of administrative strength in this room, right now," Jones said. "I'm excited to think of all the strength areas we have, all the years of expertise we have available here."

School starts Monday, August 24, at regular schools in the Willits Unified School District.

was "extremely paranoid," "believed someone was out to kill him," and "was going through a psychosis state."

DA investigators acknowledged "Neuroth was suffering from drug-induced delusions at the time of his arrest." WPD officers reported Neuroth "was perceiving non-existent snakes writhing on the floor of the patrol vehicle he was being transported in," and "exhibited significant paranoia after being transported" to county jail "for sobbing, booking, and housing."

The DA's review also conceded Neuroth became combative with jail personnel. And while "physical force was necessary to overcome Mr. Neuroth's resistance," said DA David Eyster, "my review of the available evidence leads me to conclude only that force necessary to reasonably overcome the inmate's resistance was employed."

"Given [Neuroth's] words and actions," Eyster said, "I find the inmate clearly posed a safety risk to the correctional officers, and they acted in a reasonable manner to address the situation without putting their own individual and collective safety at unnecessary risk."

"There is insufficient evidence for me to conclude - or any other objective fact-finder for that matter to conclude - that the actions of the Willits police officers or the jail's correctional officers caused the death in question," the DA said.

"The scope of this review has been straightforward," he added. "The focus has been to determine whether there is evidence available that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that Mr. Neuroth's death was the result of criminal misconduct - whether intentional or negligent - by any one or more of the police officers and/or correctional officers who interacted with Mr. Neuroth, from Willits until his death in Ukiah. In short, while an extremely unfortunate situation, the information I have reviewed, along with all reasonable inferences that may be drawn from same, do not indicate or otherwise support criminal causation."

Instead, Eyster claims, Neuroth died as a result of overdosing on methamphetamine. "The amount of methamphetamine circulating in Mr. Neuroth's body at the time of his death is staggering and, in the pathologist's opinion, likely contributed to his symptoms as reported, as well as his eventual death."

A hospital emergency room report noted Neuroth had a "history of active methamphetamine abuse," abuse that seemed to be especially out of control during the weeks, days, and hours leading up to his death, Eyster said.

But Haddad argues: "We can tell they know he was in some sort of medical or psychiatric crisis and should have been in the hospital instead of jail. It was a really bad decision, but unfortunately, it's becoming more of a common scenario in jails," claiming in the federal suit that Neuroth "didn't pose a significant level of threat against jail staff."

Neuroth family is seeking an unspecified amount of damages, punitive damages, attorney's fees, an order prohibiting named defendants and sheriff's deputies from using excessive force and interfering with the rights of inmates, the enforcement of appropriate policies for handling mentally ill or emotionally disturbed people, prohibiting named defendants and sheriff's deputies from using the "code of silence," or withholding information, the training of all sheriff's deputies in procedures for the use of deadly force, and an order to train all medical and mental health professionals named in the complaint.

Both the county and sheriff's office have refused to share jail records or jail medical records pertaining to the case, Haddad claims.

"The lawsuit will require them to share what happened," he said. "We are seeing this more and more from public officials, not sharing information with the public."

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors was scheduled to discuss the federal lawsuit Tuesday in closed session.



4th annual Kinetic Carnivale

Steampunk, history and festival fun next weekend in Willits

The Mendocino County Museum is pleased to announce an all-star lineup of performers and entertainers – as well as an impressive list of hands-on exhibits – at the 4th annual Kinetic Carnivale, set for Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23 in Willits.

Uniquely designed as a steampunk festival that takes place at a community history museum, the Willits Kinetic Carnivale offers a winning combination of historical exhibits and crafts with present-day displays and music.

"The Mendocino County Museum is a real museum offering very real connections to history, and the Kinetic Carnivale presents history, in a way that is both real and imagined," says museum director Alison Glassey. "It's an unusual, but surprisingly natural, combination."

This year's schedule features a wide range of interactive activities, demonstrations, historical exhibits, make-and-take stations, and other quintessential steampunk stylings. In partnership with the Kinetic Carnivale, the Willits Noyo Theatre will be screening the film "9" the week of August 17 to 23. Those who attend the film are eligible to receive a 2-for-1 deal on day tickets to the fair.

The open-air Tea Room and Discovery Hall will allow Kinetic Carnivale attendees to experience the salons of the 19th century, where they can enjoy lectures by guest speakers and historians as they sip their complimentary tea.

One of the most intriguing inventions of the 19th century is the Tesla Coil,

which will be making a high-voltage appearance at the Grand Ball, this year with an added "theremin" musical component to control the current. The Grand Ball will also feature a steampunk photo booth.

History aficionados will want to visit the extensive Victorian Sweat Shop display in the museum, a collection and demonstration of genuine antique sewing machines. The exhibit explores the early days of mechanization and the rise of industrial crafts, even as today's artisans offer their hand-crafted products at the Kinetic Carnivale Fair at Recreation Grove Park. Those who have an interest in photography will also get to see vintage Kodak cameras on display at the museum during the day.

Those who wish to hone their combat skills will enjoy fencing demonstrations and lessons by members of the Mendocino College Fencing Club, while those of a gentler disposition may wish to participate in swing dance and waltz lessons. At the same time, the Black Bart Gunfighters will show off their high-energy conflict resolution skills from the Wild Old West on Sunday at 2 pm.

Make-and-take stations offer an array of crafts and activities, from Sock Squids and Socktopuses to a mosaic art project with local artist Elizabeth Raybee. Circus Maximus will entertain with old-fashioned circus fun in both scheduled performances and walkabout style.

Dr. Solar will bring "the world's first solar-powered gypsy wagon" to the festivities, with his eco-themed

interactive show. Gypsy Time Travelers, "fabulous storytelling with live and/or accompaniment," will perform on their travelling forge and stage, and the lineup includes other history-inspired entertainers.

Of course, all of this takes place against the melodic backdrop of steampunk music, from gypsy rock and flamenco to big band to other nostalgic styles, performed by artists including Dgiin, Diego's Umbrella, The Crux, DJ Bryce Bones, and El Radio Fantastique.

Two marching bands, the Hubbad Club and the Garberville Town Band, will step to their own beat. The Willits Brass Band will compete for attention at the flamboyant Handcar Races at the Skunk Depot tracks on Saturday from 1 to 3 pm.

The event's atmosphere evokes the most pleasant elements of the 19th century, but transporting the audience to another era is only part of the mission.

"We want people to feel at home with history," museum director Glassey said, "to understand it well enough to imagine how it could have turned out differently. In the world of steampunk, history is full of possibilities."

Proceeds from the Willits Kinetic Carnivale benefit the Mendocino County Museum. For Kinetic Carnivale day tickets, as well as Grand Ball tickets, volunteer opportunities and more information, call 707-459-2736 or visit www.KineticCarnivale.com

— **Kira Womack, for the Mendocino County Museum**

At top, left: The entrance to the Kinetic Carnivale last year was bustling with patrons. At top, right: An aerialist performs at the 2014 event. At left, above: Malakai Schindler plays the flute. At left: Alana and Genevieve Bonnet smile for the camera.

Photos by Doug Pollard

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The rest of Results | From Page 10

place award in the Fine Arts building for his creative presentation, framed, landscape/marine photography entries. Lucille Garcia won a first-place award in the Floriculture building for her novice entry.

Sisters Lilah and Emma Garman both won two first-place awards each in the Junior building. Kathleen Grupp won four first-place awards in the Home Arts building for her cream pies, quick bread biscuits, quick bread corn bread and yeast bread white rolls, and a third-place award for her beginner infant by hand/machine entry in the Home Arts building.

Peggy Hebrard won two first-place awards in the Home Arts building for her decorative painting entries, and six first-place awards in the Fine Arts building for her oil painting entries featuring animals, fair theme, flowers, people and still life. She also won two second-place awards for additional oil paintings which showcased flowers and landscapes and a third-place award for a seascape/marine oil painting entry.

Katherine Houghtby won three first-place awards, one second-place award and one third-place award for her amateur photography Fine Arts entries which featured people, pets, landscapes and more. Suzen Ingle took home seven first-place awards in the Home Arts building, including those for quilted items and wall hangings, as well as green beans, spaghetti sauce, barbecue sauce and pickles. She also won a third-place award for another quilted entry. Mason Kelly received a second-place award in the Junior building.

Jeanne Koelle won four first-place awards for her watercolor entries featuring animals, architecture, plant life and seascapes in the Fine Arts building. She also received a second-place award for another plant life watercolor. Betty Lemmer won a second-place award for her cheesecake in the Home Arts building, and Josephine Lockner won three first-place awards, one for her container garden in the Floriculture building and two for the special "Cut Out Contest."

Claudia Magann won first place in the Floriculture building for her place setting entry "Tea Time," and Rose Mann won two second-place awards for her drop and refrigerator cookies. Sierra Mayfield Unangst had 13 first-place, five second-place and three third-place entries in the Junior building and one third-place entry in the Floriculture building for a wheelbarrow entry.

Gretchen Moore won two first-place awards and one second-place award in the Home Arts building for quilted entries. Lynne Nagel won two first-place awards for her watercolor and mixed media entries and one third-place award for her acrylic entry in the Fine Arts building.

Megan Nava won four first-place awards and one second-place award in the Junior building, and Cassidy Noonan won five first-place awards in the Junior building. In the Floriculture building, Kristin Noonan won two second-place awards for her fair-themed small arrangement and cut hydrangea and one third-place award for a mini arrangement. Mariah Ochoa won five first-place awards and one second-place award in the Junior building.

Stacey Patton won two first-place awards, three

second-place awards and one third-place award for her graphic pen and ink, pencil and watercolor entries. Shelby Rose Perez-Bowen won a first-place award in the Junior building. Evelyn Persico won three first-place awards in the Home Arts building for her apricots, fig jam and pepper pickles/relish/sauce and a third-place award for her peach jam. Gail Richards won a first-place award for her "Picnic by the Sea" place setting and second place for her "Tea Time" place setting in the Floriculture building.

Caroline Salcedo won a first-place award and a second-place award for her advanced quilting entries, and two third-place awards for her quilt block challenge and wall hangings in the Home Arts building. Robert Sizemore won two first-place awards for his advanced wood sculpture and decorative wood object entries in the Fine Arts building. Collin Spackman-Rowles won a first-place award in the Junior building.

Bruce Sprinkle won a first-place award for his elephant garlic, two second-place awards for his bush beans and onions, and a third-place award for his tomatoes in the Agriculture building. Pat Sprinkle won two first-place awards for her potted succulent in the Floriculture building and her dipped chocolates in the Home Arts building. She also won a second-place award in the Home Arts building for a pie entry and a second- and third-place award for her potted plants in the Floriculture building. Donna Stropes won a second-place award for her watercolor landscape entry in the Fine Arts building.

Jonas Swearengen won a first-place award for his educational poster in the Junior building, Raylen Thom won a first place award for a vegetable entry in the Junior building, and Beverly Vaccaro won a third-place award in the Home Arts building for her cookie entry. Enzo Vaccaro won three first-place awards in the Junior building and a second-place award in the Floriculture building for a junior broken pot container garden.

Erin Vaccaro won a first-place award in the Floriculture building for a fair-theme entry. Sofia Vaccaro won four first-place awards in the Junior building and a third-place award in the Floriculture building for her "A Rose is a Rose" entry, and Stacey Wilson won a second-place award in the Fine Arts building and a third-place award in the Home Arts building.

Laytonville exhibitors included Kiley Leann Carter, who won 14 first-place awards, 11 second-place awards and four third-place awards in the Junior building. Madison Mae Carter won four first-place awards, four second-place awards and one third-place award in the Junior building. Hailey Musgrave won a first-place award in the Junior building, and Brienne Sanderson won seven first-place awards and two second-place awards in the Junior building. Tayla Sanderson won two second-place awards in the Fine Arts building.

Davna Reynolds from Covelo won 11 first-place awards in the Floriculture building, including for her zinnia, marigold, sunflower, container garden and various arrangement entries. She also won four second-place awards for her arrangement and place setting entries, and a third place award for her entry into a special contest.

This list was provided by the Redwood Empire Fair. For a complete list of all entries, contact 462-FAIR.

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Youth theater applauded at Willits Charter School Tent

"Performing Arts Reaching the Youth" presented a two-prong production this past weekend at the Willits Charter School Tent. Produced, directed and facilitated by long-time youth worker and theater arts teacher Billy Hetherington, the summer program kept with its traditional structure of dividing the performers into two age groups and giving each group six weeks to create a complete show.

There was one significant difference from previous years, however: what Hetherington described as "a focus on physicality and spontaneity, rather than strictly scripted material."

While both presentations were indeed showcases of physical theater, with actors in constant motion, the themes expressed couldn't have been more different.

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter

"The Crazy Kids Circus," featuring the younger group (ages 8-11), was all play. Monkeys, magicians, acrobatics, hoop dancers, tightrope walkers and even peacocks were on full display, to the delight of the audience. All actors in dress, mind you, but the monkeys at least, were quite convincing. What 8-year-old doesn't want to act like a monkey and not be admonished for it? With all the flash and flare and fun, it would be easy to lose sight of the fact that these young actors had to first learn the structure of how a circus is run, before replicating it themselves.

The following show, "Facing Fears," began with the actors, dressed in hoodies, circling through the audience, before meeting on stage. Their silence and purposeful gait, their hoods pulled over their heads, as they walked the aisles, tinged the air with alluring apprehension. Who were these people? Criminals? Zombies? Warlocks? What fears were going to be showcased? Turns out, none of the above.

not fitting in with one's peer group. In other words the everyday challenges of your average teenager, perhaps not taken seriously enough by adults and authority figures.

When it was over, the actors took their bows to loud applause, and opened the floor up for questions, which turned out to be just as interesting as the show itself. A few adults didn't feel comfortable with the heaviness of the material, and wanted there to be more positivity. When I asked director Hetherington about this later, he was pleased. "That's what we wanted. The audience to feel uncomfortable. They [the actors] were expressing their vulnerability up there."

He went on to explain how each of the pieces were reflections of the actors' real collective and respective fears, and it was challenging for them to share it so openly with each other, before displaying it to an audience. In sharing their fears with each other, however, Hetherington said it opened up a space for dealing with them. Or, as the title suggests, facing them head on.

All in all it was a successful weekend for the production, with each night requiring extra seating to accommodate the large audience. There was no admission fee, as Hetherington wanted lower-income teens and parents to not be turned away for lack of funds. Instead, a donation bowl was employed, and many gave generously.

This was Hetherington's first collaboration with the Mendocino County Youth Project, which co-sponsored the event with the Willits Charter School. Hetherington praised assistant director and producer Matt Browning for his help in keeping the large cast of actors in line and on point.

This year the Willits Charter School theater department will be working on a single large production, to be performed at the end of the school year. It has yet to be decided what the production will be, but Hetherington is looking forward to working with his young and talented students to figure it all out.

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4TH KINETIC CARNIVAL STEAMPUNK FILM "9"
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All tickets \$5.00

The rest of Herbicides | From Page 1

Instead, Frisbie said in a post on Caltrans' WordPress blog (www.willitsbypass.wordpress.com), "mechanical/manual methods" will be attempted, although "the progress of the blackberry removal will be reevaluated at a later date and the use of herbicides may be revisited."

"Caltrans has been in discussions with the Willits Bypass mitigation contractor this past week over the plan to control non-native invasive Himalaya blackberry," the August 7 blog post read. "It had been anticipated our contractor would include the herbicide option in order to ensure meeting mitigation timeline and performance goals for site preparation and establishing native wetland plants, but instead they recently submitted a plan to attempt to use mechanical/manual methods. As a result, the herbicide meeting scheduled in Willits on August 13 has been cancelled."

Caltrans had previously announced a public meeting "to discuss the use of herbicides on the Willits bypass mitigation parcels" on Thursday, August 13 at the Willits Community Center.

"Mechanically removing the blackberry will require some areas to

be excavated," the blog post continued, "which will result in soil disturbance. In these areas, Caltrans will follow established protocols while working with tribal monitors and ensuring our archeologists are on hand to spot and catalog any artifacts that might be uncovered."

"While herbicides will not be used at this time, the progress of the blackberry removal will be reevaluated at a later date and the use of herbicides may be revisited."

Locals who planned to attend Thursday's meeting to oppose Caltrans' herbicide plans have decided to host their own meeting at the same time: from 6 to 8 pm, August 13, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.

"This is an opportunity to become informed about how Caltrans' mitigation work has already altered the environment and cultural heritage of the valley; why herbicide use and other damaging activities remain a threat; and how we the public can be a positive influence on mitigation activities now and in the long-term," publicity for the revised event said. Desserts made from Willits blackberries will be served.

The rest of Water | From Page 1

4) California Fish and Wildlife will be more accommodating if you come in on your own, as opposed to coming in after you've been issued a citation.

Matt Clifford of Trout Unlimited talked about water rights from the perspective of the State Water Resources Control Board, explaining there are two kinds of water rights in California: riparian rights and appropriative rights.

Riparian rights exist for landowners who have property located next to a river or stream. These people have a right to use what is termed a "reasonable" amount of water for a "beneficial use." The water must be used on land located next to the flowing water.

The person using the water cannot store it for more than 30 days, but if they are constantly using the water and replacing it with new water, that is not considered to be storage.

Clifford noted diversions of riparian water must be reported to the state water board.

The second kind of water right Clifford talked about was appropriative rights, which occurs when a landowner takes water from a water source and uses it on property not located next to a river or stream. This kind of water use is permitted by the state, but users must apply for and receive a water right to use the water.

As with riparian rights, users must put the water to a "beneficial use." Appropriative rights are granted on a first-come, first-served basis, and the person who receives the right first has the strongest or dominant right. "First in time, first in right" was how Clifford expressed it.

Clifford added that the person with the water right has to "use it or lose it. If you don't use the water for more than five years, you could lose your water right," he said.

Clifford also noted it takes a lot of time to get an appropriative water right, and such rights have to be renewed every year. One way of getting around that is to get what is called a "registration." Registrations are available for small domestic use, as well as small irrigation use.

Wes Stokes of the Region 1 wing of the Habitat and Conservation branch of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife explained the ins and outs of an entirely different permitting system. He differentiated between a water right that could be obtained through the state water board, and a 1602 permit that can be obtained through Fish & Wildlife.

"One of the main differences between the water board and Fish and Wildlife is, that the water board looks at water quantitatively and we look at it as it affects fish and other critters," Stokes said.

He urged people using water for agricultural purposes to get a permit from Fish and Wildlife, saying his agency would be more flexible if people applied for a permit before they were cited for a violation.

"We will work with you," Stokes said.

Williamson Act compliance sloppy, but changes are on the way

Mendocino County officials agree they may have been somewhat sloppy in forcing property owners to comply with Williamson Act agricultural preserve requirements. And that laxity may have cost the county some money. But change, they said, is coming.

The Williamson Act provides property owners a tax reduction when they contract with the county for agricultural land use.

Dan McKeew reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

In late April, a grand jury report concluded "the county may have lost considerable tax revenue because of the failure to mail out reporting statements regarding continued land use." By law, the grand jury said, those statements are required to be mailed every two years; the last mailing was in 2009.

The reporting statements, grand jury investigators noted, "contain the following statement: 'Failure to fill out this form with the county constitutes a breach of your contract.' It also noted a process is underway to replace the county's Williamson Act ordinance with "policies and procedures."

Nonetheless, the grand jury recommended county Agricultural Commissioner Chuck Morse comply with Mendocino County Code provisions and "resume timely mailing of the reporting statements to ensure compliance with the code."

In its July 2 response to the grand jury, supervisors agreed that the reporting statements to maintain agricultural preserve eligibility "provide the county with information enabling evaluation of whether participation in the Williamson Act is appropriate," and that failure to file the statements with the county "constitutes a breach of contract."

The board conceded - "with clarification" - that if the county failed to "strictly enforce" statement filings, it is possible those who failed to file "are not meeting the minimum standards to qualify for a Williamson Act contract," and the county "would not be receiving all tax revenue it would be entitled to."

Morse commented that "the county's current ordinance does not include a provision for county staff to independently determine eligibility for a Williamson Act contract compliance," while noting the former ag commissioner and staff from other county departments "did undertake a certain level of independent investigation to determine whether property owners were in compliance with eligibility requirements."

"My understanding," Morse said, "is if a review did not provide evidence to establish eligibility, the property owner was sent a notice of non-renewal" and had an opportunity to respond with evidence of eligibility."

However, Morse noted, "the process for reviewing the 2009 reporting statements took over a year to complete," and offending landowners were sent notices of non-renewal in both 2010 and 2011.

As a result, departments involved in administering the program decided the county's laws governing the Williamson Act here needed to be "reshaped."

They began "contemplating" needed program changes in 2012, and became "more focused" on the task in 2013 and 2014."

And, Morse added, "if reporting statements had been mailed out in 2012 or later, "it is uncertain if a large number of parcels would have been removed from the program after reviewing the returned reporting statements."

While program participants may receive a tax break ranging from 10 percent to 95 percent, the ag commissioner's office does not deal in, or have the expertise, to determine landowners' appropriate tax benefits. That, Morse said, is the job of County Assessor-Clerk Recorder Sue Ranochak.

The rest of Laytonville | From Page 1

"The take-away is to take care of yourself and take care of each other," he said.

Many of those attending Monday's meeting said they had personal and professional ties to the Norvell/Palmieri family. According to a Healthy Start staff member, Teo Palmieri had just finished volunteering for a children's summer program in which he made "a huge impact" and touched kids' lives. His father, Coleman, an electrician, was also remembered for his good humor and community involvement.

Several said Barton had visited their homes, spent time with their children, and received extra encouragement from the entire community.

After the murders, Barton was persuaded by Norvell's daughter and niece to call 9-1-1 to report what he'd done; he is now in Mendocino County Jail awaiting a preliminary hearing September 16.

One woman described the tragedy as "unfolding like a bad dream," as she gradually learned from friends and the media what happened at the Meadow Lane home of the Norvell/Palmieri family just after midnight July 19.

"You might feel like you are the only one going on this roller coaster, but you're not," Anderson told the group.

A woman from the Mendocino Coast said Laytonville is not alone, that people from across the county and beyond are sending their love, support, prayers and sympathy.

"There is something very dark happening; this

appropriate tax benefits. That, Morse said, is the job of County Assessor-Clerk Recorder Sue Ranochak.

In addition, Morse opined the grand jury report recommendation that the county enforce sanctions for failure to file the required reporting statements "requires further analysis."

"Proposed Williamson Act "policies and procedures" provide that properties for which a questionnaire is not returned may be subject to an investigation" by the assessor's office to determine "whether the property is in compliance with its Williamson Act contract, the act itself, its policies and procedures, and other laws regulations and guidelines."

But a date for review of the draft policies and procedures sent to the board of supervisors had not been set at the time the response was issued.

Morse added, however, those draft policies and procedures "appear to be on course for consideration" this fall.

Any mailing of reporting statements after the policies and procedures are adopted by the board "will be performed by the assessor's office," Morse said

Ranochak concedes property tax reductions on Williamson Act lands can vary from 10 percent to 95 percent per landowner.

That's because the California Revenue and Taxation Code defines the current taxable value that can be placed on land under a Williamson Act contract, and that value cannot exceed the lowest of either the current restricted value (determined by the income method for open-space properties); the current fair market value calculated by Section 110 of the state's Revenue and Taxation Code; or the factored base year value, as if unrestricted, calculated under the provisions of California's Proposition 13.

The year the taxable value is placed on the state tax rolls determines the range between the restricted value and the Proposition 13 value, Ranochak explained, so "the more recent in time the acquisition, the greater the difference."

Thus a property purchased today will have a higher base year value than a property purchased 30 years ago, "and when comparing today's value with the restricted value, the difference could be as high as 95 percent, as opposed to comparing a 1985 base year value with a restricted value, where the difference could be as low as 10 percent," the assessor said.

"Current fair market value comparisons will create similar differences between the restricted value and today's value."

The board of supervisors did shorten the length of Williamson Act contracts from 10 to nine years, board Chairwoman Carre Brown said. That's because state law changed, and counties were allowed to reduce contract terms "in any year in which the subventions are less than one-half of the county's actual foregone property tax revenue. The county first made [that] determination in 2010, and has made it in each year since."

Under the county's new draft "policies and procedures," proof of income or expenditures would be required to prove eligibility for a Williamson Act contract, Brown added.

That draft was reviewed by the county planning commission on June 4, and after making certain revisions, planners recommended the board of supervisors adopt an ordinance amending a section of the county code to approve the new "policies and procedures."

Planners also directed county staff to supply supervisors with additional information regarding qualifying income levels.

A public hearing on the ordinance was scheduled for August 4.

is part of our culture," she said. "We must go on." Several in the audience wondered what they or the community might have done to prevent the tragedy and to ensure similar events don't happen in the future.

Providing better county mental health services was one suggestion. Ensuring that all children have safe, loving childhoods, particularly during their first five years of life, was another.

One participant suggested community members who want to make a difference might volunteer in school classrooms.

Many expressed gratitude to Healthy Start and to the Laytonville community for providing love and support in times of sorrow.

Granger said cards of sympathy and support can be addressed to Dr. Norvell at the Long Valley Health Center, P.O. Box 870, Laytonville, CA 95454.

Need support?

Mendocino County's 24-hour crisis line can be reached at 800-555-5906 or 463-4396.

National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI, holds support groups for caregivers, survivors and families at Harwood Hall on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6 pm.

Long Valley Health Center and Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center are providing mental health support for anyone affected by the recent tragedy. For information, call Laytonville Healthy Start at 984-8089 or Long Valley Health Center at 984-6131.

Jane Fletcher lives near Laytonville.

THANK YOU!

To all of the buyers who helped reach the 2015 Junior Livestock Auction total of

\$628,595.51



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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 101 Trailer and RV | Don & Rhonda Brown | Kathy's Tax Service | Northern Aggregates | Shuster Transportation |
| Acme Rigging | Donahoo Inc. | Keith's Family Food Store | Noyo Trawlers Association | Sky Rock Ranch |
| AG Unlimited | Dr. Jeremiah Dawson & | Langdon Day Farms | Penofin | Smith West Coast |
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| All in One Auto | Dr. Georgeanne Croskey | Les Schwab Tire Center - Ukiah | Pete's Tractor & Pump | Spartime Supply |
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| American Ag Credit | Eel River Fuels, Inc. | Long Valley Auto Supply | Raley's | Superior Pump & Drilling, Inc. |
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| Bud Garman Construction | Garton Tractor | Mayfield Consulting | Roederer Estate / Anderson Vineyards | Ukiah Taco Bell |
| Burrish Ranch | Geiger's Long Valley Market | MBC Construction | Ron's Quality Construction | Ukiah Transfer Station |
| C & A Organic Farm | Granite Construction | McCarty's Auto Body | Round Tree Glass | Ukiah Valley Rentals |
| Campbell & Sons Falling | Gravier's Chevron Laytonville | McCarty's Bar & Grill | Round Valley Indian Heath Center | Ukiah Waste Solutions |
| Cash & Sue Dunlap Farms | Grocery Outlet - Ukiah | Mendo Mill & Lumber Co. | Round Valley Indian Housing Authority | Uptown Mercantile & Marketplace |
| Chase Vineyards | Grocery Outlet - Willits | Mendocino Animal Hospital - Dr. Sara Rice | Round Valley Indian Housing Authority | Valley Paving |
| Chevalier Vineyard Management | Hartje Vineyards | Mendocino County Farm Bureau | Round Valley Indian Tribes | Vic Weaver |
| Clint Hanks | Harvest Market | Mendocino County Farm Supply | Rucker Vineyards | Vineyard Logistics |
| Coastal Mountain Business Services | Hidden Oaks Casino | Mendocino Forest Products | Safeway - Ukiah | Vogel's RVs |
| Cold Creek Compost | Highway 20 Feed | Mendocino Roofing Inc. | Safeway - Willits | Weathertop Nursery |
| Covelo Western Auto Inc. | Hoppers Corner Saloon | Mina Burgers | Savings Bank of Mendocino Co. | Willits Power & Hardware |
| David Simmons Trucking | Iversen Logging Inc. | Mina Ranch | Selzer Realty | Willits Redwood Company |
| Dennis Ryan | J & M Sheetmetal, Inc. | Nor-Cal Recycled Rock & Aggregates | Sherwood Valley - Early James | Wine Country Termite |
| Diggers Bar & No Grill | Joe Puentes | | | Yokum's Body Shop |
| | Johnson Club Lambs | | | |

2015 Grand Champions

Selected from 237 lots



Scotty Dailey of Potter Valley FFA sold his Grand Champion Market Hog to The New Thurston Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram



Casey Looney of Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H sold his Grand Champion Market Steer to Thurston Auto Plaza



Chancelyn Johnson of Potter Valley 4-H sold her Grand Champion Market Lamb to Ukiah Grocery Outlet



Annabelle Hallman of Potter Valley 4-H sold her Grand Champion Market Turkey to Friedman's Home Improvement of Ukiah



Madison Forrester of Willits 4-H sold her Grand Champion Market Goat to Mendocino Roofing Inc.



Alexis Madrigal of Anderson Valley FFA sold his Grand Champion Poultry Meat Pen to Ukiah Taco Bell



Stephany Brundage of Willits 4-H sold her Grand Champion Rabbit Meat Pen to Willits Grocery Outlet

Additional Thanks

An additional Thank You goes out to the Mendocino County Farm Bureau and Geiger's Long Valley Market for their sponsorship of the buyer's hats and to the Savings Bank of Mendocino County for all of their hard work throughout the event.

Photographs by Maureen Moore / Mphotographres.com