



Willits Economic Localization The WELL Bucket

Volume 4 – Issue 3

March 11, 2009

Schedule of Events

February & March 2009

March 11 – 9:30 am

Coordinating Committee Meeting
190 North St in Willits
459-1002

March 19 - Film 7:00 pm

The Real Dirt On Farmer John
Little Lake Health Center
45 Hazel Street in Willits

March 29 - 3:30 pm

WELL General Meeting
Local Granary, Mendo Credits &
Household Food Storage
Little Lake Grange
291 School Street, Willits

April 16 - Film 7:00 pm

"Flow" and "A Drop of Life"
Little Lake Health Center
45 Hazel Street in Willits



A Preview of the Next WELL Event

by Jason Bradford

WELL's theme for the year is food, and our March event naturally follows from our January meeting at the Grange. While the January "Food Bowl" was a smorgasbord of information about food projects happening around Willits, in March we will focus attention on Household Food Storage, the Local Granary, and Mendo Credits.

At 4 pm, Sheriff Tom Allman will speak about why households need to be more self-reliant given the limits of government to respond sufficiently during a large emergency. I will give a brief overview of the afternoon's topics, including the personal and local economic benefits of household and community food storage. Then we will eat! Just like in January, buffet tables will be set up, so bring something to share if you can, otherwise come and enjoy the food and the company.

During your meals, specialists in the areas of household storage assessment, storage techniques, cooking, and local currency will come by your table to answer any specific questions you have. We hope many of you will commit to doing what it takes to be more prepared, more resilient, and have greater health and peace of mind as a result. Come to the Little Lake Grange, March 29th, from 3:30 to 6 pm and we'll have fun, learning and sharing great food together.

Grange Breakfast

Little Lake Grange Pancake
Breakfast 2009 Calendar:

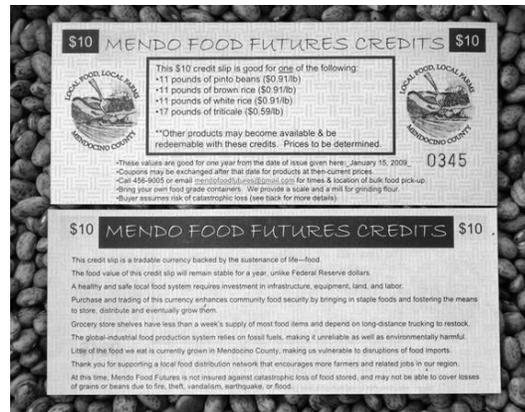
{NOTE: Price is \$6.00 for pancakes, eggs, ham or bacon, coffee, tea, & juice. Real maple syrup and Thanksgiving Coffee are now available!}

4th Sunday of every month:

January 25	February 22
March 22	April 26
May 24	June 28
July 26	August 23
September 27	October 25

8am - 11 am

291 School Street, Willits



Read Jason's Blog About Mendo Credits

Food-backed Local Money

<http://campfire.theoil drum.com/node/5158>



NAIS A Threat To Small Farms

The USDA is promoting a system of tracking farm animals called the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) “a national disease response network built to protect your animals, your neighbors, and your economic livelihood against the devastation of a foreign animal disease outbreak.” (<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>) Many critics believe the real purpose is to put small farmers out of business in favor of the large Agribusiness farms.

The way NAIS works is that every location a farm animal might live (be that a farm, a stock yard, a rodeo, a slaughter-house, a backyard chicken-coop, etc.) needs to be registered as a “premises”, while each animal (cattle, horse, pig, chicken, duck, sheep, etc.) needs to have a registered computer chip or radio tag imbedded for tracking. The final step is tracking each animal every time they are moved in a large national database. The cost of this tracking and registration is to be borne by the owner of the animal.

Continued on Page 4 - NAIS

WHAT Walk a Striding Success

This past Saturday, March 7, over 200 people gathered at JD Redhouse about 9:30 am and set out at 10:00 am to walk the 10,000 step route laid out by Willits Healthy Action Team (WHAT). The weather was cool enough for comfort and dry enough for fun. This is the fourth Walk for Health that WHAT has sponsored in Willits. A year ago they laid out the pathway (about 5 miles long) to encourage residents of our fair town to walk for health, for fun, and to get to know their neighbors. Some people walk the route daily or weekly. It passes each of the schools in town (except the new Charter School location) as well as several of the parks.

This time around they added even more value to the exercise by two wonderful ideas. The Willits Watershed group set up tables at three stream-sides to inform us about the watershed we live in. Along with posters explaining why our salmonids are in trouble (salmon and steel-head), there was a wonderful drawing of our total watershed (from Willits to the mouth of the Eel River) by Rosamond Crowder which is slated to become a mural when the funding becomes available. We were also encouraged to throw some clean gravel (scooped, I think from the stream bottoms) back into the stream to emphasize the need for gravel bottoms which the fish need to spawn. The silt runoff which currently finds its way to many of our streams is one of the major factors in diminishing the salmonids runs. Another is low flows caused both by the drought we are in and the illegal water extraction from so many of our streams.

The other addition this time was a project by two seniors from Willits High School, to raise money and awareness for cancer research and for Howard Hospital. All of the check-off stations (every 1000 steps along the walk, or about every half mile) were tended by eager high school students collecting donations and showing us informative posters about the toll of cancer in our society. I don't know how much money they collected, but the jars I saw looked pretty full!

After the walk (and the prizes donated by local businesses) there was a free party at the Birthday Place, with food and fraternization for all.

All along the walk we met people asking us what the walk was all about. Each walk that we have had has included some who have walked before and a lot of people walking the route for the first time. Keep you eyes peeled for announcements for the next walk. If you can't wait, organize one yourself with a few friends. After all, that's what the route is there for!

Start Here With:

- Organic and Open Pollinated Vegetable Seeds
- Certified Organic Potatoes
- Naturally & Locally Grown Vegetable Starts
- Fruit & Nut Trees



Sanhedrin Nursery
1094 Locust St. Willits 459-9009




Pacific Properties

Serving Our Community One Family At A Time

Carrie Avezos ☎ 707-367-2868



Authentic Locally Handmade Medallions
See our catalog at
<http://www.quicksilvermint.com>
10% discount when you say:
"I saw it in the WELL Newsletter"
459-3094



Brookside Farm
People-Powered Produce
...would like to thank WELL for its support.
Two full shares and one half share for 2009 remain available. The price of \$750 per share is an inexpensive way to receive quality produce for 12 months of the year. Ask about payment plans!
A share of Brookside Farm not only feeds your family, it...
Supports a local farmer
Sponsors youth education
May teach you new skills
Is a lot of fun
Interested? Contact Jason Bradford at 456-0760

Jolly Roger's Design & Repair Shop

Computer repair, metalwork, woodwork, fabrication of all manner.
Greenhouses, bike carts, new rooms, garden layout, solar
-If you can think it, I can create it. -

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Jed Diamond, Ph. D.

Counseling

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Seeking Candidates for Coordinating Committee (Election on Mar. 29)

Here's a chance to get more involved in localization efforts! There are seven members on WELL's Coordinating Committee, and three of the positions are up for election this Spring. Serving on the CC involves attending meetings usually once every 2 or 3 weeks, plus participating in some other aspect of the organization (outreach, projects, subcommittees, etc.).

If you're interested, please submit a brief candidate's statement by March 23, so it can be emailed to members in advance of the Mar. 29 meeting (though it is also possible to throw one's hat in the ring at the last minute).

A candidate statement may touch on: your qualifications and experience; areas of interest; and goals for WELL.

Send your statement or any inquiries to: office@WELL95490.org

Coordinating Committee Briefs

WELL Coordinating Committee Meetings

Goals: At its Feb. 11 meeting, the Coordinating Committee began a discussion of goals for 2009, which will continue at a future meeting. Possible goals include increasing membership and volunteer opportunities; supporting and connecting folks who want to do things; and outreach to community groups.

Administration: The C.C. also dealt with several administrative issues, such as handling phone and email messages, repair of the computer, improving the website, and newsletter oversight.

March 29 General Meeting: We made plans for this general meeting and identified people to handle various tasks involved.

Controversies: We discussed the controversies over the proposed asphalt plant at the Ridge and the proposed cutting of redwoods at the Brooktrails golf course. Some WELL members are involved in these issues, but the CC felt WELL should not take a formal position without full membership involvement. Feedback is welcome.

Complete minutes of meetings will be posted to the website.



Farmers Market at the Grange

Every Thursday from 3 to 6 you can find soups, pies, eggs, dried fruit, winter greens, clothing, bulk grains & beans, herbal salves, knitted goods and much more. Live music and live neighbors make the experience one you don't want to miss.

At the Grange all during March 2009!

Your Ad Here

Is your company locally owned?

Do you qualify as a Local First Business?

Then...

We want your ad!

\$15 per month for this sized ad

\$10 per month if you buy six months or more

liam@well95490.org

NAIS – Continued from Page 2

So far the NAIS is 'voluntary', but the USDA is putting a lot of pressure on everyone in the various farm animal industries to get involved (with an average cost to the USDA of \$360 per 'premises'). According to Wikipedia "While the federal program is voluntary, money received by some states, tribes, and non-profit entities from the USDA through cooperative agreements has been used to make parts or all of the program mandatory."

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Animal_Identification_System)

The USDA claims about 33% of all "premises" in the US where any individual farm animal might be kept have been registered. A white paper by the National Independent Consumers and Farmers Association (NICFA) (issued March 4, 2009 and available on the internet at <http://nicfa.com/WhitePaperNAIS.pdf>) calculates the percentage at closer to 9%.

The way in which this favors the large producers over the small farmers is that the marginal cost per animal for small farmers is about 10 times the marginal cost for large farmers.

From the NICFA White Paper:

Partial estimated costs for NAIS according to the spreadsheet for an RFID system for cattle developed by Dhuyvetter and Blasi of Kansas State University in 2003 (wand reader price updated for 2009).

- 400 head or more of cattle: \$6.69 per head
- 100 head of cattle: \$18.07 per head per year.
- 25 head cattle: \$63.61 per head

Continued on Page 5 - NAIS

Coordinating Committee Members

Mary Zellachild - 459-3963 - maryzel@saber.net
 Jason Bradford - 456-0760 - jason@redinet.org
 Madge Strong - 459-6675 - mstrong@willitsonline.com
 Jane McCabe - 456-9067 - janესjet@hotmail.com
 Roger Wilson – 456-4111 - roger@jollyone.com
 Ann Waters Weller – 459-6362 - abweller@pacific.net
 Richard Jergenson – 459-6362 - rjergenson@saber.net

Willits Contra Dance

March 28th. 7:00 PM

Willits Center for the Arts – 71 E. Commercial St. in Willits
 For information contact Roger: (310) 245-4821 /
roger@jollyone.com
 7PM - Lessons for Beginners 7:30 - The Dancing starts!
 Adults – \$7 Under 17 – \$3 Under 9 – 5 cents.
 And for those of you dancers over 66, you're invited for free.

The Rebuild Store

You already recycle glass, plastic, and aluminum...what about windows, cabinets, and that extra roll of tar paper in the shed?

Do you want to put in double pane windows to save energy, and save money too?

The Rebuild Store is a project of North Coast Opportunities that takes your used items and sells them (cheap) to people who can use them.

Their show room is open several days each week at:

75C Kunzler Ranch Road in Ukiah (707) 671-6581

NAIS – Continued from Page 4

Similar (and integrated) systems in Australia and Europe have already been causing problems. For instance a farmer's herd of 567 cattle in the UK was slaughtered due to a clerical error with no compensation due to the farmer. A farmer in Australia was fined \$17K for incorrectly tagged livestock (a herd of 177 head of cattle).

4H and FFA contestants have been required to register their homes as 'premises' in order to qualify their home raised animals for competition at state and county fairs in the US.

If NAIS is made mandatory every household with one chicken, one horse, or one goat will be required to participate.

According to several sources there is already an existing system of tracking animals that does not require the huge expense, and invasion of privacy, that this system initiates. Please do your own research and let your elected officials know what you think.

Now & Then Film Series

Presents

The Real Dirt on Farmer John

To me, farming is poetry, drama.
It's a source of infinite fascination.

Farmer John Peterson

For more than 70 years, the Peterson family farm has been a mainstay in a rural Illinois community. But will John Peterson be the last to work the land?

Explore the epic tale of an unconventional farmer who transforms his farm into a revolutionary new form of agriculture.

In the end, it's really an optimistic story about the resurrection of the American soul...and it starts with the soil.

Filmmaker Taggart Siegel

**7:00 pm, Thursday, March 19
Little Lake Health Center
45 Hazel St.**

Enter by back door in parking lot

Free Admission! Everyone Welcome!

**Suggested Donation of \$5 to Help
Build WELL Film Library**



Recent Links & Blogs

Facing Forward Together: Four Models for Organizing a Community for an Uncertain Future

Posted recently by Michael Foley

<http://campfire.theoil drum.com/node/5076>

In a previous post, I argued that an important part of preparing at the local level for an uncertain future lies in strengthening our communities and making them more resilient. That takes community organizing, or making use of existing organizations. Mobilizing for policy change at both local, state/provincial, and national levels also requires organization. A few letters to the editor or cranky phone calls to your representatives won't cut it, though it may occasionally be personally satisfying. So how do we organize? And what sorts of organizations can we put to use? The following is an effort to lay out the basic models I've seen in action in the United States and Latin America. With minor differences, I suspect they're pretty much universal in the "modern" sector of societies around the world.

More at <http://campfire.theoil drum.com/node/5076>

Complications

By Kurt Cobb

<http://resourceinsights.blogspot.com/2009/03/complications.html>

Some advocates for a sustainable future claim that the fulfillment of their vision will result in a simpler, healthier, happier existence when compared to our current consumption- and status-oriented unsustainable present. They may very well be right about healthier and happier. But will that sustainable future seem simpler to the individual?

The bright green high-tech globalized future imagined by some may result in lives that will seem no simpler than what we currently experience (that is, assuming we could achieve such as future). But a future characterized by a reversal of globalization and a return to more regional and local economic activity, or relocalization as it is often called, may actually make life suddenly much more complicated than we are used to. Let me explain.

More at <http://resourceinsights.blogspot.com/2009/03/complications.html>

Maine Town Passes Ordinance Asserting Local Self-Governance and Stripping Corporate Personhood

Submitted by Chip on Sun, 2009-03-01

<http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/node/40335>

Today the citizens of Shapleigh, Maine voted at a special town meeting to pass a groundbreaking Rights-Based Ordinance, 114 for and 66 against. This revolutionary ordinance give its citizens the right to local self-governance and gives rights to ecosystems but denies the rights of personhood to corporations. This ordinance allows the citizens to protect their groundwater resources, putting it in a common trust to be used for the benefit of its residents.

More at <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/node/40335>

Can you survive economic crisis? Booming preparedness industry says Americans are stockpiling

By Drew Zahn - March 08, 2009

<http://wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pagelid=90947>

To some, the term "survivalist" conjures images of camouflage-clad men stockpiling freeze-dried food in a mountain cabin, but in the current economic crisis, the people quietly preparing to survive catastrophe may just be your next-door neighbors.

In his column in last month's Financial Times, business and technology expert Ade McCormack writes, "The world is in crisis and with it the world of business. Many of us have two plans. Plan A involves President Barack Obama performing some economic magic. Plan B involves a revolver, a vegetable patch and a subscription to Survivalist Monthly."

And while McCormack was writing with a hint of jest, dissent over the president's trillion-dollar spending approach to the economy has left many average, everyday Americans considering something looking suspiciously like plan B.

More at <http://wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pagelid=90947>

The Inflection Is Near?

By Thomas L. Friedman -March 7, 2009

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/08/opinion/08friedman.html?_r=2&th&emc=th

Let's today step out of the normal boundaries of analysis of our economic crisis and ask a radical question: What if the crisis of 2008 represents something much more fundamental than a deep recession? What if it's telling us that the whole growth model we created over the last 50 years is simply unsustainable economically and ecologically and that 2008 was when we hit the wall — when Mother Nature and the market both said: "No more."

More at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/08/opinion/08friedman.html?_r=2&th&emc=th

2008 Was Earth's Coolest Year Since 2000

NASA - February 23, 2009

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/view.php?id=37253>

Climatologists at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York City have found that 2008 was the coolest year since 2000. The GISS analysis also showed that 2008 is the ninth warmest year since continuous instrumental records were started in 1880.

The ten warmest years on record have all occurred between 1997 and 2008.

The GISS analysis found that the global average surface air temperature was 0.44°C (0.79°F) above the global mean for 1951 to 1980, the baseline period for the study. Most of the world was either near normal or warmer in 2008 than the norm. Eurasia, the Arctic, and the Antarctic Peninsula were exceptionally warm (see figures), while much of the Pacific Ocean was cooler than the long-term average.

The relatively low temperature in the tropical Pacific was due to a strong La Niña that existed in the first half of the year, the research team noted. La Niña and El Niño are opposite phases of a natural oscillation of equatorial Pacific Ocean temperatures over several years. La Niña is the cool phase. The warmer El Niño phase typically follows within a year or two of La Niña.

The temperature in the United States in 2008 was not much different than the 1951-1980 mean, which makes it cooler than all the previous years this decade.

"Given our expectation that the next El Niño will begin this year or in 2010, it still seems likely that a new global surface air temperature record will be set within the next one to two years, despite the moderate cooling effect of reduced solar irradiance," said James Hansen, director of GISS. The Sun is just passing through solar minimum, the low point in its 10- to 12-year cycle of electromagnetic activity, when it transmits its lowest amount of radiant energy toward Earth.

The GISS analysis of global surface temperature incorporates data from the Global Historical Climatology Network of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climate Data Center; the satellite analysis of global sea surface temperature of Richard Reynolds and Thomas Smith of NOAA; and Antarctic records of the international Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.

"GISS provides the ranking of global temperature for individual years because there is a high demand for it from journalists and the public," said Hansen. "The rank has scientific significance in some cases, such as when a new record is established. But rank can also be misleading because the difference in temperature between one year and another is often less than the uncertainty in the global average."

Willits - 6 Thursdays - 7PM Library Lyme Series

Under Our Skin

There's no medicine for someone like you

A dramatic tale of microbes, medicine & money, this eye-opening film investigates the untold story of Lyme disease, an emerging epidemic larger than AIDS. Each year thousands go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, told that their symptoms are "all in their head." Following the stories of patients and physicians as they battle for their lives and livelihoods, the film brings into focus a haunting picture of our health care system and its inability to cope with a silent terror under our skin.

March 19th - screening of the award-winning film with discussion

March 26th - a film of a presentation at the International Rife Convention of Brian Rosner, author of Lyme Disease and Rife Machines

April 2nd - Dr. Andrew Landerman, DDS., will speak about his personal battle with Lyme disease, and effective alternatives to antibiotics.

April 9th - Rodney Van Pelt, MD., will speak about his own long battle with Lyme and the safe and effective method for regaining your health.

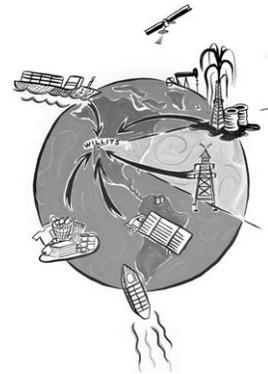
April 16th - Rescreening of the film [because it is THAT good!] Followed by discussion.

April 23rd - Strategies for wholeness. Group planning for personal empowerment.

For more information 459-9085

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Where Willits Is Today



Where WELL Wants Willits To Be

Art by Linda MacDonald

If it was not clear two weeks ago or even last week, the destruction of the economic and business sectors of the world is no longer inchoate. The speed of the destruction has left the realm of what people fear and has entered the domain of what they know. As Kali ventures into the economic world, so many lives will be ruined that the number will be uncountable. The most-discussed concern of the media was whether people would be late on their mortgage payments has quickly evolved into speculation about how many people will have homes at all.

Time.com March 3, 2009 <http://tinyurl.com/bpbdtp>

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