

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

My way or the highway

To the Editor:

What does it mean when the spokespersons for a cause feel it necessary to attack fellow citizens who happen to disagree with their cause? If they mock and denigrate them, does that mean that their cause is greater? What does it do for the moral integrity of a group if it feels compelled to vilify those with opposing opinions? There are well-meaning people who will always disagree with strong, inflexible opinions. Are we a better town if we treat each other with such disrespect?

Willits has always been a town with diverse groups, and for the most part these groups have gotten along and even worked together for the greater good of the community. Surely we can have strong feelings about an issue and pursue our visions for the community without resorting to personal attacks on well-meaning people.

Ultimately this issue too will pass, and we will remain here to mend and live and work together. Look at Gandhi – he did not curse his opposition, he prayed for them – and his cause was all of India and what is now Pakistan. Gandhi's moral lesson was and is that how we live our lives and treat each other is everything. I, for one, think we can do better.

John Glyer, Willits

Wetlands and salmon

To the Editor:

I can accept that Willits needs a bypass, a route from one end of town to the other, without depending on Main Street. We have needed a bypass for about 50 years. However, I am horrified by the wanton destruction of ancient wetlands. Wetlands act as our kidneys, filtering and purifying water. Destroying the wetlands can only have dire consequences for the health of our valley, including the people, the salmon, and all life that is part of this system. It doesn't have to be this way. We do not need to accept the irreversible loss of wetlands to solve our traffic problem.

My own personal experience with wetlands started four or five years ago, when I realized that salmon still come back to spawn in the creeks that run through Willits. My friend Wren was living in one of those cabins that backs up against Baechtel Creek. She had found a dead turtle in the creek, as well as dead fish, and called Fish and Game. They found that one of the motels on Main Street, that also backs up to the creek, had tried to shore up the creek bank with used railroad ties. The creosote was killing the fish. Fish and Game ordered a clean-up, the railroad ties were removed and the soil graded properly. This was in the winter.

About three or four months later, Wren phoned again, pretty excited, and asked me over. The creek looked fairly shallow, but as we watched, a salmon, about three feet long, came gliding lazily upstream. When he discovered another salmon in one of the shallow coves, there was a

sudden thrashing and churning of water, so intense we could not see what was happening. Then all would be calm until the next salmon came along five minutes later.

I suppose every school kid in Willits is familiar with the life cycle of salmon, but this was a first for me, to realize that salmon still live right here, along a major highway through downtown Willits, and that, with some work and attention, we could bring back some healthy salmon runs.

What Wren did is but one example of a multiplicity of actions ordinary people are undertaking to restore waterways that have been degraded. All these actions collectively may be working; I hear the salmon count was starting to come up this year, after 15 years of depressing downward slides. Much work remains to be done. Flood control and stream channelization have been underway since well before my time. Yet the salmon are still here, and the seasonal "lake" they rely on could still be restored.

The biggest threat facing our wetlands now is the wick drains and the current piling up of dirt to squeeze all the water out for an unnecessary and costly viaduct and northern freeway interchange. Caltrans' bypass plans may have been in the works for 50 years, but the northernmost part, the willful destruction of irreplaceable wetlands, was tacked on quite recently, sometime after 2009, with no environmental review of the impacts on water, salmon, migratory birds, or we, the people, who live here.

There are solutions. A ground-level highway for the northern interchange, for example, could save 30 acres of wetlands (plus untold savings to the expensive but ineffective proposed mitigation plan) and still fulfill all the purposes of a bypass. Fortunately Caltrans did their homework. An engineered study and cost comparison of a ground-level highway was commissioned and added to Caltrans' files around 2007. This work is shovel-ready. The process is simple. Governor Brown and/or our elected state representatives can issue a change order reducing the bypass' impact on wetlands. Change orders are common in this business, though admittedly the change order usually expands a project. Wouldn't it be significant historically to reduce a project and move towards a more sustainable future?

We must stop the filling of wetlands now, and take some time to rethink this. If the viaduct part of the freeway currently underway is reconfigured as a grade-level highway, we could save a couple of million dollars, solve our traffic problems, and protect our wetlands.

Please join me, and many others, in urging our elected officials at the city, county and state level to press Governor Brown for a change order to this project, one that achieves the goals of a bypass and preserves our precious wetlands.

Robin LeIer, Willits

Town Hall meetings

To the Editor:

How many times have you wanted to express your opinion about what's happening in our community or share an idea about how we can make things

better? The Willits Community Alliance is sponsoring a series of Town Hall meetings that are designed to help us talk with our full community about topics of mutual interest in a respectful and supportive way.

The first Town Hall will be held Sunday September 22 at 4 pm at the City Council Chambers. Adrienne Moore, City Manager, and Alan Falleri, former City Planner, will get the conversation going with short presentations on Community Revitalization. Everyone present will then be encouraged to share what they would like to see happening in our community to create a better life for our children and grandchildren.

The purpose of these meetings is to listen to each other, express our ideas, and find areas of agreement that will benefit our whole community. A moderator will make sure everyone has a chance to speak and that the meetings are respectful, not confrontational. At the end of the meeting, participants will suggest topics for future Town Halls.

For more information contact Carlin Diamond at 459-4850 or carlinvii@aol.com.

Carlin Diamond, Willits

Firefighters say thanks

To the Editor:

The Brooktrails Firefighters' Association would like to thank those who supported our Golf Tournament that was held on August 24. This event was successful, and we were able to raise money to help fund training and equipment needs.

We would like to thank the following golf courses for donating toward prizes for the tournament: Benbow Inn & Golf, Ukiah Golf Course and Little River Inn & Golf.

Our Hole Sponsors were Flowers by Annette, Headquarters Salon, Old Mission Pizza, ServPro of Mendocino County, Sherwood Market, The Flower Lady of Willits and 101 Trailers.

Raffle prizes were provided by Anna's Asian House, The Bike Station, The Bistro, Blue Sky Gallery, The Book Juggler, Brickhouse Coffee, Cat's Meow, Gribaldo's Restaurant, Headquarters Salon, House of Pizza, Jixi Salon, Les Schwab Tires, The Loose Caboose, L.U.C., Main Street Music, Safeway, Tango Salon, Yokum's Auto Body Shop and Yum Yum Tree.

And a special thank you to the Brooktrails Golf Course and to Printing Plus for their continued support!

Jon Noyer, Event Coordinator, Brooktrails Firefighters' Association

Why the protests continue

To the Editor:

People ask: why do those crazy bypass protestors in Willits keep on protesting? Why don't they accept reality, now that work has started? Why aren't they punished harder? They don't even live here, right?

Everyone has the right to free speech, except hate speech. Civil disobedience, nonviolently breaking the smallest possible law to call attention to a greater wrong, is

Naomi Wagner, Willits

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Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Apple pie + carnival + sheep dogs = Boonville Fair time!

Anderson Valley is the picturesque setting for the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show – our official county fair – which will be held this Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Boonville Fairgrounds.

The staple fair fun will available to local, including buildings full of entries made by local artisans, carnival rides and fairway food, apple tastings and produce displays, and breeding livestock showcased by junior and senior residents of the county.

Big things to make sure to see at Boonville Fair include the sheep dog trials, the Apple Bowl football game, the CCPRA rodeo and the Classic Car Show.

Highlights of Friday's events include: 10 am: open sheep show, open horse show, and junior dog show; 11 am: junior goat show; 2 pm: bean spitting contest and a musical performance by McKenna Faith; 3 pm: varsity soccer game and junior swine show; 5 pm: wine tasting; and 7 pm: varsity football, open swine show, and circle of champions.

Highlights of Saturday's events include: 9 am: FFA and 4-H showmanship; 10 am: Angora rabbit demonstration from Charlie Lacey of the California Wool and Fiber Festival; 1 pm: junior dairy cattle show, and sheep shearing and skinning demonstration; 3 pm: bubble gum blowing contest; 4 pm: fleece auction; 8 pm: CCPRA rodeo; and 9:30 pm: dance with singer Amanda Ply.

Highlights of Sunday's events include:

Read the rest of Boonville | Over on Page 9



Cloud 9 Dance Studio

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COLUMN | Trending



Branding Willits

Willits is not only facing an identity crisis; it is facing a survival crisis. As reflected in the ongoing stream of articles and letters to the editor in both Willits Weekly and The Willits News, the nearly singular focus for a significant number of Willits residents has been and continues to be the bypass.

Sharply divided factions are creating rifts among politicians, local businesses and even friends. It is time to end the infighting and let the bypass issue be bygone. We need to think about who

we are as a town, both now and in the future. We need to brand the city that everyone loves or at least cares enough about to call home.

Other small towns have faced similar issues – with and without the encroachment of leviathans like Caltrans – and they have successfully created or recreated a thriving community. Certainly, Willits does not lack for intelligent, forward-thinking people. In that regard, the upcoming Town Hall Meeting (4 pm, September 22, City Council Chambers) instigated by Carlin Diamond is definitely a step in the right direction. Everyone who cares about our future should absolutely attend.

Three weeks ago I was in the town of Leavenworth, Washington, with my niece, and we were fortunate enough to spend time with one of the individuals who resurrected a near-death logging town into a "Little Bavaria" whose economy is booming. Not every little shop is German in the strictest sense of the word, but the Bavarian theme has been carefully implemented throughout the town. To be clear, not every shop or restaurant has a Bavarian exterior. My niece and I had lunch at a phenomenal Mexican restaurant which was true to its Mexican roots, while at the same time choosing colors and wood types for the exterior that blended with its two very-Bavaria neighbors. The hospital in Leavenworth is regarded as one of the best in the state, and prominent doctors and health care professionals from all over the country compete to practice there. There are also big yearly events: Oktoberfest and the Christmas Lights Festival being only two of the many celebrations which bring in visitors from as far away as Europe, China and Japan.

Branding works. It worked for Walla Walla, Washington, whose only claim to fame was a prison on the town's outskirts until a group of determined citizens (one of them my literary client) decided that Walla Walla was an ideal wine-growing area. Today, that "little town that could" is listed every year on at least one list as one of the best small towns in the country.

Sedona, Arizona, back in the mid-seventies when I first went there, was a little like "Gunfight at the OK Corral." The Oak Creek Tavern (famous for that Jane Russell movie scene back in the

fifties) was the gathering place of no-nonsense cowboys and ranchers, retirees, art lovers, Native Americans and small business people who were tossing more than whiskey shots in their efforts to decide what besides the Red Rocks would define Sedona. We all know how well that turned out, but it wasn't without a struggle. I was on the arts committee that ultimately helped to create detente and progress for the community.

Then there's Jerome, Arizona, which resurrected the mining theme; Murphy's right here in California's Gold Country which pushed in the culinary direction. The list goes on and on.

Read the rest of Branding | Over on Page 9

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.

Willits Weekly

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Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

In the Stars...

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Aries, you may not like scheduling too many things in advance, but sometimes it pays to plan and let others know your schedule so their minds are at ease.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

You may experience a financial windfall this week, Taurus. It may be a good time to ask for a raise or to play the lottery. Luck is on your side in the coming days.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 2

Gemini, expand your horizons and your path to success will be illuminated. Creativity will bring new opportunities and people into your life this week.

CANCER

Jun 23 - Jul 22

Share your optimism and enthusiasm with others, Cancer. You may prove unable to contain your happiness, so don't be surprised if those around you pick up that vibe.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Leo, expect your social life to take off this week. Things pick up with your friends, and romance might be right around the corner. Enjoy the ride.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

Virgo, you might think you can do no wrong at work, but scale back on risky decisions. Right now you have achieved financial stability, and you don't want to risk that.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

Libra, your heart is set on a lofty goal, but you recognize all the hard work necessary to make that goal a reality. Give it your best shot, and you will be glad you did.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Scorpio, you may convince yourself that now is not the time to spend money on something that will make you feel good, but there is no reason to let fear get in the way of happiness.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

A friend or partner could open up a window of opportunity for you, Sagittarius. Make the most of this opportunity, and success will soon follow.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

Don't be too hard on yourself if you don't get much done this week, Capricorn. There are many enticing distractions, and you can afford to devote some time to trivial pursuits.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

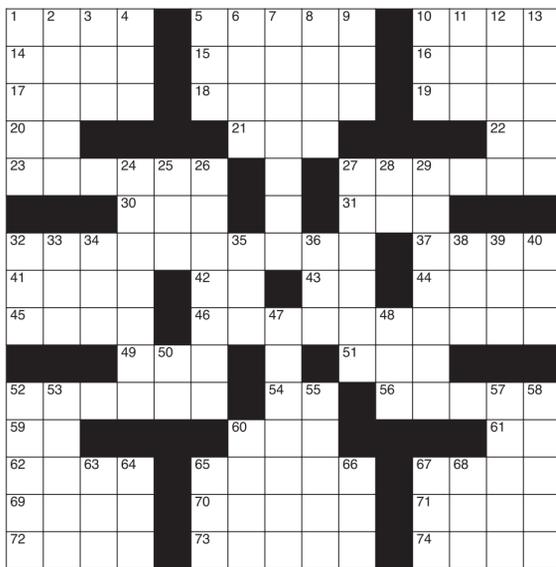
Aquarius, this week may allow you to have your cake and eat it, too. Friends may be envious of your luck, so be sure to share some of your good fortune with those around you.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces, devote ample time to your personal life this week. A few things need sorting out, so don't hesitate to put other matters on the back burner.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Former NBA player Bison
- Rabbit
- Uplike novel
- Rectangular groove
- Formally declare
- Dull in color
- Pace of movement
- Athletic saucers
- Not crazy
- denotes past
- 17th Greek letter
- chihuahua
- Sight, smell and touch
- Ribbon belts
- Products of human creativity
- Behave in a certain manner
- Breathing out
- First St. Louis bridge
- No variation
- 1/1000 of an ampere
- Palladium
- Gain and
- Small stone coffin-like box
- Failed 2012 candidate
- Point midway between E and SE
- Turns into noun
- Temper or anger
- Atomic #56
- Negligible amounts

- Dee, actress
- Air cooling machine
- Stanley's automobile
- Old world, new
- Fool (Latin)
- A citizen of Thailand
- Select
- Airborne (abbr.)
- River in NE Scotland
- Skilled in deception
- Hot condiment
- Not divisible by two
- Point midway between S and E
- Apportions cards
- Ruled by an abbeess
- Expressed pleasure
- Bleated
- Storage buildings
- Stored in the gallbladder
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Point midway between S and SE
- 8th Month (abbr.)
- They
- Dental group
- Conducted

CLUES DOWN

- Challenges
- Hedge
- Lease
- Before
- Singer Stewart
- No variation
- Islamic prince
- African shirt
- Palladium
- Gain and
- Small stone coffin-like box
- Failed 2012 candidate
- Point midway between E and SE
- Turns into noun
- Temper or anger
- Atomic #56
- Negligible amounts

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

Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits

Volunteer contractor crew building new produce stand for Commonwealth Garden

The Commonwealth Garden near the new homes at Haehl Creek is getting a new professional-grade produce stand where produce can soon be provided to the public for a donation to the garden.

Adventist Health's new Howard Hospital and the produce stand are right across from each other on the access street to the neighborhood off East Hill Road. Nail guns fired away Monday as the crew of Coastal Mountain Construction volunteered to build the stand.

Nat Collicott, Coastal Mountain Construction owner, was at the site working with members of his crew Monday. Collicott's outfit built the homes in Haehl Creek, and he said he was pleased to do something nice for the neighborhood.

It's not going to look like your typical roadside produce vendor for those passing by the Commonwealth Garden. Keith Johnson, a founding volunteer, said the stand will make use of the same siding and rooflines as nearby homes.



Building the produce stand at the Commonwealth Garden, left to right: Keith Johnson, Nat Collicott, Ken Pedersen and Pat Gray pause work for a group photo Monday morning

Photo by Zack Cinek

"So it blends in really well with the neighborhood," Johnson said. The stand will be equipped to store vegetables with both dry and cool storage rooms.

The Commonwealth Garden grows food for the hospital, but its goods also go to kitchens at the Senior Center and the food bank.

Johnson and wife Ananda Johnson had the idea for the garden about five or six

years ago. "I wanted to grow food for the garden, it was always my intention," Ananda Johnson said.

The garden is a well-maintained and professionally built facility, to comply with the high standards of providing for a hospital.

Ananda Johnson said she hopes that patients at the new hospital can walk among the garden or help out if they can.

- Zack Cinek

'The Gym Program'

at Howard Hospital

Bob and Della Bennett are sometimes called "ambassadors" for Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital's "The Gym Program." The couple is still doing independent physical therapy at the hospital three days a week, after celebrating their one-year anniversary with the program in July. The Gym Program is a service offered to HMH patients who've been discharged from physical therapy but who want to continue using the exercise equipment independently, with minimal supervision.

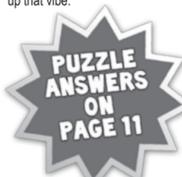
"I don't go to see the physical therapist anymore," Della Bennett said, "I've been released from physical therapy, because I accomplished my goal after my knee surgery," she said. "But I'm still doing physical therapy because you have to maintain. He's 70, and I'm right there with him."

Della had knee replacement surgery with orthopedic surgery specialist Dr. William Bowen at the hospital's Orthopedic Joint Center. Bob Bennett was treated for shoulder strain at the center. "To be perfectly honest," said Bob, "Our experience with HMH through the whole experience was amazing."

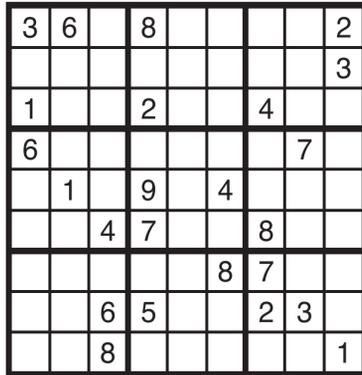
For more information about the Orthopedic Joint Center, call 456-3180 or visit www.orthojointcenter.com.



Della and Bob Bennett



Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

How To Sudoku:

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

Hometown Business

Meat Box

Mobile certified ranch slaughtering service starting up in Willits

With the ever-growing importance on living "local" lifestyles, Willits' Adam Lawrence and Josh Allman have started Meat Box, a certified on-site ranch slaughtering service to help everyone - ranchers, farmers and even back-to-the farm homesteading individuals who are raising animals just for their own families - with their meat processing needs.

Living the ranching lifestyle since childhood, the friends decided that in their spare time from commercial fishing and real estate sales, they could offer the community and surrounding areas a California Department of Food and Agriculture certified slaughtering service, complete with a well-refrigerated truck.

Hogs, sheep, beef, goats, ostriches and more are all species the team is able to process, and the truck can hold the equivalent of up to 35 lambs inside, making small and large jobs all possible.

The Meat Box men will set up an appointment with ranchers and come out to the site and calmly and respectfully take down the animals. They remove hides, entrails or other items at the request of the customer and deliver the readied carcasses to a local cut-and-wrap facility of the client's choice.

"We know customers invest a lot of money and time into their animals when they're on the hoof," said Lawrence. "Getting the carcass cold quickly and keeping the meat in a temperature-controlled environment during travel is essential to making sure that investment is retained. We can get the inside temperature of the truck all the way down to 0 degrees, so processing meat on these hot summer days is no problem for us, and carcasses don't have to sit out waiting while the rest of the job is finished."

Not stressing the animals also helps maintain the quality of the meat, and offers the end consumer some peace of mind.

"They are just relaxing at their home," explained Lawrence. "Having us come to the property instead of having the animals hot, confined and even carcass on a long trip to the commercial slaughterhouse (with Eureka or the



Sacramento valley being the closest) - that changes the meat. It becomes full of adrenaline, and the slaughtering process can be a lot messier. This way, the animal is calm, the slaughter is quick, respectful and effective, and it reflects in the quality of the meat."

Impressively, the cost for Meat Box to process the animals is similar in price to that of the large slaughterhouses, and therefore is a more affordable option for ranchers, especially when factoring in the costs of fuel and time to deliver - and to pick up - the animals from out-of-county facilities

While based in Willits, Meat Box is also willing to travel to outer lying areas of Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt and Sonoma counties if a group of individuals wants to get together, or if there is a large enough herd to process.

"We might try and have, say, a Potter Valley day, and then a Ukiah day and then a Healdsburg day and so on, if we can coordinate enough people to do so," explained Lawrence. "All we need is fairly level ground. We have panels, generators and more and are totally self-sufficient in remote areas, we just need the animals."

All processed carcasses are tagged when sent to a cut-and-wrap facility so clients can be assured that they are getting back their own meat and that what they feed their animals is what ends up back on their own plate.

With the business only open for about three weeks, Meat Box is already busy in the community, but is definitely taking appointments for future jobs.

To contact Meat Box for an appointment or to learn more call 707-734-3049 or find them on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/mobilemeatbox.

- Maureen Moore



At top: carcasses hang in the new refrigerated truck, getting cold for their trip to the cut-and-wrap facility

Above: the new logo for Meat Box, soon to be applied to their truck

Left: the spacious interior offers room for many carcasses, allowing the Meat Box crew to service even large jobs

Photos courtesy Meat Box



Tools of the trade

Fall is a good time to plant trees, shrubs and native plants

Carpenters have their tool belts, and drip irrigation installers have their tool buckets. Instead of looking all over for random parts, we just pick up our 5 gallon bucket with a fitted pouch that holds all the necessary tools and get to work. We'll take you through our tool bucket and tell you what we think are indispensable supplies to have on hand for your drip projects.

First, we have our favorite tools. To punch holes in mainline tubing, the Miracle Punch is great; it's easy on the hands and it makes perfectly uniform holes. It's a bit safer to use than a regular punch, too, as it fits securely around the tubing. To install short transfer barb into the end of 1/4" blank tubing or into 1/4" soaker drip tubing, there's a handy inserter tool. This tool also inserts the 2-way goof plugs used as ends for soaker drip. Once you use this tool you'll never go back to manually inserting barb! It's another tool that reduces strain on the hands. A cutting tool that goes through tubing easily is also necessary. We use sharp pruners or heavy duty scissors for this.

There are two sizes of fittings we use regularly; mainline fittings (for either 1/2" or 3/4" tubing) and micro-fittings that are usually called 1/4". The mainline list is quite short:

a few repair couplers, an extra beginning, some tees and elbows, some ends (either figure 8 or ends with removable caps) and some hold downs. You can never have too many hold downs to secure drip lines.

For micro-fittings, you should have short transfer barbs (to use w/ insert tool), 2 way goof plugs, tees, elbows and hold downs. Goof plugs are lifesavers for anyone who punches a hole in the wrong place, hence the name. Always have more than you think you will need, as mistakes happen (even to old pros like me). Hint: Keep micro-fittings separated in a small, see-through container.

Lastly, keep a small supply of extra blank 1/4" tubing and soaker drip tubing and a few of your favorite emitters: some of at least two different flows (1/2, 1, or 2 GPH) for various sized plants.

Fall is a good time to plant trees, shrubs and native or xeriscape (low water use) plants. You can install a drip system, or add a new hydro zone (grouping of plants with similar moisture needs) to your current system now. New shrubs and trees will need some watering to help establish good root systems before winter. When the seasonal rains begin, they will hopefully do the rest of the watering until next year. If you install a system for a xeriscape, you may want to include some individual 1/4" line shut offs.

Established native plants need very little water, but sometimes a plant will die off and you will need to water its replacement regularly for a while. Having shut offs is an easy way to send water only where it is needed.

If you are interested in drip irrigation, water-wise gardening, water catchment and water conservation, join my wife, Cheryl, and I on our Facebook page called "Driplines: Adventures with Drip Irrigation." You can also contact us c/o the Willits Weekly at willitsweekly@gmail.com, with questions or ideas.

Jerry Jordan has been working with drip irrigation for 30 years. He is a founding owner of DripWorks.

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Friday, September 13

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.

"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. Show runs through September 29. Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday, 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1732.

"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 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.

Shanachie Pub: Reggae with The Squidly Cole Band. 9 pm. \$10. Featuring Wilburn "Squidly" Cole from the Trenchtown section of Kingston, Jamaica. Visit: www.squidlycole.net.

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 at City Park, across from City Hall, from 3 to 6 pm. In the park through October.

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

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

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

Save the Date:

Homecoming Football Game/Parade, WHS, September 27

"Chicken Dinner to Go," Harrah Center, October 4

T.R.A.I.L. Benefit Ride at Ridgewood Ranch, October 4

Ranch Rodeo, Willits Frontier Days Grounds, October 5

Willits Kiwanis Oakland Raiders Football trip, October 6

'Two Across' opens Friday at WCT

Willits Weekly's Mike A'Dair takes on lead role at director's request

Mike A'Dair, who has directed and acted in numerous plays at the Willits Community Theatre, has stepped into the lead role in "Two Across."

According to Dick Graham, the director of WCT's "Two Across": "The show must go on." A'Dair was his first choice when lead actor Keith Canova had to leave for personal reasons.

When A'Dair's phone rang, even though playing Josh was not on his agenda, when Graham said, "We need you, and you're the man who can do it," A'Dair said: "Absolutely, yes." A'Dair also admits it's a challenge, even scary, since the play opens September 13, and he has had only a few weeks to rehearse the role. No small matter, since he is

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

The Gonzalo Bergara Quartet



Monday, September 16

Shanachie Pub: A special show with The Gonzalo Bergara Quartet, all-acoustic Gypsy Django jazz, featuring virtuoso composer and lead guitarist Gonzalo Bergara, "missing a cascade of arpeggios with the sounds of Paris and his native Argentina." Willits Chiropractic Clinic and John Schadeck Presents. 6 pm. \$10 cover. Visit: www.gonzalobergara.com.

Auditions for "I Am a Camera": 6:30 pm 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 seeking life and love in the Berlin of the 1930s, in the shadow of the Nazi menace. Director Joe Dowling is looking for two women aged late teens through 20s and two men, aged 20s and 30s. For more info or a script: 459-1200.

Tuesday, September 17

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's movies are Blue Jasmine and Way Back. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.



Sunday, September 22

Town Hall Meeting: 4 pm at the Willits City Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street. The first of a series of Town Hall meetings for all in the 95490 zipcode, 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. Info: Carlin: 459-4850.

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.

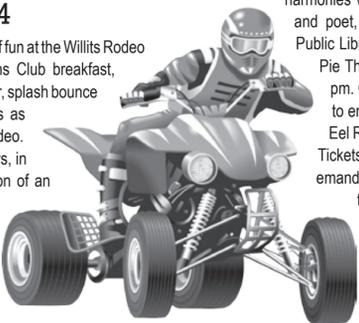
To benefit the non-profit Safe Pathways, in its effort to raise funds for construction of an "independent" living environment for young adults with disadvantages or disabilities, plus an activity center, a safe place for youth to hang out. Gates open 10 am; BBQ 2 pm; ATV Rodeo and Lawn Mower races 4 pm. \$10; kids under 12 are free. Info: www.facebook.com/events/390272431073040 or 272-5395.

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.

"Willits On Stage" Variety Show audition: noon to 5 pm at the Willits United Methodist Church on School and Pine Streets, across from the Little Lake Grange. Audition your 3 to 5 minute act: acting, comedy, dance, singing, musical instruments,

spoken word, magic, animal acts and acrobatics, or other. There's room for about 30 acts. The show is set for Saturday, October 19 at the Willits High School auditorium, and proceeds will benefit Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Auditions continue on Wednesday, September 18, 7 to 9 pm, and Saturday, September 28, noon to 5 pm. At the Willits United Methodist Church Info: Kevin at 456-9429 or Marcia at 354-2801.

7th Annual Not JUST Cowboy Poetry & 3rd annual Apple Pie Throwdown: Emandal Farm, featuring Western



harmonies with the Sons of the San Joaquin, and Nevada bard and poet, Carolyn Dufurrena. Proceeds to benefit the Willits Public Library and Willits Daily Bread. Open Mic at 2 pm. Apple Pie Throwdown tasting at 2:30 pm. Performance starts at 3 pm. Guests are encouraged to come early before the show to enjoy a day on the farm, a picnic lunch, or a swim in the Eel River. Tickets \$25 per person advance; \$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, including 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.

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: "A Layman'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.



Trail Ride, BBQ & Seabiscuit Tour

Trail Ride, BBQ & Seabiscuit Tour: Saturday, October 5, on beautiful Ridgewood Ranch, to benefit Ridgewood T.R.A.I.L. Riders Association, a therapeutic riding program. "Don't miss this opportunity to ride your horse on this famous 5,000 acre ranch, historic home of Seabiscuit." Featuring three levels of rides: # 1. Easy flat ride. Takes approximately 2 hours (safe, but not for untrained horses); #2. Moderate ride, east of Highway 101. Some easy, some more challenging. Takes approximately 3 hours; #3. Moderate ride, west of Highway 101. Some steep up and down. Takes approximately 3 hours. Check-in from 8 to 8:45 am with coffee and snacks; rides begin from 9 to 9:30 am. BBQ at 12:30 pm, featuring organic fruits and veggies from Ridgewood's organic garden. 2 pm: Seabiscuit Tour. Advance tickets/entry forms (must be received by October 1) available at www.ridgewoodtrail.org or (in Willits) at J.D. Redhouse. Ride & BBQ: \$50; BBQ only \$15; BBQ child under 12, \$10; guided Seabiscuit tour (optional): \$15. Riders under 16 must be accompanied by adult. Call or email for directions: 459-5640 or ridgewoodtrail@gmail.com. T.R.A.I.L. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to reach children with physical, developmental, emotional or social challenges by using horseback riding therapy.

A contestant in last year's event
Photo by Christine Houdashelt



Not your average rodeo

Lawn mowers and ATVs will replace broncs and bulls for ATV Rodeo

This weekend riders will not be grabbing a saddle, but rather the steering wheel of their riding mowers and the handlebars of their all-terrain vehicles, to compete in the second annual Safe Pathways ATV Rodeo.

Held again at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds on Saturday, September 14, the event will feature the rodeo and mower races at 4 pm and a barbecued ribs cook-off contest at 2 pm. A splash bounce house, a crafts fair, breakfast by the Lions Club and a horseshoe tourney are also on the schedule, providing more fun for the crowd. Gates open at 10 am.

This event started last year as a fundraiser for the non-profit organization Safe Pathways.

"The goal of this event is to raise money for construction of an 'independent' living environment for young adults with disadvantages or disabilities," says Safe Pathways' Billy Rutler. "Also, to build an activity center for residents and nonresidents, so that there is a safe place these kids can hang out at or where parents can bring them and feel confident their children are being looked after when they need help or simply something fun to do."

Rutler owns property in the Haehli Creek subdivision that he is planning to donate for the use of the Safe Pathways home. A six-bedroom house is planned, where the main residents can learn life skills including cooking, shopping, cleaning and more, with the supervision of qualified staff who will be onsite 24 hours a day.

Rutler's own son, BJ, was the original inspiration for the project and will be one of the residents at the home.

"I knew the day would come soon when BJ was ready to move out and start living more on his own," explained Rutler. "He was a real motivation for us starting the Safe Pathways Transition Home, so he would get to have that experience, gain independence and continue to grow as an

Enrollments for Willits 4H

The Willits 4H Club will be accepting enrollments for the 2013/2014 year on Monday, September 16, at 6:30 pm at Blosser Lane Elementary School, 1275 Blosser Lane, in the Cafeteria. Enrollment ages are 5 to 8 for Clover Bud Mini members and 9 to 18 years old for all other kids. Info: Kara at 459-5859.

Plant Sale

Mendocino College Ag Department Fall Sale: Friday, October 4 from 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, October 5 from 9 am to 5 pm. 1000 Hensley Road, Ukiah. "We have a great assortment of veggies, perennials and California natives, all of which are grown by our students." Info: 468-3148.

Homecoming Week at WHS

Homecoming Week is just around the corner! The theme this year is "Music Styles":

9/23 Spirit Day: '50s Bop; 9/24 Spirit Day: Rock; 9/25 Spirit Day: Reggae; Homecoming Rally, 7 pm, Auditorium; 9/26 Spirit Day: Country; 9/27 Green and Gold Day; Homecoming Game/Parade, 5:30 pm, Maize Field; 9/28 Homecoming Dance, 9 pm, Gym

Be sure to show your school pride and spirit! Spirit points will be awarded! Go Wolverines!

Free Tire Recycling next week

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



Oakland Raiders game to benefit 'Project Honduras'

It's time to buy tickets for the 5th Annual Kiwanis Club of Willits excursion to an Oakland Raiders football game, with proceeds going to support Project Honduras. The game is the Sunday, October 6 home game against the San Diego Chargers, set to start at 1:25 pm at the Coliseum.

Project Honduras is Willits' adoption of a small, 25-bed rural hospital, Hospital Adventista, in Valle de Angeles, near Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras. Frank R. Howard Hospitalist staff first traveled to Hospital Adventista in 2007.

"This year," said Tom Peterson, "we are raising funds to install an emergency generator. We are also planning to rewire the hospital feeders to include a ground wire to help eliminate replacement of expensive power supplies." Peterson is treasurer of Willits Kiwanis and facilities management director at Howard Hospital and the Ukiah Valley Medical Center. The trip to Honduras is scheduled for early November.

Tickets for the fundraiser are \$60, with \$20 from each ticket going toward the Project Honduras trip. Seats are located in Section 136, Rows 20-22. "If you are unable to attend," Peterson said, "please think of sponsoring a youth from our community." Tickets are limited, so please respond quickly. Contact: Peterson at 456-3081 or Thomas.Peterson@ah.org for more information.



Above: Mike A'Dair and Kathy de Bane

Photo by Creek Norris

on stage without a break for the full 80 minutes of this two-actor romance.

Graham says he has great faith in A'Dair, who has been in theater since 1984 and has acted in or directed some 15 plays. Graham is confident A'Dair will bring an exciting vibrancy to the character of Josh.

"Two Across" opens Friday, September 13 and Saturday, September 14 and runs 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 WCT at 459-0895 and reserving seats with a credit card.

Wednesday, September 18

'Coffee with the Principal': Parents and guardians of Willits High School students are invited to meet new WHS principal Jeffrey Ritchley, 8 to 8:30 am in Room 6 at WHS. The first of regular monthly "coffees." Info: 459-7700.

Stress Management Life Balance Workshop: with motivational speaker Kathy Espinoza. Presented by the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Noon to 1:30 pm, City Hall. \$10, lunch included with early registration: 459-7910. See article on Calendar page for more info.

"Willits On Stage" Variety Show audition: 7 to 9 pm at the Willits United Methodist Church on School and Pine Streets, across from the Little Lake Grange. See Saturday, September 14 listing for more details.

Saturday, September 21

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

St. Anthony's Church Annual Flea Market/Yard Sale: 9 am to 3 pm. 61 W San Francisco Avenue. \$15/space: contact Peggy at 972-2016 or Diana at 459-6260 for info. "Save gas, save time, sell (and buy!) your items locally.

Annual Willits Community Harvest Farm to Table Dinner: 6 pm to midnight at the Little Lake Grange. Featuring local garden-fresh foods, followed by music and dancing (Dirt Floor Band, The Raging Grannies, and Blue Sky Pie), inspirational words (featuring Amanda "Warbler" Senseman and Will Parrish), and a pie auction. 291 School Street, to benefit Save Our Little Lake Valley and the Willits Grange. Dinner and Dance \$25: Bring a dish from your garden and get a reduced entry ticket; Dance only \$15; Children \$10. Advance tickets (this event sells out every year) at Goods' Shoppe. Info or to volunteer call A. Waters at 459-6362.

Coffee with the Principal

Dear parents and/or guardians: My name is Jeff Ritchley. I am the new principal of Willits High School. The school year is off to a great start, and all of the staff is excited to see your teenagers back at school. Once a month, Willits High School will be having "Coffee with the Principal."

At this event you are welcome to enjoy a cup of coffee with me, and discuss what is going on at the high school. Each month you will have the opportunity to voice your concerns to me, with other parents. This will also be a time to celebrate student success, talk about college, the military, or anything you may have on your mind. Our first event will be Wednesday, September 18, at 8 to 8:30 am in Room 6.

I look forward to this time to collaborate with you as parents in making Willits High School the best it can be. Go Wolverines!



WHS Principal Jeff Ritchley
Photo by Maureen Moore

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A balanced diet

Dear A. Roebuck,

Should I buy a compost thermometer to see how my compost pile is heating up. Do I need one?

Dear Gardener,

Nature has been doing slow composting for millions of years without a compost thermometer. Grass, leaves, twigs, even fallen tree trunks eventually return to the earth as soil-enriching humus.

However, if you wish to have black, crumbly, finished compost ready for your garden soon, an efficient hot compost pile is the way to go. Choosing the proper ingredients with the right carbon/nitrogen ratio and turning the pile often to give it fresh air will greatly speed the rate of decomposition.

A compost thermometer will help you know when you are doing the right thing. A new correctly carbon/nitrogen balanced compost pile with the right amount of moisture and air will heat up to 140 to 160 degrees in about two days. After a week, as the oxygen in the pile is consumed, and the pile is cooling, it's time to turn composting materials, fluffing them up a bit as you build the new pile.

The new pile will heat up again. In a week or so, when the pile begins to cool, turn it again. After three or four of these turn-heat-cool cycles, the pile will not get as hot and can continue breaking down on its own. Perhaps one more turning a week or two before you are ready to use it, and you should have nice, ready compost for your garden.

A compost thermometer will help you time the heat-up, cool-down, turn-the-pile cycles. It's fun to use to see how things are going, and it will help you to give the compost-makers in the pile some oxygen when they need it.

Super easy fried zucchini



INGREDIENTS

- 3 medium zucchini
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup panko bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup brewer's yeast
- Salt, pepper and garlic powder to taste
- Peanut oil for frying

DIRECTIONS

Heat oil just to cover bottom of heavy skillet. Slice zucchini in 1/4 inch rounds. Place in single layer on paper towel to drain/dry. Mix dry ingredients in one bowl. Crack egg into a separate bowl, and stir with a fork to mix yolk and white. Dip slices one at a time into egg, then into dry mix. Fry in hot oil quickly on each side until brown. Let cool slightly and inhale.



Celebrating the customers

... and 34 years in business as Mariposa Market

A day of celebration was in order for Mary Anne Trevey and the staff of Mariposa Market who marked the store's 34 years in business with a customer appreciation day yesterday.

Raffles, food and live music – including the High Five Band and The Real Sarahs – were fun for customers, who came to shop, enjoy

and celebrate with the store.

Items up for raffle included goods from Mariposa's vendors and the store itself, including lovely health and beauty baskets and even a non-GMO kids' toy wagon from Woodstock.

Trevey also was able to have great face-to-face connections with

community members and shoppers, who offered congratulations and thanks for her hard work and offerings to the community.

"I feel very blessed," said Trevey. "We want to extend a big thank you to all our customers for their support over the years. Our success is because of them!"

The next 34 years look bright: plans to extend the kitchen and employee break room are in the works, but Trevey said the real plan is no plan at all.

"I just get up, come to work and make it happen," Trevey laughed.

— Maureen Moore



Mary Anne Trevey stands in the middle of a group of Mariposa Market staffers

Left: The Real Sarahs: Sarah Ryan (lemon shaker) and Sarah Larkin (guitar)

Photos by Maureen Moore



Above: left: Summer rolls with peanut sauce available to guests for the Customer Appreciation Day; right: the tasting table was a hit with customers who enjoyed the spread during Wednesday's celebration



SHEEP DOG TRIALS PARADE

APPLE BOWL FOOTBALL CAR SHOW

MENDOCINO County FAIR & Apple Show
SEPT. 13 thru 15
One Pay Gate

BOONVILLE

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Classifieds & More

Below: Joel Clark, chair of the college board of trustees; Paula Gray, retired from the college Art Department; and Peggy Randrup, operations supervisor for the North County Center

Photo by Maureen Moore

Addition / Decking / New Home

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

Body Life Studio

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www.bodylifestudio.com 707.972.0049

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 macamargin@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.

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.

Puzzle Answer From Page 4

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NOYO

THEATRE Willits, CA
Times for 9-13 to 9-19

ONE DIRECTION THIS IS US

Excl'd Ver. w/20 mins more songs!
(PG) 1hr 46mins 2D/3D

Friday: 2D @ 6:00pm, 3D @ 8:30pm
Sat: 2D @ 1, 3:30 & 6pm, 3D @ 8:30pm
Sun: 2D @ 2 & 4:30pm, 3D @ 7:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 2D @ 4:30, 3D @ 7:00pm

BLUE JASMINE

(PG-13) 1hr 38mins
Daily: 5:15 & 7:30pm
Sat/ Sun: 12:45, 3:00, 5:15 & 7:30pm

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Kinetic carnivale

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- ☉ Top row, left to right: The Intergalactic Imagination Transporter
- ✦ Two men discussing drag saw technology in front of a Roots log cart
- ☉ An antique barometer at a vendor's booth



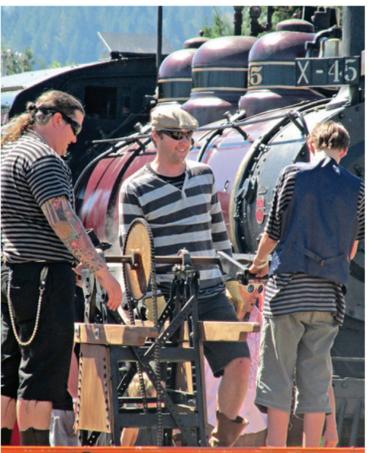
- ✦ Middle row, left to right: Mustaches, real and fake, are part of the fun
- ✦ The Mason County Logging No. 7 steam locomotive

The Park & Roots of Motive Power

- Bottom row: A puppeteer ✦ and a contact juggler ☉ from Terra Firma Circus were just some of the strolling performers at the Rec Grove
- Right: The Roots yard ✦



Handcar Races & by the Depot



- ☉ Top left: The pedal-powered red sofa handcar
- ✦ Top right: The Skunk Train's steam engine No. 45 at the depot.

Above from left:

- ✦ The mighty Apple Jack Gang, one of the top two handcars
- ✦ Dr. Solar and Beverly, strolling with her parasol
- ✦ The Yellow Submarine, the second of the top two handcars. At the final "grudge" match Sunday afternoon, Apple Jack Gang and Yellow Submarine had exactly the same times
- ✦ Bottom left: Another shot of the Apple Jack Gang
- ✦ Bottom right: An elaborate bicycle cart meets the Baldwin Steam Locomotive No. 45

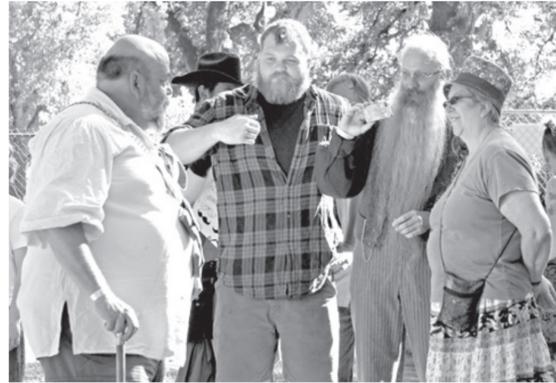


Weekend wrap up

Beard & Mustache Contest



- ✦ Far left: Josh and Flora on stage during the competition; emcee Billy encourages the crowd
- ✦ Left: Flora gets her mustache reapplied by mother Antonia
- ✦ Bottom left: Tony's beard gets assessed by the panel of judges



Above right: Beard and Mustache Contest winners and the judges: judge Jake, mustache winner Josh, event coordinator Genevieve, her daughter Rhyann, beard contest and overall winner Todd, judge Rita, Judge Aarne and freestyle winner Jezra ✦

The rest of Kinetic | From Page 1

estimated 2,000 people attended the Kinetic Carnivale over the weekend, with 700 people buying tickets for the Grand Ball. Glassey was pleased with the turnout, up from an estimated 1,500 attendees and 500 ball-goers last year. She was also pleased with how smoothly the event turned out. The veteran Kinetic Carnivale organizers started planning in January this year, and their hard work paid off.

"We wanted people to have fun, and look at the history in a different way," Glassey said, "and I think that happened. It's a tribute to Willits, in particular," she said, "but Mendocino County in general, that we've got the people who dream these things up and make them happen."

Chris Baldo of Roots of Motive Power said he thought this year's Roots festival was "one of our best events ever."

"We have a big earth-moving pit way out back where the steam shovel is, and we also had the TD 24 International, the big red tractor, out there. You dig with the shovel and make this big hole, and use the tractors to fill it back up; it's kind of a fun, dynamic thing to see. All that stuff is pretty old."

Roots had a train stop out back, so people could get off the train and watch the machines work, including the 1940 Raymond F440 Steam Crane. Baldo was pleased visitors were not just interested in the train rides, but also all the other old equipment that Roots had steamed and "dieseled" up for the festival.

Coordinator Lara Eventide said she thought the Grand Ball was "even more of a glamorous and entertaining event" this year than last. "It got better through the night," she said. "The Sour Mash Hug Band and the DJ Tigerfish were so much fun; the ball ended with a bang, it did not fizzle out. We had to kick people out at the end of the night!"

Ball-goers were wowed by the Fashion Show, Eventide said. "It was really good to see people's jaws just drop: the designs and choreography were so original." The theme for the fashion show was "80 Days Around the World" – "a condensed novel in fashion," Eventide said. And the fire dancers of the Luminesque Fire Troupe were a big hit again this year. "A lot of people said that was their favorite act," Eventide said. "They are a wonderful group of dancers; they knocked everybody's socks off."

The grounds for the Grand Ball extended further outside of the back of the museum this year, with many different areas to sit and eat, watch performances or just relax and

chat. The big outside stage was graced by a 1903 green and red Daniel Best steam tractor from the Roots collection that many revelers posed in front of for photographs. "It was spectacular," Baldo said. "It was one of the very early steam tractors. It was used to pull logs." There was a big cart loaded with logs hooked behind the tractor, with wheels made from large round slices of tree trunks. "The log cart looked almost as cool as the tractor," Baldo said.

– Jennifer Poole

The Grand Ball



- ✦ Top: The Luminesque Fire Troupe performs at the Grand Ball
- ☉ Bottom left: The Mad Maggies perform in the Engine House
- ✦ Bottom center: Two stilt walkers at the entrance to the ball
- ✦ Bottom right: More fire dancing



Fun for the Kids at the Carnivale



The bed swing in the shade, a popular attraction with kids and adults alike

It was a "swingin' time" at Recreation Grove Park Saturday at the Kinetic Carnivale. The park was full of families, with kids running, playing and "swinging" all over the place. Arriving to town late this hot afternoon, the shade at Rec. Grove was a logical first stop.

Winding our way through the booths, sharing greetings with friends old and new, we grabbed some snacks and drinks and were drawn toward the back of the park. My kids were practically running, while asking to go see what turned out to be a bed swing.

Yes, hugely popular that day was the giant bed swing – canopy, comforter and all. Dan, the owner/creator of the bed swing, kept a swinging vibe going in the surrounding area with jazz music pouring from his wind-up Victrola.

The bed was full of people of various ages until the event closed for the night. It was two hours before my kids got a turn, and they didn't get off until it was time to go home.

Photo by Cat Lee

It was no surprise, then, that for both

kids, the bed was their favorite part of the day.

"I enjoyed everything about it. It was just like the merry-go-round," my 12-year-old daughter said.

"It was just really fun," my 9-year-old son said.

I didn't know it at the time, but this pretty much summed up my Carnivale experience this year. What better way to spend a day? Visiting and playing; eating, drinking and shopping to support vending friends and neighbors; and swinging, swinging, swinging in the comforting shade of huge trees – which were also swinging in the breeze!

(Editor's note: Kinetic kids also enjoyed Dr. Solar's Magic Show at the Rec Grove, the Boy Scout's really long monkey bridge, contact juggling by the Terra Firma Circus, face-painting, and old-fashioned games like sand lot marbles, ring toss and darts, as well as, of course, free train rides around the Roots of Motive Power track.)

– Cat Lee

Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Above: CHP Flight Officer and Paramedic J.R. Keane in the CHP helicopter
Photo by Chris Hansen / christthephotog.blogspot.com/



Above right: A family disembarks from the HeloVenture helicopter
Above: Some of the 21 small aircraft that flew in to Ells Field for the Airport Day event
Photos by Jennifer Poole

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