

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

By donation

Thursday, September 5, 2013

Edition No. 19

Council rejects letter

to Gov. Brown asking for two-lane bypass support

Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

Councilwoman Madge Strong's letter to Gov. Jerry Brown pleading for the state to support a two-lane Willits bypass with a smaller northern interchange will not have the approval of the Willits City Council.

Strong and Mayor Holly Madrigal voted in support of the proposed correspondence, and councilmen Larry Stranske and Ron Orenstein voted no. Bruce Burton, called

Read the rest of **Bypass**
Over on Page 9

BOS ad hoc committee to 'explore' clean energy loan program

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Supervisors John McCowen and Dan Hamburg have been named to an ad hoc committee to study the question of how to create a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program in Mendocino County.

The program provides home energy retrofits such as the installation of solar power systems and double-pane windows. The improvements are paid for by a loan, which is paid off over an extended period as part of the homeowner's property taxes.

The issue came before the board in June of this year, when a package deal for a PACE program by the Ygrene Energy Fund was defeated by a 4-1 vote. At that time, supervisors were uncomfortable by the lack of support for the program from the county's banking community.

That concern seemed to be stirred by the fears of some bankers, including Scott Yandell of Savings Bank of Mendocino County, that loans given out to finance clean-energy retrofits on private residences would be regarded by federal housing lenders Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as prior or intervening loans, taking precedence over the loans local banks might give to those same homeowners.

Read the rest of **Energy**
Over on Page 9



What do three men, one fancy lady, a yard stick and a goat all have in common? They all were showing their mustache-and-beard filled pride at a photo shoot in preparation for the first annual Beard and Mustache Contest at this weekend's Kinetic Carnivale.

Beard contest veteran (and star of "Whisker Wars") Aarne Bielefeldt, his wife Rita and beard aficionado Jake Jones will all judge the competition held on Saturday at the Rec Grove. Best Beard, Best Mustache and a Freestyle division will be available to enter – the latter of which invites all kinds of

Read the rest of **Beards**
Over on Page 9

BEST of the Beards

Locals encouraged to compete for the title at Kinetic Carnival

Above right: from top: Bielefeldt holds a yardstick up to his beard; center: Jennison poses in profile; Jones smiles with Hula the bearded goat, who is not eligible to compete in the contest

Below from left: Jennison, Bielefeldt and Jones show off their beards; center: master beardsmen Jennison (left) and Bielefeldt (right) assist Bonnet with her fancy mustache; right: the group poses to inspire contestants to enter the Beard and Mustache Contest

Read more about this year's Kinetic Carnivale on Page 12



Angel of Ardella's

Generous local 'pays it forward,' buying all meals at diner on Saturday

What's better than a plate of portobella eggs benedict with spinach and a side of potatoes at Ardella's Downtown Diner? A FREE plate of portobella eggs benedict with spinach

Maureen Moore
Designer & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

and a side of potatoes at Ardella's Downtown Diner!

For those who made the stop at one of Willits' favorite breakfast and lunch spots Saturday, they received just that, as all the

meals, all day on Saturday, August 30, were paid for, courtesy of a generous donor.

"Someone who wishes to remain anonymous said that they would like to 'pay it forward' and offered to buy everyone's meals for one day at the restaurant," explained Lori Dorholt, co-owner of Ardella's. "Not a rich person, just a good patron of the restaurant, who while having some distain for 'the machine,' really wanted to do something nice for our customers."

The general reaction of the day was disbelief, appreciation and lots of "warm and fuzzy feelings."

"Our servers really enjoyed not making change all day long," laughed Dorholt. "It was just crazy generous, and we appreciated the feeling of goodwill at Ardella's that resulted."

It was a generally normal holiday weekend/Saturday level of business that day, and Dorholt noted her appreciation that things

Read the rest of **Ardella's**
Over on Page 11



Kathy Albright and Lori Dorholt, owners of Ardella's Downtown Diner in Willits

Photo by Maureen Moore

Board approves countywide storm water rules

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

A revised set of storm water discharge regulations that apply to all unincorporated areas in Mendocino County was approved by supervisors on August 27.

The vote was 3-2, with supervisors John Pinches and Carre Brown voting no.

A thumbnail version of the new law could be expressed as, "thou shalt not" discharge pollutants into any Mendocino County waterway.

In voting no, Pinches

Read the rest of **Storm**
Over on Page 12

Measure F formally endorsed by board

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution endorsing the vote on Measure F and promised to send a letter to Congressman Jared Huffman, asking him to support that amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Measure F, approved by Mendocino County voters last November with a 74 percent "yes" vote, called for a Constitutional amendment which would establish that only human beings, not corporations, are "persons" under the law, and only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights.

Read the rest of **Measure**
Over on Page 9

WCA hires nonprofit transition managers

Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

Janet Rayner and Jeff Crawford, former members of the city's Cultural Arts Commission, have been hired as a husband-and-wife management team to guide the Willits Center for the Arts during its transition to a nonprofit organization.

The duo also will take care of business at the gallery.

Read the rest of **WCA**
Over on Page 9

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Editor's note: As Willits Weekly reported in last week's issue, Brice McKinnon, 22, of Willits was arrested Tuesday, August 27, on nine felony charges of arson. McKinnon is suspected setting nine wildfires in the Willits area in July and August. Willits Weekly learned Thursday that McKinnon was a firefighter with the Little Lake Fire Protection District. This letter below is Fire Chief Carl Magann's statement on McKinnon's arrest. Thank you, Chief Magann for sending this statement; thanks to those who conducted the investigation; and thank you most sincerely to all the volunteer firefighters of the Little Lake Fire Department, for everything you do to help keep the Willits community safe.

Statement from Chief Magann

To the Editor:

When any firefighter commits or is accused of any crime, the department's credibility with their community can be impacted.

Our firefighters have sworn to provide a level of service and integrity to our community, our taxpayers, and to each other.

The members of the Little Lake Fire Protection District take this matter as a personal affront to our honor and profession as firefighters, volunteer or paid. We have provided emergency and non-emergency services to our community for more than 100 years. Our members have performed numerous calls for service for rescue, fire suppression, emergency medical calls, and almost any other response as requested.

There is hardly a family within our community that has not been touched in some way or manner by one of our members during a time of need. We are loath to have our honor, trust and respect damaged by an individual's alleged destructive action.

The Little Lake Fire Protection District maintains a very stringent application process which includes interviews by all officers, following up on references, finger printing and submittal to the Department of Justice for arrest information. All new firefighters are given a 1 year probationary period where their actions and demeanor is observed. Obviously, it isn't enough, and this process will be reviewed and strengthened to prevent any future occurrences.

This suspected fire setter did not do our department or his community right, and he will be prosecuted to the fullest extent allowed by law if he should be found guilty.

To our community: Please try to remember all the good this fire department and firefighters have done and not let this instance ruin our reputation or your trust in us.

I would like to thank the fire investigators that took the lead in this investigation and worked so diligently to bring this matter to a quick resolution. You have my sympathies for having to arrest one of our own.

Carl Magann, Fire Chief, Little Lake Fire
Protection District

Dear Willits...

To the Editor:

I yearn for you. I want to meet in taquerias and hear the Burners' tales, I want to snuggle with the freshly born children of my friends and press my ear to the bellies of those who have not yet delivered. I want to have a glass of wine on my parents' deck and reminisce about what a wonderful corner of the universe we reside in.

I want to be present for the magical closeness of the “alternative” and imaginative social network we have built. I love you. Your green hills, waterfalls, and your cows munching on grass and baying at losing their calves each spring bring vibrations to my soul.

Yeah sure, some of us young'uns fought to get out (and I'm glad I did). But I've seen what I've seen, and now I wanna

come home. I want to strike a foundation from which it's safe to venture. It's likely I'll still live a few hours away, but I'm ready to be in a place where I can get Home with a moment's notice.

It's time to return. My bones tell me so. It's time to return and begin my future. It's time to settle; to create a home base from which to travel. It's time to think about what comes next, and how to make each day enjoyable.

Let's cook in the open air, make babies, and cultivate a community insulated against the dark winds of tomorrow.

I honor my friends who are doing the same and those of my parents who made this conclave possible. Gimme a few months, and I'll be nearer...

Momma, I'm coming home.

Molly Andich, Willits/Arlington, VA

Thank you to Mariposa

To the Editor:

I grew up in the preservative era. Hostess, Wonder Bread, Slim Jims, frozen foods and lots of soda pop. These are some of the things that have given me health problems now that I am in my 40s. If I could say anything to our younger generation it would be, be aware of what you are putting in your bodies.

A few years ago my health got really bad, and the only store I could find foods I could eat was Mariposa. It took awhile to change my bad food habits. But, now I cannot eat processed foods without feeling sick. I didn't go on a diet, I just changed the way I eat. No pesticides, no processed foods of any kind. I eat mostly organic or as close to natural as I could get. I feel that Mariposa helped save my life or at least prolonged it.

Now, when I walk in to Mariposa the first thing that hits me is the smell. I love the smell of the store. It says home, health and good feelings all at once. I cannot write about the store without mentioning the people who work there. From the wonderful crew in the café. To my favorite cashier, Debbie. Their welcoming attitudes and the smell of fresh food creates an atmosphere that makes my day a little brighter.

I don't know where I would be today without all the things that make Mariposa my store. Some people I talk to tell me they can't afford to shop there. I set them straight. Sometimes the food I buy there is cheaper or the same price as the big chain stores. And if sometimes the prices are a little bit higher, the health benefits make up the difference. Our children, and our children's, children need to eat healthy foods. They eat what they see us eat. Be a good example and eat healthy foods. I would like to take the time to say: "Thank You" to the owners and the employees of Mariposa market. You make my life a better place to be in.

Valerie Smith, Willits

Forging a way forward

To the Editor:

The current construction of the Willits bypass is literally changing the landscape of where we live. This project has brought many issues that City government and residents are struggling with. A project of this magnitude is requiring huge amounts of resources like the land being used for the fill, the water to use as dust abatement, and the dollars

being spent to make this bypass happen.

As mayor of Willits, I have been navigating a number of bypass-related concerns. The East Hill Road closure has been a huge inconvenience, and we have adapted and learned how to avoid such a hassle for future construction closures. I am negotiating a temporary detour connecting Railroad Avenue and Shell Lane to help alleviate traffic next time roads have to be closed.

The permanent construction of a Baechtel Road to Railroad Avenue connection is a top priority for the City Council and designing a recommended route is the next step in that process.

Caltrans already has the re-stripping of Main Street at the bottleneck on their work plan for 2014. The plan is to continue two lanes through to the Highway 20 turn lane. We are encouraging them to bump up that project to *this* construction season because the traffic impacts have been serious this summer. This should provide some low-cost congestion relief until the City can complete the more long-term local road projects.

The City Council has negotiated the bypass contractors' use of city streets. Even though we did not get everything we wanted, Councilmembers Burton and Orenstein worked very hard to get us tangible results. Some members of the public do not want us to negotiate with the contractors, or feel like we should use the threat of litigation to get more concessions. Many don't realize that a local business, NorCal Construction, is one of the parties that will now be allowed to use city streets and increase local employment. If we had chosen the litigation route, it would waste taxpayer dollars and we would have no guarantee that the City would "prevail".

The City Council looks very carefully at all of these issues and we know full well that there are always people dissatisfied with our decisions. Two recent letters to the editor (one pro-bypass and one anti-bypass) contend that when the Council makes decisions that the author objects to, it is because attention is being diverted towards a future run for supervisor. This concern is baseless as I am completely focused on the wellbeing of Willits regardless of my future political decisions.

The local rumor mill has also been rampant saying that the recent odor problems with the tap water are being caused by Caltrans. This is completely false as the City has prevented the contractors from using potable City water sources for dust abatement. Treated wastewater is being provided for use but that has “been through the system” and is not impacting our reservoir levels. The problem persists because of natural occurring algae growth. The City is working diligently to remedy this problem and appreciates everyone’s patience.

This is a challenging time to serve on the Willits City Council, while at the same time being an exciting opportunity. Perhaps more than any other time in our recent history, the decisions we make now will shape our town for years to come. We need to embrace an identity and work together to realize a shared vision for Willits. Improving traffic safety, and creating a welcoming downtown benefits not just locals but tourists alike. Having clear signage on the freeway and Highway 20 intersection to direct visitors to our restaurants, shops and businesses is critical. Willits can survive and thrive after the bypass is complete, but it will take our whole community to pull it together. This is why I call on all residents to participate in this process. Contact me and tell me how you think Willits should forge a way forward. holly@willitscity.com

Holly Madrigal, mayor, Willits

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters from area residents, focusing on Willits issues, activities, events and people, have priority. Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred.

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.



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Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits

California Wool & Fiber Festival

A “fair within a fair” next weekend

Maureen Moore
Designer & Photographress
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Mid-September is the time of the year to head over the hill to the beautiful town of Boonville for the annual Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show and the California Wool and Fiber Festival.

Next weekend – September 13, 14 and 15 – artisans and exhibitors will be displaying their goods and livestock for all to see at the Boonville Fairgrounds, along with standard building entry favorites, carnival fun, sheep dog trials and, above all, apple pie.

A special group of these exhibitors include those who are keeping the tradition and artistry of shearing, spinning



and creating alive, with wool from angora rabbits and from sheep through the 16th annual California Wool and Fiber Festival.

This “fair within a fair” draws contestants from all over the state to showcase their fleeces for judging and to enjoy sharing their knowledge with interested event-goers.

Willits’ Charlie Lacey who raises angora rabbits, is one of the demonstrators who speaks on Saturday and Sunday at the fair.

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



At top: Charlie Lacey gives his angora rabbit demonstration at the 2012 festival.

Clockwise from above: Carey Pinson of Big River Beads & Fiber and her son demonstrate spinning in front of the festival’s themed T-shirts; Lacey talks while David Swingle spins the freshly shorn angora yarn; colorful yarn and bags of fleeces on display at last year’s event

Photos by Maureen Moore



Congratulations Column



Brooke Rita
Dorbin

Brooke Rita Dorbin was born on August 14th at 12:22 pm to parents Carmen Molina and Shelley Dorbin, of Willits. She weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces, was 19.5 inches long, and was delivered at Ukiah Valley Medical Center. Family was there to welcome her, including grandmother Veronica Cacho, aunts Jessie Molina and Holly Sears, and godmother Maureen Moore.

Dog Park Heroes



Dave Watts of Sanhedrin Nursery (right) and Louis Rohlicek, secretary and project manager for the Frank Grasse Dog Park on Commercial Street, put “finishing touches” on the “small dog” section of the park over Labor Day weekend. Scarlet maples were planted, soaker lines hooked up, and water lines successfully tested. Now small or shy dogs and their owners can recreate in style.

Condolences Column

Ruth J. Crawford
1928 - 2013

Ruth J. Crawford, 84, passed away on Thursday, August 29, 2013, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on September 23, 1928, in Norman, Oklahoma, to Alvis C. & Mae Martin. She had three younger brothers, two of which have predeceased her.

She was married to Donald W. Crawford for 62 years, and they lived most of their married life in Napa, California.

She is survived by her children: Karen Bockhahn and husband, Carl; Peggy Klier and husband, Alan; Don Crawford and wife, Ramona. She also has eight grandchildren: Jeff, Greg and Daniel Klier, Todd, Kristin and Joel Bockhahn, and Yvette and Heath Crawford, and 20 great grandchildren.

She moved to Willits three years ago after the death of her husband, and has been active in Grace Community Church.

Third Annual Laytonville ART Walk

Saturday, September 14th, 2013
10 am to 6 pm

Free Event
Fun for the Whole Family!

Live Music Kids Zone
Art Raffle Food Discounts

All proceeds raised by The Laytonville Art Walk, through sales of event tee-shirts and food & raffle tickets goes directly to funding art in the schools & related programs for the youth of our community!

For more info or to register as a participating artist, email: bluecloud52@hotmail.com

Willits Weekly
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Visit the home of
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August 3 – August 17
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*Ridgewood TRAIL Fundraiser

2013

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For more information and to reserve, visit: seabiscuitheritage.org

\$20 per person
Children under age 11 are free
Tour starts at 9:30 am rain or shine
Duration: 1 1/2 - 2 hours

Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation
16200 North Highway 101
in Willits, California 95490

Telephone: 707.459.5992
www.seabiscuitheritage.org
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Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



A photo of St. John Lutheran Church members was included in each of the Operation Christmas Child gift boxes Photo by Pat Wilson

Operation Christmas Child

Many hands make light work at St. John's

More than 35 members of the St. John Lutheran Church congregation and guests contributed their hands, their love and prayers, their money, and their donations to fill 40 gift boxes for young boys and girls living in difficult circumstances around the world.

Cat Lee
Reporter
cat@willitsweekly.com

Tami Rempel, who headed up the Operation Christmas Child gift box project for St. John's, and Pastor Karl Bliese were happy about this particular project, Rempel said, because "even people who can't contribute stuff or money, can contribute with their hands, with their actions."

St. John's collection of donations for Operation Christmas Child started to build slowly over the summer but really picked up momentum in the last few weeks. Since Thrivent Financial For Lutherans (a fraternal organization) is picking



At left top: Reporter Cat Lee took a turn through the box-filling line (and the potluck line too!) Photo by Tami Rempel



Below: Left to right: Geraldine Armond, Georgie Bush, and Marcia Bennett work their way through the line, choosing items from each category to fill the gift boxes. Photo by Cat Lee

Read the rest of Boxes Over on Page 11

A ventral midline fly strike spot

Photo by Sheri Cronin



Column | Equine Health

Pigeon fever

From late summer through fall, especially during drought years, we often see cases of "pigeon fever" caused by the bacteria *Corynebacteria pseudotuberculosis*. This disease gets its common name from its most common presentation: massive swelling and abscessation of the pectoral muscles, causing the patient's chest to resemble a pigeon's breast. Abscesses can also form in the sheath or mammary regions, the axillary or armpit area or in association with wounds. Some horses develop internal abscesses which are harder to diagnose and treat.

Sheri Cronin
Columnist

The bacteria causing pigeon fever (PF) is prevalent in the soil in the western U.S. The disease has actually been spreading east, with the drought conditions seen in those regions in recent years. Flies spread this organism, usually by landing on fly strike wounds found on the horses' lower abdomen – usually just behind where the cinch goes. Contaminated flies are attracted to these wounds: they land on them and infect the horse with the bacteria. Most infected horses will develop some swelling along their ventral abdomen, associated with the fly strike wound, and the wound may appear larger and start draining. Because of the tremendous weight of the thoracic and abdominal organs, abscesses don't usually form along the ventral abdomen; the bacteria and inflammation it causes moves forward into the chest or axillary region or back into the sheath/mammary area. The tissue under the skin in these areas is much looser, and there is room for abscesses to form here.

Affected horses usually run a fever and are depressed as this abscessing process takes places. The body forms abscesses to wall off invading organisms or foreign bodies and to do this a large inflammatory reaction takes place. Nobody feels good when their body is mounting an inflammatory response, but that doesn't mean all inflammatory responses are bad. Most horses wall off this bacteria and form a large abscess that can eventually be drained near the skin's surface. We have traditionally avoided treating horses with normal presentations of PF with anti-inflammatories, because we don't want to turn off the body's effective response to this condition. Similarly, we usually avoid using antibiotics in these horses because there is very poor penetration of drugs into abscesses ... so some of these horses feel pretty bad for some time, waiting for their abscesses to mature.

In complicated or prolonged cases of PF, recommendations from

Read the rest of Pigeon Fever Over on Page 11

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CSC-201Computer Applications

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HLH-50Community CPR & First Aid

To register or obtain more information visit our website: www.mendocino.edu Or call the North County Center at 459-6224

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NOVO THEATRE Willits, CA

Times for 9-6 to 9-12

BLUE JASMINE

(PG13) 1hr 38mins

Daily: 4:30, 6:45 & 9:00pm

Sat/Sun Matinee: 2:15pm

THE BUTLER

(PG13) 2hrs 12mins

Daily: 4:45 & 7:30pm

Sat/Sun Matinee: 2:00pm

This year's Steampunk Movie pick to benefit the Mendocino Museum \$5 admission includes FREE Carnivale ticket

SHERLOCK HOLMES (2009)

(PG13) 2hrs 8mins

Friday: 5:30 & 8:15pm

Sat/Sun: 2:45, 5:30, 8:15pm

Starts Monday Sept. 9th THIS IS THE END (R) 1hr 47mins Daily: 6:00 & 8:30pm

Tight Wad Tuesday


Blue Jasmine, The Butler & This is the End with \$5 admission for all shows & all ages!

Next week: The Way Way Back


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If you've been suffering with pain or been diagnosed with chronic pain, you won't want to miss this FREE seminar.


Don't let pain take over your life. Proper management of chronic pain from conditions like migraine, back pain, joint pain or following an injury can help you get back to an active life. Learn about new advances in treatment of chronic pain, from mental, physical and dietary options to new minimally invasive surgical options.



Michael Young, D.O., Interventional Pain Specialist
Dr. Young is a board-certified interventional pain specialist who performs in-office and minimally invasive surgical pain procedures. He has a passion for helping patients to get to the root cause of their pain.



Rachel Chavez, P.A., Pain Specialist
Rachel has a passion for working with people suffering from pain. She is focused on the holistic approach to healing by providing education on nutrition, medication management and procedures.



Rigga Shunya, P.N.P., Psychiatric Pain Specialist
Rigga specializes in helping patients understand their pain by combining a mental and physical approach.

JOIN US FOR A FREE SEMINAR Living Without Pain

September 12 6:00 p.m. registration 6:30-7:30 p.m. seminar

Ukiah Valley Conference Center 200 S. School St. | Ukiah, CA 95482

RSVP to 877.596.0644

Space is limited. A healthy dessert and light refreshments will be served. www.uvmc.org/painfree

Ukiah Valley Medical Center Adventist Health

You can also watch the event live at uvmc.org/live.

What's Happening



Thursday, September 5

Shanachie Pub: solo acoustic show with Kent Stephenson of the Kent Stephenson Band, "original Western rock." 6 pm. No cover. Visit <http://www.facebook.com/KSB88>

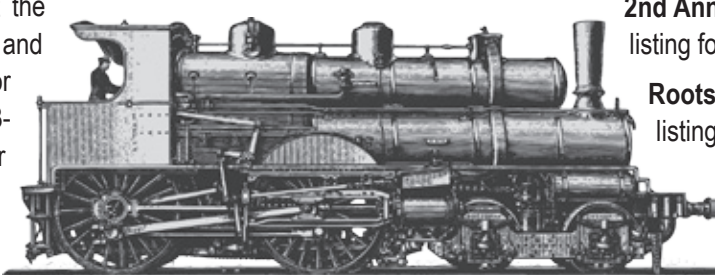
Friday, September 6

Kinetic Carnivale Kick-Off Party: featuring The Aether Brigade, steampunk

comedy troupe from Northern California, performing at Willits Community Theatre at 7 pm, then Toniq Vivant Burlesque Troupe, Shovelman, and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies, performing at Shanachie Pub, starting at 9 pm. Advance tickets \$15 per show; \$25 for both. Available at Goods' Shoppe and Brown Paper Tickets, as well as Shanachie Pub and WCT.

Saturday, September 7

2nd Annual Willits Kinetic Carnivale: Day-long fair with strolling entertainers, music, Whimsy Circus for kids, crafts, vendors and steampunk clothing and wares, food booths, garden tour of adjacent community gardens, and more at the Rec Grove Saturday and Sunday. \$5 per day for adults, \$2 for youth (13-18 years) and free for youth 12 and under, includes entry to the Mendocino County



Ongoing Events:

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

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

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

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

Save the Date:

"Stress Management Life Balance Workshop," with Kathy Espinoza, City Hall, September 18

Annual Yard Sale, St. Anthony's Church, September 21

Willits Community Harvest Farm to Table Dinner, Little Lake Grange, Saturday, September 21

Laytonville Art Walk, downtown Laytonville, September 22

Homecoming Football Game/Parade, WHS, September 27

Dick Graham

directs first play at Willits Community Theatre



The young Dick Graham, an aspiring performer already at age 2 ½.

Dick Graham, the director of "Two Across," opening at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, September 13, began his theatrical career at a young age when his grandmother took him daily on a bus to Hollywood to Ethel Meglin's studio for actors, dancers and musicians 16 and under that was known as "the gateway" for children to be in movies. "Meglin Kiddies" alumni included Shirley Temple, Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. Graham has not stopped enjoying make-believe ever since.

His mother sewed sequins on costumes, and his father was a cameraman for training films. Now here he is, living in Willits and directing his first play for WCT, "Two Across," a romantic comedy that takes place on a BART train ride where two people meet doing the crossword. Crossword puzzles are the hook but, as Graham sees it, what happens to these two characters as they vie with one another is the real movement of this play.

"Anytime you have a show where two actors are on stage for 80 minutes without a chance to hide, you are dealing with two people who are creating something," Graham says.

You can see for yourself what Mike A'Dair [editor's note: Mike A'Dair has replaced the original lead actor in this production] and Kathy de Bane create beginning Friday, September 13, and running Thursdays through Sundays for the next two weeks, closing Sunday, September 29. The WCT Raffle Grand Prize winning ticket will be drawn at the closing performance.

Tickets are available at Goods' Shoppe or by calling the theater at 459-0895 and reserving seats with a credit card.

Museum. Handcar races, free to watch, at the tracks north of the Skunk Train Depot, from 1 to 3 pm Saturday, and 11 am to 2 pm Sunday. Grand Ball at the Engine House at the museum, starts at 7 pm; \$30 per ticket and \$50 for a pair of tickets until September 6; \$35 per ticket the day of show (sold out last year). See article on Page 12 for more.

Roots of Motive Power Festival: the major steam-up event of the year for Willits' volunteer organization that preserves and restores steam- and diesel-powered equipment used in the logging industry. Saturday and Sunday at the Roots facility across from the Rec Grove. Includes free train rides around the tracks on the Mason County No. 7 steam locomotive and a Whitcomb 20-ton diesel locomotive, and speeder rides on Sunday mornings. The Roots crew aims to have every piece of operable equipment steamed and powered up. Includes exhibits from the Early Day Gas Engine Society in the Rec Grove and a Saturday BBQ in the park at 4 pm. Info: www.rootsofmotivepower.com

Sunday, September 8

Airport Fly-In Day: featuring helicopter and plane rides, historic and contemporary aircraft on display, a food court, and local exhibitors, with a free shuttle to and from the Kinetic / Roots events in town – see Airport Day article on Calendar page for more info.

2nd Annual Willits Kinetic Carnivale: See Saturday, September 7 listing for details.

Roots of Motive Power Festival: See Saturday, September 7 listing for details.

Auditions for "I Am a Camera": Today at 10 am at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, one block west of Mazahar. John van Druden's classic play

tells the story of young people trying to escape living in Berlin, Germany in the early Nazi menace. "I Am a Camera" is the story of "Cabaret." Director Joe Dowling is seeking out the casting for the play. Info: 459-

Tuesday, September 10



Mariposa Market anniversary: 34th anniversary a barbeque, raffles, samples, demos, and more by The Real Sarahs, featuring Sarah Ryan, the High Five Band, Aaron Harley. Throughout the day at the market.

Patriot Day Ceremony: American Legion doing their annual Patriot Day remembrance at Willits High School this year, as part of WHS's first responders to 9/11. 12:20 pm sharp at the school at 299 Main Street. See calendar for more info.

Mendocino College North County Center at 372 East Commercial

Kathy Espinoza

Chamber of Commerce Learn how

The Willits Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Skills Seminar, with motivational speakers.

You will learn: • How to balance your life • How to manage stress ... mentally, spiritually, and physically of the day.

The seminar is set for Wednesday, September 11, 11 am at City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. To register: call Kathy Espinoza at 459-4932. You will ever have an opportunity to experience her abundance of energy!

Willits Airport Day & Kinetic Fly-In

Willits Airport Day & Kinetic Fly-In: The annual Airport Day, Sunday, September 8, features an event-filled day of historic aircraft, classic cars, local foods and live music. Promoted in conjunction with the second annual Kinetic Carnivale and Roots Steam Festival, the aviation event is held separately, at the Willits Municipal Airport at El's Field, with a shuttle available between the airport and Rec Grove, site of the Carnivale.

Vintage and contemporary aircraft from across northern California have been invited to fly in for the festivities. Ukiah Aviation and Aviation Therapy will be selling airplane rides in Cessna 172s for \$35 per seat, and Heloventure will offer helicopter rides for \$60 per seat with flights over the Little Lake Valley including the Kinetic Carnivale, Roots of Motive Power Museum, downtown and the Willits bypass construction.

A food court at the airport will feature hamburgers and hot dogs by the Willits Lions Club and fresh Mexican food by Taqueria Ramirez, as well as soda and water by the local Boy Scout troop, root beer floats from the Willits Senior Center, and popcorn sold by the Willits High School senior class.

Exhibitors include the Little Lake and Brooktrails Fire Departments, CalStar and REACH medical helicopters, California Highway Patrol aircraft, the National Weather Service, Willits Collision Center, and others. Acoustic music at the food court will be provided by Dream Capsule Unplugged, a local mentoring band giving visitors an opportunity to discover the fun of playing music. Well-mannered pets on leash are welcome.

Willits Airport Day & Kinetic Fly-In will begin with opening ceremonies and flag raising at 10 am, featuring the local American Legion Color Guard. City officials also will be on hand for the festivities. Willits Municipal Airport, celebrating its 49th anniversary, is owned by the City of Willits, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary. The airport will be open to visitors from 9 am to 3 pm. Admission is free. Willits Airport is located 4 miles north on Sherwood Road and one mile east on Poppy Drive. Info: www.WillitsAirport.com or 707-841-6252.

g Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

ng to find love and happiness while
1930s, in the shadow of the growing
e basis for the famous motion picture
eaking two men and two women to fill
-1200.

r 10

hanachie Pub: Marty O'Reilly &
e Old Soul Orchestra, 7 pm. \$5.
originals and old American classics.
lues guitarist O'Reilly is backed by
eff Kissell on the double bass and
hris Lynch on the fiddle. Check out
video of "When the Water Runs Out"
t www.martyoreilly.com.

Wednesday, September 11

a anniversary celebration, featuring
and music, including a performance
rah "Songbird" Larkin and
ron Bellomo, and Debbie &
rket, 500 South Main Street.

egion, Post 174, Willits, is
embrance ceremony at Willits
HS's annual lunch honoring
harp at the flagpole in front
e article on Calendar page for

Center Grand Opening. The new
mmercial Street celebrates its grand

er of Commerce seminar: w to cope with stress

merce presents a Stress Management / Life Balance Coping
al speaker Kathy Espinoza, MBA, MS and ..."MOM."

balance stress in your life, job and family; • Tips on how to
ritually and physically; • How to be a better YOU at the end

ndnesday, September 18, from noon to 1:30 pm, at Willits
ial Street. \$10 (lunch included). Registration is required by
459-7910. "Kathy Espinoza will present the greatest training
nity to hear. She captivates you with humor, story-telling and

Town Hall meeting

September 22 at City Hall

first of a series of Town Hall meetings with all in the 95490
ode invited, presented by the Willits Community Alliance. Topic
for September meeting: "Community Revitalization," with
presenters Adrienne Moore, Willits City Manager,
and Alan Falleri, City Planner, with public
discussion moderated by Carlin Diamond.
Sunday, September 22 at 4 pm at the
City Council Chambers at City Hall, 111
East Commercial Street. Willits City
Council Chambers. Upcoming Town
Hall meetings: Sunday, November
17; Sunday, January 19, 2014;
Sunday March 16, 2014 and
Sunday May 18, 2014. Info:
Carlin: 459-4850.



Laytonville Art Walk

Laytonville Art Walk: 3rd
annual family event on Saturday,
September 14, from 10 am to 6 pm
in downtown Laytonville. Live music
(Blue Luke, Seed 707, country folk
singer John Donahue, and more); "Crafty
Kids Zone," artists booths, art raffle, and food/
restaurant discounts. All proceeds go to funding art in
the schools and other related youth programs. Info on the
"Laytonville Art Walk" Facebook page or bluecloud52@hotmail.com.

opening today from 3 to 5 pm. Info: 459-6224.

Friday, September 13

"Quilts and Armadillos": Artist's reception for
new show by quilt artist Nancy Simpson at the
Willits Cultural Arts Center, 71 East
Commercial Street, 7 to 9 pm tonight.

See article on Calendar page
for more details. Show runs
through September 29.

Mendocino County Fair & Apple

Show: Opens today and continues
Saturday, September 14 and Sunday,
September 15 at the Boonville Fairgrounds.

Friday admission is \$2 for 65+ over and free for children 12 and under:
Apple Bowl football game; Saturday features CCPRA Rodeo; Sunday
features Sheep Dog Trials and Classic Car Show. Many other exhibits,
performances, demonstrations and events: see www.mendocountyfair.com/county-fair for details. Regular admission: \$8 adults, \$5 for juniors
(13-18), \$4 children (7-12) and free for children 6 and under. Info: 895-
3011.



"Two Across": Opening night for
Jerry Mayer's romantic comedy
featuring two strangers who
meet on a BART train ride:
both are doing The New
York Times' crossword
puzzle. Directed by Dick
Graham; with Mike A'Dair
and Kathy de Bane. Willits
Community Theatre, 37 West
Van Lane, 8 pm. Tonight and
Friday, September 14, then Thursdays

Calling all artists! Harvest Dinner

Willits Center for the Arts is accepting entries for the 27th Annual
Holiday Craft Fair, now expanded to three days, Friday, December
13, Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15, at the
Willits Community Center.

All interested artists, hand crafters, and specialty foods
entrepreneurs should request application forms by e-mail to:
Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com or Willits Holiday Craft Fair
c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Drive, Willits, CA 95490 (enclose a
self-addressed stamped envelope).

Apply early as booths fill quickly.

Not Just Cowboy Poetry...

Each fall Emandal hosts a "Cowboy
Poetry" event, a benefit concert on the
beautiful apple tree lawn – featuring
live music and poetry of the Western
genre. Artists featured hosted in the past
include Stephanie Davis, Doris Daley,
Dave Stamey and Dick Warwick.

This year, coming up on Saturday,
September 14, features the Sons of the
San Joaquin, along with Nevada bard
and poet, Carolyn Dufurrena. Proceeds
from the event will benefit the Willits
Public Library and Willits Daily Bread.

The benefit also celebrates the
bounty of the fall fruit with a little friendly
competition in the form of an Apple Pie
Throwdown. Last year, there were 16
different pies to taste for the price of 5
bucks – with all proceeds going to the
Willits Public Library. It is free to enter
your pie in the Throwdown, and you
may enter more than one pie. Guest

judges do a final taste test to rate the
pies on crust, filling, appearance and
overall flavor. Bakers have a chance to
win a specially carved rolling pin – not
to mention bragging rights for the year!

New this year: Open Mic at 2 pm.
Bring a poem, story or song to share.

The performance starts at 3 pm, but
guests are encouraged to come early
before the show to enjoy a day on the
farm!! Many people like to go for a swim
in the Eel River, take a walk through the
garden, or have a picnic lunch on the
lawn. So bring the family and make a
day of it!

Sons of the San Joaquin is a Western
family band. Jack and Joe Hannah
are brothers, while third member Lon
Hannah is Joe's son. They began
performing together in 1987 at a birthday
party for Lon's grandfather. They have
been credited with "rich durability of the

traditional Western music they present,
as well as the outstanding original
cowboy songs" and being reminiscent of
the Sons of the Pioneers.

Tickets to Emandal's 2013 Cowboy
Poetry event are \$25 per person (or \$30
at the gate). Tickets can be purchased
via e-mail through cowboypoetry@emandal.com or at the Willits Public
Library.

Limited VIP tickets are available for
\$125 per person, which includes event
ticket, snacks/drinks during show, and
farm-fresh dinner with artists after the
show.

Overnight accommodations are also
available for Saturday evening for \$200
per person which includes event ticket,
cabin, VIP access/farm fresh dinner with
the artists, and Sunday breakfast. Info:
cowboypoetry@emandal.com.



Artist
Nancy
Simpson

‘Quilts and Armadillos’

September show at the Willits Center for the Arts features
quilted art pieces by residential designer and environmental
tant Nancy Simpson. Simpson will also display her unique
ion of armadillo miniatures.

artist's reception is Friday, September 13 from 7 to 9
the center, 71 East Commercial Street, next to the Noyo
re.

pson is from a long lineage of accomplished women who
ed the needle arts of tailoring, lace-making, embroidery
quilting. She has extensively studied the traditional

techniques of piecing and quilting, but also brings new unique
designs to her work. Most of the quilted wall-hangings on
display were made using a solar-powered sewing computer.
The Oakland Museum has had one of Simpson's quilts in its
permanent collection since 2000.

And what do quilts and armadillos have in common?
Originally from Austin, Texas, Simpson was there in the 1960s
when popular cartoonist Jim Franklin made armadillo antics
common in local publications. Her collection started as one
tiny carved piece of wood sent to her by a friend from Brazil.

through Sundays through September 29. Advance tickets are available
at Goods' Shoppe or by calling WCT at 459-0895 to reserve seats with a
credit card.

Saturday, September 14

2nd Annual ATV Rodeo: a full day of fun at the Willits Rodeo Grounds,
with a BBQ cookoff, Lions Club breakfast, horseshoe tournament, crafts
fair, splash bounce house, and lawn mower races as well as the all-
terrain vehicle rodeo. To benefit the non-profit Safe Pathways,
in its effort to raise funds for construction of an "independent"
living environment for young adults with disadvantages or
disabilities, plus an activity center, a safe place for youth to hang out.
Gates open 10 am; BBQ 2 pm; ATV Rodeo and Lawn Mower
Races 4 pm. \$10; kids under 12 are free. Info: [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/events/390272431073040)
[events/390272431073040](http://www.facebook.com/events/390272431073040) or 272-5395.

**7th Annual Not JUST Cowboy Poetry & 3rd annual Apple Pie
Throwdown:** Emandal Farm, see article elsewhere on Calendar page for
more info.

Mendocino County Fair & Apple Show: See Friday, September 13
listing for details.

Sunday, September 15

Mendocino County Fair & Apple Show: See Friday, September 13
listing for details.

Poet Melinda Clarke: Poet, dancer, therapist to read at The Muse's poetry
series, 30 East San Francisco Street, first driveway east of the Yum Yum
Tree. 7 pm. An open reading will follow. Info: Mike A'Dair at 459-1576.

"National Jury Rights Day" Program: including the short film: "ALayman's
Guide to Jury Nullification." 7 pm. Find out more about jury nullification:
"a constitutional doctrine that allows juries to acquit defendants who are
technically guilty, but who don't deserve punishment." Little Lake Grange,
291 School Street, 7 pm. \$5-\$10 donation to benefit the film series project.
Info: 459-6362.

Hometown Business

All about commerce, life, and the need-to-know info

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## DragonFly Natural Power

### Trivia

**Pound for pound, what is the strongest horse breed?**

~~~~~

1st Person To Call or Text With The Correct Answer Wins A Free 1st Run Movie Rental!

~~~~~

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Well Mannered MUTTS

## Hellagood Desserts

Local baker to offer her 'carmelita bars with bacon' at Kinetic Carnivale again

Divinely inspired or devilishly creative, Hellagood Desserts wants to make the dessert you want ... your vision.

"Custom orders, a vision, is what I love to do," said Erin DiFazio, owner and baker of Hellagood Desserts.

"Not the same cake you're going to find in just any cake book," she said, "I want to make the kind of cake you want."

DiFazio said she is willing, able and enthusiastic about accommodating dietary choices. "I love to make stuff to order ... gluten-free, vegan, whatever your dietary needs may be. I'm happy to say that the ingredients I use are organic or of very high quality."

DiFazio's passion for baking was seeded when she received "a cookbook as a gift when I was a kid. Since then, it has been something I have always done for fun."

"I started baking desserts professionally for Tsunami Restaurant in Willits in 1997," DiFazio said, and in 2007 "Hellagood Desserts was born."

"Everything from the Hellagood kitchen is handmade in small batches," DiFazio said, and often she creates her own cake toppers and decorations in order to satisfy "the vision" she hears from her customers about their dessert fantasies.



Top: Hellagood's signature bar, the "Carmelita"

Above: What does a non-cheese cheesecake look like? Here's one example from Hellagood Desserts, the "Peanut Butter Non-Cheese Cake."

Some of the special orders brought to 3D life by Hellagood Desserts include: a two-layer cake for a hunter with a camouflage color scheme, 3D bullets sticking out of the sides, and with two 6-inch-tall chocolate-covered "antlers" sticking out on top; a skateboarder's half pipe ramp cake; a cake decked out like a snare drum and topped with a decorative "cymbal" on top; a dragon; and a skull cake.

In addition to custom orders, Hellagood Desserts also supplies goodies to businesses in town and vends at special events, festivals and fairs locally. At the Kinetic Carnivale last year, DiFazio rolled out with a new salty/sweet "Bacon Carmelita" – the Carmelita bar is Hellagood's signature dessert bar: a layer of chocolate and a layer of homemade caramel with an oat-and-brown sugar crumble crust and topping.

"Carmelita with bacon was a pretty big hit at the Kinetic Carnivale," DiFazio said. "It was so much fun, a blast. We completely sold out." Hellagood Desserts will be vending again this year Saturday and Sunday at the fair in the Rec Grove, and also at the Grand Ball Saturday night.

Hellagood Desserts will also be vending for the third year in a row at the Laytonville Art Walk, on September 22.

In addition to supplying Shanachie Pub with cookies and bars, Hellagood Desserts currently stocks desserts and tasty treats at the following Willits locations: The Bistro, Brickhouse Coffee, A Taste of Paradise, The Coffee Garden, and Caminiti's at the Brooktrails Lodge, as well as Mariposa Market.

Looking toward the future for Hellagood Desserts, DiFazio said: "I would love to have a storefront eventually. That's the dream. I love to collaborate with others.... Investors, let's talk."

For info, call 707-354-1603, or check the Hellagood Desserts page on Facebook.

Left: DiFazio had tattoo artist Steven Christopher design a "custom" logo for Hellagood Desserts featuring "devilish" devil's food and "angelic" angel's food cupcakes.





## COMING SOON

### WILLITS COLLISION CENTER

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# OCT. 1, 2013

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Early and late hour services by appointment only.  
Saturday & Monday appointment only, closed Sunday

Celebrating Our 34th Anniversary!

# Mariposa Market

Wednesday, September 11th from 11 am - 5 pm

Come Help us Celebrate!

Barbeque ★ Music ★ Food ★ Demos ★ Drawings

Every customer will get a coupon at the register for a 15-25% off discount on their purchase!

500 S. Main Street Willits, CA 95490      459-9630





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Community Hu Song

In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song Tuesday, September 24, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. HU is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and find inner peace. Families and all faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

Computer Help

Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$35/hr. Tutoring \$15/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerjin@yahoo.com.

Consignments Accepted

GAVEL DOWN SALES, located at 1611 South Main Street, is open Wed through Sun, 10 am to 6 pm, and is accepting quality home furnishings for consignment. Contact Kapila at 707.459.1300.

Cook Wanted

Adam's Restaurant. 3 years' experience. 707/456-9226 or 707/972-3243.

Counseling

Imagine CLARITY and PEACE in the midst of drama and confusion. Call Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, M.A. 459-2101.



Eckankar

Have you had a spiritual experience? You are invited to participate in an ongoing, spiritual discussion Tuesday, September 24, at 6:30 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

Flea Market

Flea Mkt/ Annual Yard Sale St. Anthony's Church in Willits Sat. Sept. 21 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$15.00/space fee contact Peggy @ 972-2016 or Diana 459-6260 for more details. Save gas, save time, sell your items locally.

For Rent

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

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

The Fruit Group

Last Truck This Summer!  
9-13-13 @ 10:30 a.m.

Freestone Peaches - yellow \$24 field lug  
Plums \$24 field lug  
Tomatoes \$21 field lug

CALL BRENDA: 459-9335

Help Wanted

Position available for a responsible, detail-oriented assistant. Please bring resume to the Willits Pet Care Center at 90 South Street.

Help Wanted

Position available for a registered veterinary technician. Please bring resume to the Willits Pet Care Center at 90 South Street.

Old Cars Wanted

ALWAYS LOOKING for Cars, Scooters & Motorcycles! '40s thru '50s. Show Car to Parts Car. Please call Alan: 489-7165 or email agrossman@pacific.net.

Pinball Machines

PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

Wanted: Axes

Do you have old axes? I want to buy them, handles don't matter. Call Zack, 707-354-4700.

Wanted

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

in from the King Salmon Lodge in Alaska, but did not remain present for the vote.

“We are at a tipping point – here is still an opportunity for a change order,” Strong said.

Strong hoped a letter could be passed by the council urging Gov. Brown to meet with Caltrans.

“You can get a four-lane freeway or you can get nothing, that has been the mantra [from Caltrans] the whole time,” said Strong.

Willits Realtor Chris Martin thought the interchange north of town was what he would expect to see in Los Angeles or other desert cities, not Little Lake Valley.

Third District Supervisor John Pinches was present when the council talked about a deal that would allow the use of city streets by bypass contractors, and he came again to Wednesday's meeting.

He told the council he was not sure if the letter was meant to stall completion of the bypass.

“I do not think you could tell anyone here on a Friday evening that going through town is anything like a country road,” Pinches said.

The community filled the council chamber; others watched through the doorway. Several Willits residents spoke in support of completing the project as is.

“I think the costs would be huge and the delay would be tremendous,” Randi Covin said.

Jeanne King, a project supporter who has written

letters to newspapers backing the bypass, also spoke. “I support Caltrans, I support the city council and I support the hardworking people of Willits,” King said. “I have had numerous people thank me for my letters.”

More than one community member expressed concern about flooding around town or at the northern interchange.

Willits resident Beth Riedel said she would like to see a bypass compromise where everybody could say “it worked.”

“The way this is set up, it is hard to believe there would not be flooding,” Riedel said.

The first paragraph of the proposed letter opened with a call for unity, observing “Willits city residents and the larger community of Willits are divided about whether the freeway bypass, overall, is good or bad for us locally. We can be unified, however, in seeking to minimize adverse impacts on our community during construction and after completion.”

“We in Willits – and I am a Willits resident – have been bullied into accepting a four-lane bypass,” said Kim Bancroft.

Valley resident Bill White noted state funding cuts in road maintenance, education and fire safety when he spoke to the council.

“You do not over exude yourself; you do not live beyond your means,” White said. “Why in the hell are we letting Caltrans get away with this.”

Patricia Norris told the council it was not too late to support changes to the project. “It is never too late to do the right thing,” she said.

Some urged the council to be brave: “I want you to all feel brave inside and say ‘let's shift this,’” Willits marriage counselor Melinda Clark said.

“Earthworm” told the council he did not like the state interfering with nature in Willits. “It is utterly suicidal to continue work on this because it is going to engulf us all,” Earthworm said.

Orenstein was one of two council members opposed to the letter. “If we get in the habit of writing trivial letters or taking action, because if anyone really thinks about it, this letter is not going to change a thing,” Orenstein said.

Before the vote, Strong made her case in support of the letter again. In trips to Sacramento, Strong said staffers from the Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices have asked her what the council's position is.

If Gov. Brown asks for a change in plans, Madrigal noted, it could speed the project. “I think if John Pinches wants to make this a shorter project – this is a good way to do this.”

At the next council meeting, a deal between freeway contractors and the city for use of city streets is expected.

The council has approved the basics of the deal, but City Attorney Jim Lance has been busy working out the details with contractors.

“bearded” folk to join in the fun.

There will be no pre-entries for the event; all are welcome to come check in at 3 pm and get ready for the on-stage judging at 4 pm sharp. The visual display of the beard/ mustache/etc.” is the focus of the judging, and all ages are welcome to compete.

Prizes, above and beyond the obvious bragging rights, will include items ranging from a beard-themed mug to 15 pounds of bacon.

– **Maureen Moore**

City will use sewer fund monies  
to pay off plant debt

A city Finance Committee recommendation to use sewer fund money to resolve deficits left from the sewer plant project was approved by the Willits City Council last week

Finance Director Joanne Cavallari said in a report that money for the project was held in three separate funds.

When combined, the city faced a negative balance of \$542,717.30.

The Willits sewer fund holds \$2.4 million of unrestricted operating cash. The city also has put away more than \$590,000 in sewer connection fees over the years. USDA bond reserves total nearly \$683,000, but could not be used.

The city's sewer fund will have about \$1.8 million remaining in unrestricted cash reserves after closing out the project, the report says.

– **Zack Cinek**

Measure F also declared money is not speech and therefore is not protected under the U.S. Constitution, therefore attempts to regulate how money is used in political campaigns is legal and not unconstitutional.

Supervisors put the resolution endorsing Measure F on the board's consent calendar and it was passed with little discussion.

Proposed legislation

House Joint Resolution 29 – which calls for a constitutional amendment in accordance with the principles articulated in Measure F – has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Richard Nolan, from Minnesota. However, it is not alone. Several other bills dealing with the same question also have been introduced. Second District Congressman Jared Huffman is sponsoring House Resolution 25.

According to Margaret Koster, inland Mendocino County's Measure F ballot coordinator, HR 25 deals solely with campaign finance reform.

A bill sponsored by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders also falls wide of the mark, Koster said. The Sanders' proposal would exempt nonprofit corporations from the ban against “corporate personhood.” That means attempts to regulate organizations like Citizens United, a nonprofit corporation, would continue to be unconstitutional, Koster noted.

According to Ukiah Move To Amend coordinator Robin Sunbeam, there is an on-line petition expressing support for a “Move to Amend” constitutional amendment that fully incorporates the ideas in Measure F. The petition can be found on the front page of www.movetoamend.org. People who care about this issue may also want to contact Huffman directly and urge him to support HJR 29 instead of his own bill, HR 25, Koster added.

borne by Brooktrails residents.

“You used to have what they called in Washington, ‘earmarks,’” Pinches said. “That means you could have a congressman back there like Mike Thompson, and he could just go ahead and say: ‘This amount of money right here is for this project.’ And you would get that money.

“But they don't do that anymore,” he noted. “They eliminated earmarks. And the Brooktrails Second Access isn't a state route, so you're not going to get funding for it out of state dollars,

most of the time.

“That means that most of the funding will have to come from Brooktrails itself. It's likely that funding will come from a benefit assessment district.”

When asked for his prediction on when the Second Access route to Brooktrails will be built, Pinches paused a long time before giving his answer. “I like to be optimistic,” he said. “In my job, you got to be optimistic; otherwise I guess you would go crazy. But I think it's safe to say, I probably won't live long enough to drive on it.”

“It's not like things stopped,” Crawford said. “The commission is taking a hiatus from that part of it.”

Earlier this year, City Hall began pursuing not-for-profit status for the organization, which was formerly run by the city-appointed Cultural Arts Commission, which was hit with a flurry of resignations earlier this year.

“The best thing is we have Janet and Jeff coming on board to do some management there,” former committee member Dale Dingman said.

The new organization needs to recruit board members before it can submit an application for nonprofit status. The WCA hopes to complete the transition over the next six months.

Crawford says recruiting five area residents to serve on the nonprofit's board is a slow process.

Dingman said he would like to organize

a group of people, or a board, to review applicants and make the final decision, since the center is no longer under city control.

Dingman also is interested in recruiting grant writers, who could help secure rural arts grants for WCA.

“We are going to make it better than it has been,” he said.

The Center for the Arts holds monthly meetings, art exhibits and other events at its East Commercial Street headquarters located between the old Carnegie Library building and the Noyo Theater.

An exhibit of Nancy Simpson's quilts and armadillo artwork opens later this month.

Willits residents interested in more information, or who would consider serving on the nonprofit center's board of director, may contact Jeff Crawford at 291-0084, or Dale Dingman at 841-7880.

According to banker Yandell, if homeowners were to default on their mortgages, the federal loan agencies that bought and bundled the loans from the small banks would force those banks to pay off the PACE loan before they could repossess and sell the defaulted property.

In the opinion of some members of the local business community, such an arrangement would have placed an unacceptable risk on small banking institutions.

Supporters of the Ygrene proposal argued those fears were groundless, and that only a handful of banks had to pay back PACE loans before being able to

resell defaulted homes. But in June, a majority of supervisors were not comfortable with the arguments put forward in support of the Ygrene proposal.

In spite of this reservation, at last week's Tuesday meeting, the board created an ad hoc committee to explore how some sort of PACE type program could work in Mendocino County.

“All of us supes are interested in a clean-energy program,” said First District Supervisor Carre Brown. “It is how that program gets funded and it's how our financial institutions are impacted, or not, that concerns us.”



Right: Jan Lambert presents an award to Aurelie Clivaz of the Mendocino County Youth Project, while Elizabeth Sinofsky and Vicki Ham watch from behind their table

Photos by Maureen Moore

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Soroptimists of Willits

10 common myths & questions and how to join

Elizabeth Sinofsky

Soroptimist President

Soroptimist International of Willits is an organization for women who are working to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Almost 95,000 Soroptimists in about 120 countries and territories contribute time and financial support to community-based and international projects that benefit women and girls. The Willits Soroptimists are amongst them. Let's clarify what this mysterious club is up to and debunk any myths out there.

1. Do you have to be a business owner?

No, you just have to posses a desire to help women and girls in the community to live better lives. It's great if you are a business owner, but we love housewives and retired ladies, too!

2. Do I have to be a college graduate?

Not at all. We accept all levels of education.

3. How many meetings do I have to go to?

Well, Soroptimist meets the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesday every month at the Country Skillet at noon. We do not have mandatory meeting participation, although we would love to see you every week. Come when you can; there's always email, phone and smoke signals to communicate anything that's missed.

4. Does it cost a lot of money to join?

Soroptimist dues are roughly \$109 per year. You also pay \$2 per meeting. That money is to help the club sustain itself. We also may throw a couple of fundraisers a

5. What is my time commitment to the club?

Well, that's up to you! If you can only manage a couple of hours per year, that's great. Some people are able to share more time. It really depends what's happening in your life. It's like the old saying: "Every little bit helps." On average the time commitment is about one hour a week.

6. Is Soroptimist religious, or does it follow a certain political belief?

NO. We do not engage in any of that. We are there to focus on helping women and girls in the community. That's all.

7. Can I be in more then one club?

YES! The beautiful thing about service clubs is that doing this kind of work is so gratifying you'll want to do more! Go for it! We love community super stars!

8. Why women & girls

Soroptimist means "best for women" and that's what we strive to be – an organization of women at their best helping other women to be their best. As a women's volunteer organization, we feel uniquely qualified to help women and girls live their dreams.

9. What projects are the Soroptimists doing?

Scholarships to graduating students. The **Woman's Opportunity Award** to support a single parent or head of household re-entry into education to provide for her family and improve her life. The **Violet Richardson Award**, recognizing a young woman for her efforts in the community. **8 Schools 1 Dream**, the donation of books geared toward women and girls to all eight schools in our district. Spearheaded by Julie Cook, one of the Soroptimists' newest members. A co-sponsor of **Project Literacy. Brown Bag Lunch**, serving lunch to the community on Saturdays in the park. **The Community Phone Book**. Collection of goods and clothing for **Project Sanctuary** in Ukiah. And the **Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Contest**.

10. How can I contact Soroptimist of Willits about membership?

Call President-elect Elizabeth Sinofsky, 707-972-9320, or come to a meeting on Tuesday at the Country Skillet.

Above: a tasty meal of soup and a half sandwich at the Country Skillet where the meetings are held.

At right: guests and members of Soroptimist International of Willits enjoy their lunch at the Country Skillet.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Right: Jane McCabe has fun during a luncheon meeting this summer

Pg. 10

Willits Weekly | September 5, 2013

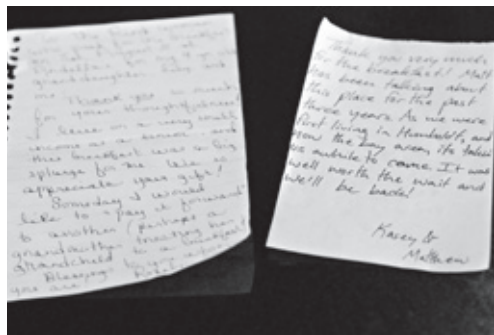


were kept under wraps enough to keep things manageable. Servers didn't know about the plan "until the key was turned in the door that morning" and were all instructed to gently tell the customers their meals had been paid for, and to "stay off their phones!"

"We talked about it a few weeks ago, too, and even then during our chat, the person decided to buy a few tables in the restaurant their meals that day, too."

One of those tables was a group from out of town who were eating at Ardella's for the first time and were "flabbergasted" that someone would so generously and randomly purchase their meals.

"They said, 'but we don't even live here!'.... It was a great 'Welcome to Willits' experience for them," Dorhorlt laughed. "We were happy to be able to have this great 'pay it forward' day, too, and thank the donator for making it happen."



Left: Thank you notes for the Ardella's donor

Below: Ardella's servers Avery Cash, Jackie Cobb, and Elk McCarthy had fun during Saturday's 'pay it forward' day

Photos by Maureen Moore

He starts with information and history about the angora breed and gives grooming and shearing demonstrations. Lacey notes that true angora wool comes from rabbits, and though there is an angora goat breed, that goat wool is sold commercially as mohair.

Angora is special because it usually does not need processing or cleaning once off the rabbit: it can go directly onto the spinning wheel.

During Lacey's demonstration, David Swingle spins the yarn on stage as Lacey shears, giving a great body-to-bolt showcase of the process.

Lacey noted that angora rabbits can usually be shorn three times per year, with about 8 ounces of useable yarn coming from each shearing. With the 19 rabbits at his Willits farm, this can yield a good amount. In years past, Lacey has sold the wool, sold the yarn and even sold completed scarves he made with the finished yarn.

Local sheep shearer Matt Gilbert also gives a demonstration on Saturday and Sunday, focusing on sheet. Gilbert frequently shears local sheep and is a good

source of knowledge for how-tos, tips and more.

Fleeces from sheep are usually filled with lanolin, a sticky/greasy substance that needs to be removed before the fleeces can be processed. This is done by scouring, which degreases the fleece, allowing it to be carded, or fluffed and separated before it is either sent off to a mill for commercial processing and spinning, or returned to the growers for them to spin themselves.

The Wool and Fiber Festival fleece contest and display features fleeces in their raw, straight-off-the-sheep, pre-scoured and pre-carded. They are judged on Friday and are measured against their own breed's ideals and general quality. Last year, Lacey noted there were about 150 fleeces entered.

Demonstrators and vendors are all happy to share their knowledge with the community, and encourage everyone to come and see the fiber show while visiting the county fair.

To learn more, visit [www.fiberfestival.com](http://www.fiberfestival.com).

up the tab for shipping the shoeboxed-size boxes to their collection location, Rempel said, she still has a few items leftover and a little bit of seed money for next year's boxes.

This is the second year the church has filled Christmas Child gift boxes. Ever optimistic and always leading his congregation to do more, Pastor Karl promised: "Next year, we'll do 50 boxes."

The Willits project inspired Grace Lutheran Church in Ukiah to join Operation Christmas Child for the first time this year. The Grace congregation pulled together 25 boxes, and together with the 40 boxes from St. John's, they will be joined with boxes from other Northern California projects at a drop-off location in Santa Rosa before beginning their journey to a child's hands in one of more than 100 countries on six continents where the project is active.

Samaritan's Purse and its national partners "will hand deliver each of the millions of shoe box gifts," Operation Christmas Child literature states.

Once the boxes are delivered, Rempel said, she can look up the code from the St. John's boxes and find out where in the world they were delivered.

She said some of last year's boxes were delivered in Nepal and the Philippines, and when the literature for this year's project came, she excitedly scanned photos showing a delivery of boxes in Nepal. A variety of boxes could be seen in the photos, she said, including some that looked like the boxes from St. John's.

"Just seeing the looks of joy and the smiles" from the children receiving their boxes, she said, makes the project special for

Rempel.

"The smile is the same in any language," she said.

According to the project's 2012 fact sheet: "Millions of hurting children who are victims of poverty, natural disaster, war, terrorism and famine receive Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts. OCC is a worldwide children's project of Samaritan's Purse that uses simple gift-filled shoe boxes containing school supplies, toys, necessity items and notes of encouragement."

The St. John boxes included plenty of school supplies, including crayons, pencils, sharpeners, notebooks and pads, stickers and bookmarks, as well as toothbrushes and toothpaste, socks, soap, washcloths and scrubbies, bandages, small toys, stuffed animals, jewelry, and not-to-be-left-out: "prayers and love."

Also included was a Christmas card, a letter, and a photo of the group in front of the Willits church. "You're special to God and special to us," Rempel paraphrased what their letter said, and she added that it also included contact information in case anyone wants to write back.

Rempel scheduled the box filling to coincide with the congregation's monthly potluck lunch following the church service. Volunteers took turns working their way through the box-filling line – and through the potluck line – and in less than two hours, 40 gift boxes were stuffed, along with a roomful of happy bellies.

"We did good," Rempel concluded.

For more information on Operation Christmas Child, visit: [www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/)

UC Davis and other teaching hospitals have changed. We will prescribe anti-inflammatories and certain antibiotics for horses who can't recover or who get so sick that they stop eating or are likely to develop complications like laminitis.

Horses with internal abscesses are at high risk for systemic disease and death. They are usually unthrifty, depressed, and run intermittent fevers. We diagnose this disease with bloodwork – including antibody titers and chemistry panels. Sometimes we can visualize these abscesses with ultrasound. These horses require specific long term antibiotics, and sometimes don't survive – especially if an abscess ruptures.

Obviously preventing this disease is what we want to do! Fly control is the best weapon. My approach involves fly traps, fly predators (for sale online), fly spray, daily manure removal, and distant composting. I used to use sticky fly tape, but I caught a bat once and that made me very sad.

I also try to treat any ventral midline fly strike spots, like the one pictured, daily with Swat or an antibiotic ointment. The idea is to provide a barrier between your horse's bloodstream and filthy little fly feet.

If you think your horse may have PF, call your vet before giving any meds. Every case is different and this disease can be very frustrating and dangerous. Remember, it is caused by bacteria that live in the ground all over the West. It's really not "contagious" although more than one horse in a group may develop abscesses. There is really no need to instigate protocols for isolation and decontamination like we do with other diseases, like Strangles. That being said, when I drain abscesses – some of which are really huge – I am careful to collect the contents and dispose of them, rather than leaving billions more bacteria on a horse facility.

Dr. Sheri Cronin has provided mobile equine veterinary care in Mendocino and Lake Counties for 12 years. She has extensive interest and experience in equine dentistry, endoscopy, digital radiology, reproductive care and preventative medicine. She is also the on-site veterinarian for Willits Frontier Days. Check [www.mobileequineveterinary.com](http://www.mobileequineveterinary.com) for more info, or call Dr. Cronin at 456-6781.



# Steampunk!

Before or after the Willits Kinetic Carnivale, adjust your goggles, slip off your ankle boots, loosen your leather vest, and delve into an ingenious steampunk trilogy by one of my favorite science fiction authors, **Scott Westerfeld**. The first novel is titled "Leviathan," the second is "Behemoth" and the third is "Goliath."

The setting is an alternative Europe on the brink of World War I. The Clankers are the Germans and Austro-Hungarians who fight with monstrous machines on legs, while the British lead the Darwinists who have genetically fabricated strange creatures such as the Leviathan, a hydrogen-filled air ship created from the living body of a whale.

The main character is a young Scots girl named Deryn with no fear of heights and the natural talent to become an airman. (Technically, that makes this a series marketed as Young Adult, but as with Harry Potter the writing is superb and will appeal to readers of all ages!) Deryn must disguise herself as a boy to join the British Air Service and prove herself capable, willing to train hard and risk herself for her fellow crewmen.

Alex is the young son of the Archduke Ferdinand. When his father is assassinated and the war begins, Alex must flee with his trusty tutor in an attempt to reach a castle hideout. Alex and Deryn are pulled into a fantastic and elaborate adventure involving air ships, war machines, mechanical golems, the Ottoman Empire, and unhatched top secret creatures.

By the end of the trilogy, some very famous historical figures have become involved in the plot such as Nicolai Tesla, William Randolph Hearst and Pancho Villa. Plenty of action keeps the story galloping along.

In addition, you might want to read the His Dark Materials trilogy by **Philip Pullman**, which was published in the late '90s. A movie version of the first book "The Golden Compass" was made starring Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig in 2007. The second book is "The Subtle Knife," and the last is "The Amber Spyglass." The series follows spunky Lyra and courageous Will as they navigate a realm of magic gateways, armored bears, witches and angels.

As ever, whether you read electronically, on the paper page or listen to audio books, please utilize our library system and take advantage of our county's delightful local bookstores, both new and used.

Local poet, Fran Resendez, is retired from 20 years of bookselling at the former Leaves of Grass Books in Willits. Getting her first library card was one of the happiest days in her reading life.



## Puzzle Answer From Page 4

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| 5 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
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Last year's Kinetic Carnivale. At left: Steam punks admire the wings – which open and close via a pulley around the neck – worn by a fellow gadget enthusiast. Center: A little girl enthralled by a magic trick. Right: Costumed revelers walk by the Skunk Train's No. 45 steam locomotive on the way to the fair in the Rec Grove.

Photos by Kat Cascone

# Kinetic Carnivale this weekend

Volunteers have been getting everything ready, event-goers, vendors and performers have been assembling their steampunk outfits, makers have been creating inventive handcars, and now it's time for the 2nd Annual Kinetic Carnivale.

To kick everything off on Saturday at 10 am, the Skunk Train's No. 45 steam locomotive will be pulling into the Willits Depot. "Anyone who wants to see the steam engine coming round the bend just like the old days, should be at the Skunk Train Depot at 10 am," said Alison Glassey, director of the Mendocino County Museum. The Kinetic Carnivale is a fundraiser for the museum.

The Carnivale fair in the Rec Grove runs from 10 am to 7 pm on Saturday, and from 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday. There will be half again as many vendors as last year, Glassey said, with 60 vendors including food, clothing and accessories, art, body care, jewelry leather, and a miscellaneous assortment of others.

"This year we're putting the vendors on either side of the park," Glassey said, creating a boulevard suitable for strolling right through the middle of the Rec Grove, starting at the entrance gate, and continuing through to the Gandy

Dancers Stage, which will be set up at the far end of the park at the basketball court. The Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association will be setting up engines and contraptions at the southeast corner of the park, and the Whimsy Circus, with performances and activities for kids, will be in the southwest corner.

"There will be special steam cars and art cars throughout the park," Glassey said.

There's a long list of performers for both stages during the day – the main Rec Grove stage is the "Siren Stage" – and schedules for all performers (with photos and short descriptions) can be found at [kineticcarnivale.com/2013-fair-performers.html](http://kineticcarnivale.com/2013-fair-performers.html). Saturday headliner for the Gandy Dancers Stage is The Aether Brigade, at 5:30, with "steampunk adventures and comedy," and the Saturday headliner for the Siren Stage is Djinn, "French• folk• funk• fusion," at 4:30 pm.

Tickets for entrance into the fair are \$5 at the gate, with kids under 12 getting in for free.

Due to ticket sales so far for Saturday evening's Grand Ball at the Engine House (\$30/\$50 a couple in advance; \$35 at the door) , Glassey advised locals to buy tickets in advance: the ball sold out the night of the show last year,

but might well sell out in advance this time.

The Handcar Races are set for Saturday, from 1 to 3 pm, and Sunday from 11 am to 1 pm, up at the Skunk Train depot. Major sponsor KWNE will be broadcasting live from the tracks. Admission to the handcar races is included in fair admission.

The Roots of Motive crew will be steaming up every piece of equipment they can for their annual festival across Commercial Street, and offering free rides around the track in front of the Roots facility. The Roots BBQ is set for from 4 to 7 pm in the Rec Grove on Saturday. This year's annual Fly-In at the Willits Airport at Ells Field is also joining into the steampunk spirit: see article on Calendar page for more details.

Glassey wanted to thank the volunteer work crews – "We've got people coming back from last year, and we've got new people who wanted to get involved" – and also Parducci Winery and Mendocino Brewery, who have donated wine and beer to the event.

Check [www.kineticcarnivale.com](http://www.kineticcarnivale.com) for more info. Tickets for the Grand Ball can be purchased in advance at the Mendocino County Museum and at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street.

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

argued the new code section turned "half of the people of Mendocino County into outlaws."

"There's a lot of people livin' in this county who live on dirt roads, and a lot of those people have to drive at some time or other, or at some place or other, over runnin' water – say, water that's runnin' over their roads or over their driveways. Now what this new law does is, every time that person drives home after work or after goin' to town – and if he drives over that runnin' water and gets a little dirt in it – that's against this new law. So what this new law does, essentially, is turn about half the people in the county into outlaws."

The code section itself states the county's goal is "not to punish and fine citizens of Mendocino County, but to educate them [about] ways to prevent and reduce pollution from entering the storm drainage system and waters of the United States."


The implementation language of the new code goes on to state: "As such, education shall be the primary means to implement the provisions of the ordinance." But if compliance is not gained, "further action shall be pursued ... in accordance with the Uniform Nuisance and Abatement Procedure of the Mendocino County Code."

At the heart of the new ordinance are two sections which prohibit illegal discharges and illegal connections that send prohibited pollutants into the county's storm water drainage system "or waters of the United States."

The section prohibiting illegal discharges states: "No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged into the county storm drainage system or watercourses any materials –including pollutants or water containing pollutants – that cause or contribute to a violation of applicable water-quality standards, other than storm water, to the maximum extent practicable."

The second section prohibits installation or maintenance of "a drain, conveyance, pipe, channel or other connection to the storm water drainage facilities, whether on the surface or subsurface, that may result in the discharge of pollutants into the county's storm drainage system."

That section goes on to name several examples of what it regards as pollutants: "sewage, wastewater, wash water, or connections from indoor drains and sinks,



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