

# Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 70 **Thursday, September 4, 2014**

## Sheriff takes public's cannabis questions in Laytonville

Kate Maxwell  
Reporter  
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Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman took questions concerning local law enforcement practices and marijuana grows from a large crowd of residents in Laytonville's Harwood Hall last Sunday.

Allman spoke at the Long Valley Garden Club's Cannabis Renaissance Series' concluding event, which has hosted speakers on topics that included environmentally friendly growing methods, current medical research, and policy and legal efforts in the region and state.

Following a brief  
**Read more of Questions**  
Over on Page 9

## Council passes deficit budget, still hopes to balance books

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
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The city's 2014-2015 budget was whittled and reworked to ensure smaller deficits before being passed by the city council last week.

The city's figures banked on some assumptions, one of which is that city water rates will be increased by 20 percent. That rate increase is expected to be considered by the council at its September 10 meeting.

The city's general fund and its water and sewer departments are all currently in the red. However, City Manager

**Read more of Budget**  
Over on Page 10

## Council approves hospital support buildings

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
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Development of the new Adventist hospital campus on East Hill Road drew a little bit closer when the Willits City Council approved a permit for buildings to support the hospital.

The Frank R. Howard Foundation Medical Campus picked up support from council members serving as the city's planning commission with

**Read the rest of Campus**  
Over on Page 13

## Roots gets Ready



This weekend is the annual Roots of Motive Power Steamup and first-ever Lumberjack Show. The Roots dudes will be showcasing many pieces of their antique and restored logging and locomotive equipment, offering train rides, and giving tours of the Engine House. The Lumberjack competition will include professionals and a group of locals who will try to chop and saw their way to first place in traditional lumberjack tasks. Below is a schedule of which pieces of machinery will be running when, as well as some of the other Roots events. See inside on page 4 for additional info about Sunday's Street Printing event and the Calendar on pages 6 and 7 for additional event info.

### Saturday, September 6:

**All day long:** Engine House Tours  
**9 am:** Railroad Operations begin with Bluestone Heisler #1 Bluestone will pull train until 12 pm, Switch with #7, Remain under steam for double heading at 3 pm  
**10 am:** Ohio Locomotive Crane, Bucyrus Erie 50B Steam Shovel moves to pit, Willamette Yarder debuts with Port Huron Portable Steam Engine, Mansfield and printing press, tractors smoothing Shovel Pit  
**11 am:** BE 50B at Pit, Buffalo Springfield Steam Roller, Raymond Steam Crane

**Read the rest of Roots** Over on Page 10



Top: Troy James and James Anson use a Simonds "Royal Chinook," cross cut saw - or "misery whip" - a saw that was popular in its day. Above: James Anson poses, with ax in hand, alongside Heisler the Roots pooch on redwood logs. Left: Troy James holds the cross cut saw, balancing it over one shoulder.  
Photos by Maureen Moore

## It's Time wins expansion approval

Popular Willits eatery It's Time has won approval from the city council to expand and further refine its outdoor eating space on a Commercial Street sidewalk.

Council members approved a use permit for expansion of outdoor seating by a 4-1 vote at the last city council meeting. Councilman Larry Stranske voted "no."

Stranske favored using a space in the alleyway rather than sidewalk space. Schmidbauer Lane is the short alleyway between It's Time and the Noyo Theater, leading to a public parking lot near Main Street Music and Video.

A redwood tree and a small lattice fence occupy a spot in the alley way already. "So if they wanted to keep this clear, why did they allow that?" Stranske asked.

Retired City Planner Alan Falleri volunteered to work on the use permit for It's Time. He

presented the project to council members and fielded questions on the permit.

In its application for the use permit, It's Time submitted a map of the block, a diagram detailing the layout of the 600-square-foot establishment, and two diagrams showing how the barricade will be constructed.

Stranske stated concerns about safety and the city's liability. "I am really concerned about whose liability is on the line, because that is still going to be used by trucks and 18 wheelers coming down Commercial Street," he said.

"The city only has liability if it is determined city sidewalks have dangerous conditions," City Attorney Jim Lance opined.

Falleri said the space has to be clearly visible to satisfy the terms of an alcoholic beverage license with the state ABC.



## Delay announced in hospital construction

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
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Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital announced an "unforeseen delay in construction progress" Wednesday afternoon for the new hospital being built on East Hill Road.

The delay will push the opening of the new hospital to spring 2015, instead of later this year. A dedication ceremony had been planned for November 16, and the hospital had been expected to be occupied in January 2015.

"The construction of the new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital has experienced a delay," said

**Read the rest of HMH**  
Over on Page 13

## County rejects grand jury library claims

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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"Innocent and falsely accused." That's the official response to claims in the 2014 report by the Mendocino County Grand Jury that the county is taking advantage of its library system.

The grand jury report alleges the county has failed to treat the library as a special district, has usurped the powers of the county librarian, has bilked the library system on its A87 administrative costs, and has paid the county librarian out of library funds, which the grand jury claims

**Read the rest of Library**  
Over on Page 13

## No funds to reverse decline of county roads

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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Supervisors on Tuesday staged a tactical retreat before a seemingly insoluble problem - the inevitable decline of the county's paved road system. The board took no action on Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde's motion to allocate \$2 million this year on corrective maintenance on the county's paved roads.

**Read the rest of Roads**  
Over on Page 13





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Far left: James Anson of Roots guides the Buffalo Springfield roller over the inked image during the Roadworks 2013 event in San Francisco.

Left: The completed image is carefully lifted off of the linoleum block.

Left below: San Francisco Center for the Book volunteers hold one of the prints of Rik Olson's artwork. Many of Rik Olson's pieces of art feature the image of a steam roller.

Left bottom: San Francisco Center for the Book's Chad Johnson inks one of the linoleum blocks prior to printing.

Bottom: Master printer Rik Olson, right, admires one of the large prints at Roadworks 2013 in San Francisco. Rik Olson will be on hand at the Roots Festival in Willits on Sunday, September 7, between 11 am and 2 pm.

## Street Printing at the Roots Steam Festival

Making art with the Buffalo Springfield steam roller

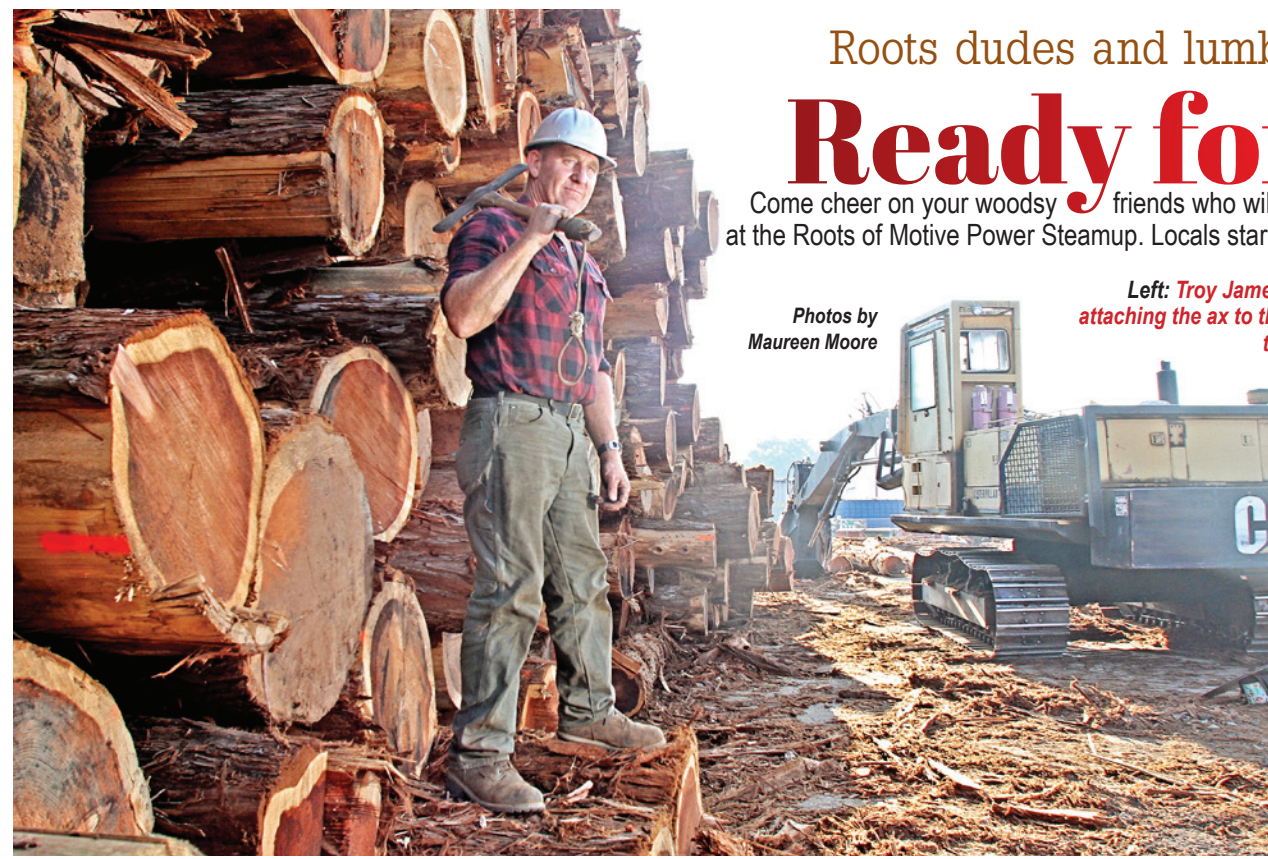
Roots members are always looking for exciting ways to demonstrate the wonders of steam power. This year's Roots Steam Festival features a demonstration of street printing using the Buffalo Springfield steam roller as the "printing press."

Roots ventured down to San Francisco in 2013 to participate in an event at the San Francisco Center for the Book, the 10th annual Roadworks Printing Festival. The Center for the Book is a printing museum, preserving not only the hardware of early printing systems, but also teaching classes to preserve the knowledge necessary to operate the early machinery. The fascination with street printing is that by using a pavement roller, large format prints are made possible, larger than the print capacity of most printing systems.

Chris Baldo  
Contributing Writer

Artists carefully carve "battleship grade" linoleum blocks. These blocks are inked, and special grade printing paper is laid over the block. Several layers of protective blankets are placed on top of the assembly, which is placed on the pavement. In our case, the 7-ton Buffalo Springfield steam roller gently rolls over the artwork, "pressing" the paper against the inked linoleum block. The process is kinetic and exciting, and the resulting prints are exquisite.

The Roots Festival Street Printing event will take place on Sunday, September 7 in Recreation Grove between 11 am and 2 pm. Some linoleum blocks and carving tools will be available for aspiring artists to try their hand at the printing technique. Rik Olson, one of the master printers for the San Francisco Center for the Book, will be on hand to guide the operations. For more info on the 2014 Roadworks Printing Festival, set for September 28 in San Francisco's Potrero Hill, visit [www.sfcbook.org/events/roadworks](http://www.sfcbook.org/events/roadworks).



Photos by  
Maureen Moore

Left: Troy James holds a high climber ax, which features a short handle and a rope for attaching the ax to the high climber's belt, as he goes up the tree. Below: James Anson lets the sawdust fly as he pushes a model 090 Stihl saw through a large log.



## Roots dudes and lumberjacking locals are getting Ready for the Show

Come cheer on your woody friends who will compete in the locals' division of the show held this weekend at the Roots of Motive Power Steamup. Locals start at 7 pm on Saturday! See calendar for more info and details.

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Willits High School Wolverines battle the El Molino Lions on the WHS field during last Friday's game.

Blake Leslie, #7, throws the ball. Blake threw three touchdown passes during the Friday game, and cheers from the crowd could be heard across the otherwise-quiet north end of town.

Willits Wolverines TJ Buzzard, #52, and Colton Pinson, #51, on the field.

Wolverine Will Smith, #20, receives the ball during Friday's game.

Photos by Kim Pinson

**NEXT HOME GAME:**  
**Friday, 9/12**  
**5 pm & 7 pm**  
**at WHS**

## The first of the **Friday Night Lights**

WHS Varsity Wolverines play hard against El Molino: final score: 36-45

"The kids played really well!" noted Sean Leslie, Willits High School's head coach for the varsity football team. "Even though we ended the game at 36-45, they kept the score tight and really played hard for their first time out on the field!"

Last Friday was the first home game for Willits High School's football team, which they played against El Molino, a school from Forresterville in Sonoma County.

Leslie noted that the El Molino kids had already scrimmaged a few games prior to WHS's first time out on the field, and mentioned how proud he was of the players on the Wolverine team for really holding their own.

"There are about 15 kids that moved up this year from the jayvee team last year who are really good additions to the varsity team," explained Leslie. "They were great last year, and this year, they're even bigger, stronger and faster."

There were three players that Leslie mentioned who made notable plays during the Friday game: 16-year-old juniors Blake Leslie, Justin Thom and Will Smith.

Blake is the quarterback this year and was able to complete 12 of his 15 passes. He also threw three touchdown passes for

about 350 yards.

Justin, the wide receiver, caught three of the touchdown passes from Blake, and Will Smith was able to run the ball down the gridiron for a touchdown.

Coach Leslie also noted the defense's great job holding the line during the "shootout style" game - with both teams consistently making touchdowns and scoring points back and forth.

"Everyone on the team this year is such a team player, too," explained Leslie. "They have great sportsmanship, and it looks like it will be a really great year."

Around 25 players are on the varsity roster this season, and Leslie and some coaching associates are thinking that, with the great group of 2014, the Wolverines

will be a good contender for the ACL1 title.

Come cheer on the jayvee and varsity teams during their next home game, Friday, September 12, at Maize Field, behind the high school. The Wolverines will play Elsie Allen. Jayvee starts at 5 pm and varsity at 7 pm. More info: 459-7700.

- Maureen Moore



## Squeaky Clean

Willits High School gets new gym floor

While the varnish sets, students have to stay off the new boards, but when practices and classes resume, everyone will surely enjoy the fancy new flooring.



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